

LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Arbor Court, 1510 St Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047

Minutes of April 16, 2019

Attending: Mary Johnson, Tracy Harmon (Arbor Court), Michele Dillon (JAAA), Katie Whitenight (CVL, Tamara Cash, Karen Heintzen, Judy Bellome, Melissa Williams (Pioneer Ridge), Kate Munson (KU Social Work Intern)

Guest speaker: Laura Blatter and Darcey Laterno, Alzheimer's Association

Judy welcomed all attendees to the meeting. She then introduced Laura and Darcey, speakers for the day:

Darcey Laterno— Care Consultant provided us with some key facts about Alzheimer's.

- Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia. One in 80 age 65 and older will have it.
- Of women in that age group, 2/3 will have dementia.
- The disease is progressive and fatal. However, one can live up to 20 years with Alzheimer's.
- There are 5.8 million people with Alzheimer's; by 2050 that number will grow to 14 million.
- Every 65 seconds, someone develops it and one in three will die with Alzheimer's.
- Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the US.
- By 2019, the cost will be \$290 billion; by 2050 cost will rise to \$1.1 trillion.
- 16 million people provide unpaid care. 18.5 billion hours valued at \$234 Billion.

The local Alzheimer's office is located in Prairie Village and serves 66 counties in KS and MO. Satellite offices are located in Topeka, Pittsburgh, and St Joseph.

Signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's onset:

- Memory loss that is disrupting to daily life.
- Challenges in planning and solving problems.
- Difficulty in completing familiar tasks
- Trouble understanding visual and spatial cues.
- New problems with words – speaking & writing.
- Misplacing things, can't retrace steps.
- Decreasing understanding; poor judgements.
- Withdrawing at work and from social activities.
- Changes in mood or personality.

Alzheimer's offices have services to help at NO COST.

- Family support – best to phone first.
- Resource library in each office.
- Websites have many videos available.
- Support groups – early stage and caregivers.
- 24 house support line.
- Education and training
- Legal, education, teleconferencing programs
- Online training videos.
- Awareness research and public policy.

Laura Blatter - Walk to End Alzheimer's— September 29th in Lawrence at South Park. About a mile. Opportunity to fund raise by creating a team for the walk.

June 21st – Longest day – create your own event.

Rivals – Women's Football team – mid October

Community forum – April 23rd – 6 to 7:30 at the Depot.

Judy Bellome – AARP -state and national actions – Drug prices are the biggest issue with bills in the US house and senate. Allowing Medicare to negotiate prices. Putting cap on out of pocket costs.

Judy also met with the Secretary of the Department of Children and Aging.

Surveys are being done to make sure care-givers information is asked for at the hospitals.

Announcements and other happenings:

- Melissa – Pioneer Ridge is breaking ground on a new facility in Eudora opening March 2020. Homestead Assisted Living (40 apt) and Memory Care (20 apt)
- Tamara – Health Department is conducting a survey on health inequity.
- Karen H has been busy writing letters to the legislatures. (always good to do)
- Tracy – Arbor Court held its first ever “Senior Prom” earlier in the month and partnered with a sorority.
- Katie – CVL – next fund raise will be Mike Finnegan concert at Abe & Jakes on July 13th.
- Judy – DCCF housing meeting will be April 24 at the library from 5:30 to 7:30/

Speaker suggestions –

Tom Holland – on aging issues and the cap on property taxes.
Kansas Advocates for Better Care
Please bring your suggestions to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be May 21st at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

NOTE: we will be meeting at **ARBOR COURT located at 15th and Kasold Drive.**

Respectfully submitted, Mary Johnson, Secretary