

## LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044

Minutes of September 19, 2017

**Attending:** Mary Johnson, Ellen Paulsen, Tracy Harmon, Susan Harris, Jenn Preston, Sarah (nursing student) Saunny, Marvel Williamson, Melissa Williams, Tamara Cash, Judy Bellome, Marlene Merrill,

Judy opened the meeting with introductions all around. She provided an updated on the passing of one of our members, Artie Shaw who was a staunch advocate for the aging community. A Celebration of Life for Artie will be announced at a later date.

Speaker: Marvel Williamson, Senior Resource Center for Douglas County

- The 1<sup>st</sup> summit was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Lawrence Arts Center. This started the process of data collection of all available services and resources in Douglas County for countywide strategic planning. The word has gotten out that Douglas County is a great place to start a business because seniors are moving here.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Summit will be held in Eudora on Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Lawrence Memorial Hospital is sponsoring the event. A business has purchased a building downtown and has offered the Senior Center a space at no cost. The Eudora city manager, a local physician, and other city leaders will be presenting at the summit, followed by discussion groups in breakout sessions.
- Baldwin City has a Senior Engagement Coordinating Council, and Lecompton may be organizing as well.
- The downtown Senior Center location may be done in 2018. The lower, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors are being totally redone. We lost the big room upstairs but gained additional lower level space. There will also be hearing loop technology in meeting rooms.

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

- A live broadcast with Dr. Atul Gawande, renowned surgeon and author will be held at the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium **on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**. The talk is titled "Being Mortal's Village: The Value of Community and Choice as we Grow Older." A Panel discussion with local advocates will follow.
- A Legislative Forum will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lawrence Library. This is a joint sponsored event with Council on Aging and the LDCACA. Volunteers need to be there by 1:30 to assist with setup. Ellen, Mary, Tamara and Jenn all volunteered.
- Action Alert from the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care was handed out by Judy Bellome. The focus is on contacting legislators on NO CAPS FOR MEDICAID. Remember that October is Residents Rights Month.
- Judy will be attending an AARP luncheon in Topeka with emphasis on legislative issues in particular rural health: advance practice nurses and dental professionals.

Committee reports –

- Caregiving –AARP and Kansas Hospital Association are working with Kathy Greenlee to develop Community Education with the CARE Act. Will be working with LMH on the project.
- Housing and Transportation Ellen reported. The November vote on the sales tax will address these issues. LDCACA needs to emphasize the need for this. Phyllis Farrer is forming an advocacy group and Patrick Wilbur has formed the "speak against" group.

Announcements:

- League of Women Voters is holding an evening forum on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Hot topics will be the 3 ballot issues. A picnic will be held at Centennial Park on September 24<sup>th</sup> to visit with the candidates. This is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Voter Education Coalition.
- Upcoming forums: please check the LJW datebook for time and place
  - October 21 – forum City Commission candidates
  - October 22 – forum – School Board candidates
  - October 16 – noon – tax issues (voter education coalition)

Arbor Court –

Oct 31 – Halloween trick or treat from 4 – 6 pm

Nov 4 – Mistletoe Market with Vendors and Food Trucks on site.

The next meeting will be October 17 at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

- October speaker will be Erika Zimmerman, Habitat for Humanity
- December speaker will be Shannon Oury – Housing Authority

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson

**Breakout groups:**

**Transportation** – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

**Caregiving** – Michele D, Tamara, Judy

**Accessibility** – Saunny, \_\_\_\_\_?

**Affordable Housing** – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn