

LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044
Minutes of July 18, 2017 (updated at the August 15th meeting)

Attending: Mary Johnson, Ellen Paulsen, Tamara Cash, Michele Dillon, Saunny, Artie Shaw, Tracy Harmon, Jenn Preston, Susan Harris (new JAAA director), Karen Keintzen, Marlene Merrill (LWV)
Guest speaker: Sheldon Weisgrau, Director, Health Reform Resource Project

Mary opened the meeting with introductions all around and then introducing our speaker Sheldon Weisgrau, Director of the Health Reform Resource Project. Sheldon provided the group with the latest updates on the health care, the truth and the exaggerations. His remarks are summarized below:

On the Senate vote July 17, Senators Jerry Moran and Mike Lee voted NO. Senator McConnell revised the bill to be "repeal only". Additional Senators Capito, Collins and Murkowski came out against the bill. The straight up repeal means no bill. The last bill was basically a tax bill. All of this reveals a real split in the Republican party.

Leadership is asking us to call our representatives and ask for a bipartisan solution to healthcare. For the last 20 years, healthcare issue has been very difficult so let federal reps know where you stand on issues.

The Advocates for a Health Kansas has travelled around Kansas for the last 18 months to educate people. Education and advocacy are the way to go. Sheldon is two informational sessions, Thursday 7/20 at 6:30 at the Lawrence library and Tuesday, 7/25 at 6:30 at the Topeka library. Some additional information:

- Obamacare is really the conservative alternative for healthcare.
- England and Canada have the fundamental belief that healthcare is a human right.
- We have to elect the politicians who will do what we want.
- Finally, we must educate people as to what Medicaid really is.

Updates on other issues:

- Senior Care Act – the state has approved 2.1 million dollars for the 2018 budget. This affects the in-home services through JAAA and also affects KANCARE.
- Artie Shaw announced that the Kansas Advocates for Better Care has a new office on Fireside Court. The group is continuing to expand in helping people stay in their homes.
- Ellen Paulsen announced that a webinar featuring Atul Gawande (Being Mortal) has been scheduled for September 25th, 4 pm at the Lawrence library. This is being sponsored by the VillageToVillage Network. Community Village Lawrence is part of that network.
- Artie Shaw asked about the Senior Resource Center and looks forward to their updates at future meetings. Mary said that she would check the email distribution list to make sure SRC is getting the meeting notices. He also provided Kudos to the health department for the things they are doing.
- Transportation – the tax issue is coming up for a vote in November so education will be important. Michele Dillon has been appointed to the Transportation commission.
- The Health Department has a grant for reps to attend the National Walking Summit on Sept 12-14 in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- The Senior Resource Center has raised the cost of transportation from \$3 to \$4.
- Affordable Housing – a note that \$300K is not being used by any group to build more housing.
- Finally, the Kansas Women's Political Caucus meeting on July 20th, 7-9pm at the Lawrence Library.

The next meeting will be August 15th at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

Guest Speaker: Ansley Anderson Sosinski, MA, RN from Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Section updated at 8-15-17 meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson

Breakout groups:

Transportation – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

Caregiving – Michele D, Tamara, Artie, Judy

Accessibility – Saunny, _____?

Affordable Housing – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn