



Clark County Commission on Aging
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Vancouver, Washington

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Correa, Chuck Frayer, Patti Gray, Bob Holdridge, Marjorie Ledell, Scott Perlman, Bill Ritchie, Karin Woll,

Absent: Lisa Rasmussen

Staff: Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Welcome and Call to Order

- Chair, Bill Ritchie, opened the meeting at 4:30. Today's agenda and meeting notes from January 20 were unanimously approved.

Committee Updates

- TimeBanking, Karin: Project can now accept donations. Checks to be made out to Human Services Council/TimeBanking. Make note on donation check for tax deduction.
- Mental Health, Patti: Enthusiastic meeting with group. Lots going on at state level and will filter down to county level in a few months.
- Senior Award: Lisa absent, no report.
- Senior Job Fair, Bill: Has yet to meet with Pam. More than job fair; day designed for those over 55 and retooling for the job market. No date set but sometime between April and September, TBD by Jamie Herrera Butler's office.
- Neighborhood Associations, Bob: no report
- Communications, Marjorie: Reviewing database of approximately 1,000 contacts. Will be in touch with certain ones such as Human Services Council, Neighborhood Associations, VHA, newspaper editors, etc. to strengthen relationship with CoA. Colete made appointment for Marjorie and Bob to meet with NACCC next week; sitting in on TimeBanking meeting Thursday; meeting with Greg Johnson at Senior Messenger regarding article in June highlighting the CoA.

Presentation: Age-in-Place in Southern Oregon, Howard and Sharon Johnson (Age-Friendly Innovators)

- Their business is a 501(c)(3) founded in November 2013.
- Mission: promote greater awareness of aging-in-place issues, develop creative and innovative solutions to enable older adults to lead safe, healthy and independent lives in a home of their own.

- With the increase in the senior population and rising adult care costs, there is an increased demand for age-friendly new and remodeled homes.
- Five most important “universal design” features are no-step entries, extra-wide hallways, living spaces on ground floor, accessible light switches and lever door handles. Study shows only 1% of housing units in USA have all five.
- Factors to consider when deciding whether to stay in your home:
 - Will current home meet future needs? Accessibility, fall risk, future maintenance
 - Desire to stay within community
 - Remodel costs vs. alternative living costs
 - Alternative living options
- Features of universal design home
 - Wheelchair accessible walkway, no step entry, open floor plan, wide hallways, accessible kitchen, accessible guest bath
- Builder in Southern Oregon constructed three Lifelong Housing certified homes. Cost per square foot is comparable to non-certified homes.
- Three levels of certification:
 - Basic accessibility (visitors can get in your house)
 - Full accessibility (ground floor fully accessible with bedroom and kitchen)
 - Enhanced accessibility (where special equipment or construction is required)
- Lessons learned:
 - Older homeowners are in denial and unwilling to plan for aging-in-place.
 - Remodeling for accessibility is an economic challenge for many older homeowners.
 - Builders are reluctant to change as they are easily selling what they’re building now and not anticipating future demand for accessibility.
- **Q & A:**
 - What about height of electrical outlets? They are raised up by 18-20”.
 - What other changes are builders struggling with? Fear nobody will buy it.
 - Comment from Peggy McCarthy, NAMI: People on medications can gain a lot of weight and it can cause issues with toilets not being sturdy enough to handle that much weight. They’ve replaced toilets with heavy duty models and place a block between the tank and the wall for stability. Also using ADA height models.
 - Comment from a contractor: Many two-story homes in the county, not enough single level, long waiting time to have chair lifts installed on stairways. Only two contractors in WA who install the lifts. Getting a license to install is difficult, takes 1600 hours of study which prevents contractors from applying. Should appeal to younger generation, promote idea of universal design rather than talk about aging which can be a turn off.
 - Contact Howard@agefriendlyinnovators.org Sharon@agefriendlyinnovators.org
 - Website: www.agefriendlyinnovators.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/agefriendlyinnovation
 - CoA has a brochure available on universal design.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the changes made to the by-laws and adopt them as revised 02/17/2015.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.