

## Marquette County Aging Services Advisory Committee Meeting

February 11, 2014

*Minutes are subject to correction and approval.*

1. **Roll call:** Don Kristola and Paul Guindon excused. All others present.  
Others present: Susan Vercoe, Julie Shaw (Forsyth Senior Center), Kristy Basolo (Negaunee Senior Center), Jane Palmer (Marquette Senior Center), and Amy Mattson (RSVP Non-Emergency Medical Transportation).
2. **Approval of Minutes:** September 10, 2013, meeting minutes approved as presented.
3. **Additions to agenda:** None.
4. **Organizational Items:** Angelo opened the floor for nominations. Joan Haara was nominated for Chair, Edith Prosen for Vice-Chair, and Lynn Stahmann for Secretary. A motion by Jerry Irby to accept the slate of officers was supported by Edith and unanimously approved.
5. **Meeting Dates / Times:** The consent of the committee was to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30. Meetings will be held in Room 41. Jerry Irby made a motion that regular meetings be held every other month with committee work sessions scheduled for alternate months. The motion was supported by Edith and unanimously approved.
6. **2014 Committee Goals:**  
Joan suggested that the March meeting be a work session to review the charge of the committee and establish goals for 2014. A good place to start would be to review and discuss the survey of seniors done in 2009. Jerry Irby suggested the committee could also review the responses from the senior center directors to a questionnaire that was completed last year.

Kristy and Julie asked if the service providers would be expected to attend the work sessions. Joan responded on occasion they may be invited to attend if their input would be needed. Their attendance would not normally be expected; the committee doesn't want to unnecessarily impose on their valuable time.

7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Service Provider Comment:**

Amy said that RSVP would be concentrating on their existing programs for 2014. In 2013, the non-emergency medical transportation program provided 847 rides to 159 seniors. They are continuing to recruit new volunteer drivers.

Jane Palmer said that they had completed their Medicare Part B enrollment and were now busy with their free tax preparation service. They currently have 131 homemaker clients with a few people on a waiting list. They recently hired a seventh homemaker aide.

Kristy reported they also have AARP volunteers doing taxes and that we are very fortunate to have this service available in Marquette County because it is not available in other areas. The Negaunee Commission on Aging has been in existence for 40 years so they will be planning some special events to celebrate. In March, UPCAP will be at their center to conduct their audit. They have started a Friday Soup Kitchen, which has been well received. And they will soon be installing handicap accessible doors at their center.

Julie reported that the AARP volunteers are also at their center providing free tax preparation to anyone of moderate income, not just seniors. One of the biggest issues for her center is the propane shortage with many seniors turning down their thermostats because they are afraid they will run out of propane and that their pipes will freeze. They raffled an afghan to raise money to establish a heating assistance fund; the American Legion donated \$1,000 for heat assistance for veterans. UPCAP will also be auditing their center in March.

9. **Committee Comments:** Jerry asked if it would be possible to review the results of the UPCAP audits scheduled for March. He said Governor Snyder's recent speech mentioned funding for senior services, specifically home-delivered meals and in-home services and he hoped that meant there would be additional funding available. He said that OSA would be looking to outsource their ombudsman program.

Bruce asked if any measures could be taken to insure that seniors are getting propane. Julie responded that the issue is that the gas companies will only deliver 100 gallons at a time, and because of the limited delivery service in the rural area, the seniors fear they will run out before the next delivery date. Bruce asked for a motion of support from the committee to contact the LP companies to ask them to consider delivering more than 100 gallons particularly to seniors in rural areas. The motion was supported by Angelo and passed. Bruce will contact the LP companies and Dave Nyberg, the governor's representative.

Angelo mentioned that freezing pipes have been a real problem in Ishpeming. It was noted that it was also a problem in Negaunee and Forsyth. Angelo asked if the ballot language for the aging millage could be available at the work session in March.

Edith asked the center directors if they are seeing any baby boomers, and if so, are their needs different? The center directors responded yes, the baby boomers seem to be much more active and are looking for activities more so than services.

10. **Adjournment:** Motion by Edith, supported by Angelo to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.