

Franklin County Service Providers

January 2, 2007

Meeting attendees:

Michael Cundiff, Family Wellness Program

Lisa Epple, East Central College

Maureen Heidbreder, BJC Home Care Services

Laura Jensen, Exceptional Equestrians of the Meramec Valley

Armin Klemme, Union Food Pantry

Susan Luedde, Alzheimer's Association

Linda Metcalf, Mid East Area Agency on Aging

Tim Owens, HealthCare USA

Julia Schaffner, St. Louis ARC

Jane Skornia, Probation & Parole

Kris Stark, Willow Brooke Assisted Living

Becky Stieffermann, Franklin County United Way

Franklin County Service Providers Presenter List for 2007

January 2, 2007	Linda Metcalf – Mid East Area Agency on Aging
February 6, 2007	Polly Watson – Jefferson/Franklin Community Action
March 6, 2007	Michael Cundiff – Family Wellness
April 3, 2007	Armin Klemme – Union Food Pantry
May 1, 2007	Jane Skornia – Probation & Parole
June 5, 2007	Melinda Ohlemiller – St. Louis Arc Prevention Project
July 2007	<u>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</u>
August 7, 2007	Jake Capps - Crossroads
September 4, 2007	Laura Jensen – Exceptional Equestrians
October 2, 2007	Verna Woodson – Recovery, Inc.
November 6, 2007	<u>Tentative Field Trip</u> – Willow Brooke Assisted Living
December 4, 2007	Daphne Terrill – HealthCare USA

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Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Epple with East Central College. Introductions and the following announcements were made:

Franklin County Service Providers:

Lisa Epple discussed that Sandra McKinnon with the University of Missouri Extension has agreed to be the Service Provider chairperson for 2007. Sandra was unable to attend the January meeting due to recent foot surgery.

Willow Brooke Assisted Living:

Kris Stark urged everyone to stop by and see the new addition to their facility at 1 Potomac Court in Union.

St. Louis ARC:

Julia Schaffner discussed their Prevention Project. The program provides information and educational presentations to schools and colleges about preventing fetal alcohol syndrome.

HealthCare USA:

Tim Owens stated that sometime this month they will acquire 30,000 more members in the Kansas City area.

Franklin County United Way:

Becky Stieffermann announced that allocation funds would be distributed at the end of January.

Union Food Pantry:

Armin Klemme stated that the Boy Scouts had their best food drive ever this year. There was also a Cops & Kids food collection held in December, where school got involved in the donations. The mail carriers food drive will be held in May.

Habitat for Humanity:

Armin Klemme stated that the dedication for the house in St. Clair was held in November. There were six rotary groups that helped to pay for the materials for the house in Sullivan. The family that had been selected for this house moved away from the area suddenly and new applications are being accepted through December. There will be a Martin Luther King service at the St. Francis Borgia Church in Washington at 3:00 on January 14. The Lutheran insurance program called Thrivent Financial will be helping to build 300 homes across the United States and Franklin County will receive one of these houses, with plans to begin building in the spring.

Mid East Area Agency on Aging:

Linda Metcalf was our guest speaker. Linda has been with the agency for 23 years and discussed that it is a non-profit and state and federally funded agency that receives grants and contributions. There are 10 agencies in Missouri and the Mid East branch is the largest covering Jefferson, Franklin, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties. Their agency provides information and referrals to seniors and their families and they are also contracted with respite care facilities and adult daycares as well as Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Their agency provides services to five area senior citizen centers in Gerald, Washington, Union, Sullivan, and St. Clair. Hot and nutritious meals are provided at the Senior Centers or can be delivered through their Meals on Wheels program. Social and recreational activities are also available to seniors Monday through Friday at the Senior Centers. The Senior Center has started a jam session group. If you know of anyone interested in participating who plays an instrument, they're welcome to attend anytime.

Linda discussed that through their Supply Bank for Senior Independence fund they can assist seniors by helping to pay for Depends and Ensure undergarments. They are allowed to spend up to \$350 per person; there are no income guidelines and the assistance is free of charge. They can provide equipment assistance as well such as bathroom equipment, lift chairs, etc. For instance, their agency can pay \$500 towards the cost of a lift chair, and then Medicare can cover the remainder of the cost. In order to receive assistance to help pay for wheelchairs and equipment though the senior must also have a caregiver.

A property tax credit rebate (or also called Circuit Breaker) flyer was handed out. The information discussed that senior citizens that file income taxes may be eligible for the real estate or rent rebate. An individual can go back three years up to April 15 to apply for this rebate. Many people aren't aware of this rebate program and their agency needs volunteers would can help seniors with filing this paperwork.

The agency works with the Eldercare Locator program. The program is a nationwide directory assistance service that helps seniors and their caregivers locate local resources which can help them remain independent in their own homes. They work with the Alzheimer's support groups. They support and help sponsor the Silver Games. The Silver Games eligibility age has been lowered to 50 years old. There were over 500 people who participated in the Silver Games last year. The dates for the event to be held this year are September 9 through 13. Events include swimming, track and field, bowling, power volleyball, and cards.

Their agency no longer has the Title Five employment program. Someday they would really like to have a transportation program in Franklin County. They are currently contracted with OATS Transportation to provide that type of limited service. On the days that OATS goes to the Senior Centers they will also take them to doctor's offices. OATS can also assist when picking up medical equipment. For information on housing resources, call the information and assistance department at 636-207-1323 (St. Louis County) or toll free at 800-AGE-6060 (for Jefferson, Franklin, and St. Charles counties).

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Epple