

MINUTES of the Monday Strategy October 23, 2006

Aging Services Division, 2401 NW 23rd Street, Suite 40, OKC, OK 73107

Present: Mary Brinkley, Dorothy Cassel, James Crowder, Scott Ellis, Lee Holder, Esther Houser, Albert Janco, Tully McCoy, Janine McCulloch, Marjean Mitchell, Helen Patrick, Bob Rawlings, John Terneus.

As requested by the September 18 Strategy meeting, senior organizations presented their issues and legislative goals. This was for information only. Not support or opposition.

Cassel presented the Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislatures' Top Five from their September, 2006 session:

1. Combine senior services in an Aging Services Department separate from DHS.
2. Prescription medicine labels include purpose unless patient objects.
3. Prescription medicines come from legally licensed manufacturers.
4. Cameras in nursing home rooms unless the patient objects.
5. Ok. income tax refund "check off" for the OSHL expenditures include Alumni as well as OSHL members.

Rawlings presented the Oklahoma Council on Aging issues:

1. To date, 24 responses have been received from a letter to 222 federal and state candidates.
2. The website www.okallianceonaging.org has available:
 - a. Federal and Oklahoma public officials and agencies,
 - b. "Thomas" for Congressional legislation and hearings.
3. Nutrition sites in Oklahoma need timely payments.
4. Olmstead Act for community services needs to be implemented.
5. "Trilogy" internet service for ALL state services was shown:
 - a. Trilogy is a private for profit organization used in 13 states.
 - b. "Common point of entry" for individuals to ALL services.
 - c. Individuals' "folder" is private, encrypted, and password protected.

Holder presented the results of the OAoA survey:

1. Included in the latest OAoA Newsletter:
 - Improved care in long term facilities
 - Improved access to and availability of transportation services
 - Single entry-community focal points for services in all areas of the State
 - Provision of affordable medication (from Canada)
 - Affordable housing, with services for Seniors
 - Improved access to and availability of Mental Health services
 - Medicaid services for residents of assisted living facilities
 - Installation of surveillance equipment in long term facilities
 - Medication labeling, in large print, with explanation of intended use
 - Expansion of community planning preparing for Aging Baby Boomers

2. About 40 responses to bulk mailing to about 250.
3. Medicaid for assisted living will be available to ADvantage statewide by May, 2007.

Ellis presented some military veterans' concerns:

1. The Oklahoma Veterans Council will select legislative issues in December.
2. Wants to "freeze" property taxes for ALL retired over 65 years old.
3. 100% disabled veterans' families be Ok. income tax free for their lives.

Terneus reported for AARP in Sean Voskuhl's absence:

1. Successful legislation during the last session:
 - a. Individuals can "freeze" their credit reports.
 - b. Elder Exploitation Law increases penalties for fraud.
 - c. Prohibited sales of lottery tickets in pawn shops, payday lenders and check-cashing businesses.
2. Failing legislation included:
 - a. Additional staffing for Alzheimer's disease units.
 - b. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
 - c. Additional rights for grandparents raising grandchildren.
3. Continue the Partnership of AARP, OAoA, OCOA, AND OSHL.
4. INVITE SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS TO SPONSOR AGAIN IN CAPITOL:
 - a. Breakfast for Legislators, and
 - b. "Orientation" for newly elected Legislators by senior organizations.

Terneus reported for Oklahoma Retired Educators in Theo Crawley's absence::

1. Funded liability of the ORE Retirement Fund is only 49%.
2. COLA for 2006-7 is only 2% after two years of none.

President Rick Teal of Oklahoma Association of Senior Centers ask to add:

1. Appropriation of \$3 million again for CENA.
2. Support at the Capitol Legislators Orientation, Breakfast, and Senior Day with a OASC rally on the south steps again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. "RX for Oklahoma" prescription drug program now five Regions with separate phone numbers. The eleven AAAs discontinued.
2. OAoA full Board meeting Thursday, November 2, 2006, 1:00 PM at the Mayfair Senior Center on NW 48th Street, OKC, OK.
3. The next Monday Strategy meeting November 13, 2006, 9:30 AM, ASD, for Crowder's list of Ok. Legislators, Legislature's schedule and committee assignments.

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