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Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda,
Presque Isle & Roscommon

Community Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021
10 AM – Noon

Attendance: Alice Snyder, Rosemary Nelson, Laurie Sauer, Barbara Ernest, Terry Tody, Betty McClintick, Jim Tucker, Rick Houchin (staff), Susan Bowen (staff)
The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Three new members will be joining the Advisory Council – Barbara Ernest, volunteer in Roscommon County; Judi Frank, volunteer in Presque Isle County; and Elna Bishop, volunteer in Cheboygan County. Barb was able to join us for the meeting; Judi and Elna will be joining at the next meeting. Staff will put together a short meeting for the new council members to introduce them to their roles on the council.

Corrections to minutes or additions to agenda

There were no corrections to the minutes from Dec. 17, 2020. Alice moved to accept the minutes and Terry seconded the motion.

Project Director's Report

Advocacy – State/Federal

Susan is a member of the Advocacy Committee of the Michigan RSVP Directors Association and they are preparing for joint testimony with the FGP/SCP directors association to be presented in March. The theme of the testimony will be the resilience of Senior Volunteers and will highlight the number of volunteers who continued to serve during the pandemic, the ways in which the service changed, and the number of clients impacted.

Budgets

The State budget was to be released the day of the advisory meeting and no details were available. As the federal budget stands, \$30 million has been earmarked for AmeriCorps Seniors programs. With new administration there will be new leadership at CNCS with presidential appointments.

Pandemic service – 4/1/20 – 1/31/21

- 278 volunteers
- 140 served at least once
- 16,386 hours (hours as of meeting time; will be higher)



Return to Service Trainings

In compliance with NEMCSA and OSHA staff will be hosting three trainings via Zoom in which volunteers will participate. The intention of the trainings is to ensure the health and safety of volunteers. All volunteers received a letter with information on what they will be expected to do when serving; NEMCSA's Universal Precautions Policy and Communicable Diseases Policy; the list of Zoom options; and a form to sign and return (after the training) indicating they understood the information and had been trained. The first session had over 40 participants. Some people were receiving one-on-one training over the phone if they called and were not able to attend any of the Zoom meetings.

Time Study

Staff have begun to use spreadsheets to track time in 15 minute increments throughout the day. This info will be used to update job descriptions and look for ways to increase efficiency.

Program Updates – Rick

Volunteers, Stations, Events

Rick reported the current volunteer roster has 258 members. There has been the normal rate of turnover, but due to inability to actively recruit during the pandemic there have not been enough new volunteers to make up the difference as there was in the past. The Rogers City Senior and Community Center has been holding a food giveaway twice a month. The station has become very active in the community and has written a few grants to expand programs. The Alpena County VA office has received its new van and non-emergency medical transportation has resumed with RSVP volunteer drivers. District Health Dept. No. 4 will be utilizing volunteers to help at vaccination clinics.

Caring Connection Rollout

Most of the details have been worked out and there is a list of about 10 volunteers who will be trained as callers. Rick expects the training to be done in the next couple of weeks. We'll be starting with calls being made to seniors referred by the Alcona and Iosco counties' commissions on aging.

MLK Day of Service

Due to constraints of social distancing, staff decided not to do a group project this year. Instead just a few of the stations with activities were highlighted on the RSVP Facebook page.

Old Business

Advisory Council Committees

There are three committees: Nominating; Fundraising; and Recruitment, Recognition and Public Relations. Advisory Council members will select a committee assignment. Laurie Sauer and Alice Snyder volunteered for the Recruitment, Recognition and Public Relations committee.

New Business

Election of chairperson and co-chairperson

Election was postponed until the next meeting when the new members will be able to attend.

Federal Grant

Notification was received in January that the three-year competitive proposal was approved. This is the base funding for the program and the new grant cycle will begin July 1, 2021.

Pandemic Augmentation

The request for \$5,000 through the CNCS Pandemic Augmentation was granted. The funding will be used to have 600 masks printed with RSVP and purchase 600 bottles of handsanitizer. Also, it will cover the mailing costs of sending two masks and two sanitizers to each volunteer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13 @ 10 am via Zoom.