



2375 Gordon Road
Alpena, MI 49707



Community Advisory Groups Meeting Highlights Monday, February 10, 2020

FGP and SCP Advisory Group meetings were held February 10th at the NEMCSA Alpena Annex. FGP was chaired by Nancy Wedge, SCP by Pat Rondeau. Highlights from the November 11, 2019 meetings were reviewed.

Nominations were sought for an FGP representative to the NEMCSA Board of Directors. A member expressed an interest in being nominated; however, more time is needed to fully consider the obligation. An addendum will be added to the Highlights once a commitment is made.

Old business: membership revisited and discussed the issue of excess chatter and serving the needs of volunteers utilizing assistive devices with the buffet lunch during In-Service meetings that was brought up during the November round table discussion. The new system of calling tables by number to the buffet had the intended positive effect however, the excess chatter, especially during guest presentations, remains problematic. Several ideas were presented as part of the discussion and will be implemented in upcoming In-Services.

New business:

- The possibility of combining the two advisory groups was presented by the Project Director for discussion and consideration to be voted on at the next meeting. Advantages include increased representation from diverse members, increased discussion, and a time savings for staff. Detriments include concern of exceeding the meeting time, lack of program specific discussion, and the time taken to discuss topics not necessarily relevant to all members.
- Policy proposal regarding In-Service attendance: support was garnered to draft policy addressing absences to mandatory In-Service meetings to include language denying stipend reimbursement for service at volunteer's assigned station in lieu of attending In-Service. Revised policy will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Director's Report, Heidi Powers, FGP/SCP Project Director:

- Foster Grandparents serving at Grayling Elementary School were featured on 9&10 News The Four program December 18, 2019 and is available for replay on 9&10 News' website. Grandmas Barb and Raxann did an excellent job of representing the program. Viewers were also provided a brief overview of the Senior Companion and RSVP programs as well as referred to the NEMCSA website for additional information. The broadcast caught the attention of Senior Administration of CNCS in Washington D.C.
- Reviewed CNCS mid-year required reporting: stipend spending for both programs fell below 50% and thus was noted and will require written response. Regardless of the stipend spending, overall feedback was positive including: "excellent job on documentation and providing informative grantee notes", "project(s) is moving in the right direction", "(SCP) project is doing very well overall".
- FGP enrollment and stipend spending is sound including 45 actively serving volunteers averaging 65 VSYs. We anticipate exceeding our year end VSY requirement by at least four VYSs by June 30th.



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- SCP enrollment and stipend spending are lagging slightly below expectations however, we anticipate new enrollments to be completed in February will make up for the slight shortfall. Four SCP applicants are waiting for new volunteer orientation and placement.
- SCP in-home placements are about 28% with 11 volunteers serving in-home clients or at Adult Day Care facilities. Work to expand continues with an emphasis on placing new volunteers with stations serving clients in their own home.
- The response to direct deposit for the volunteer's stipend and mileage reimbursement exceeded staff expectations with more than 50% of the volunteer signing up.

NEMCSA board representative Pat Rondeau provided updates from NEMCSA's Board of Directors meetings to the SCP group.

Round table updates from the membership were shared with both groups.

Handouts provided to the groups included updated membership rosters.

Dates to remember: Next meeting: May 18, 2020 FGP 9:30 am, SCP 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Powers, FGP/SCP Project Director

February 25, 2020 Addendum

Foster Grandparent Madeline Hibner was nominated to be the FGP representative on the NEMCSA Board of Directors. Each member present at the February 10th meeting was contacted by phone and confirmed Madeline's appointment.