



Oklahoma Arthritis Network (OAN)

Thursday, October 6, 2005

MINUTES

Attendees:

Debora Adams, OSDH Community Development, PACE Leader
Steve Beleu, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Robert Brese, OETA
Travis, Dousette, OETA
Leslie Elliott, OSDH
Norma Goff, RN, DHS Aging Services, OAN Chair
Clara Haas, Silver Haired Legislator
Lin Kisslinger, AF Fibromyalgia Support Group
Shona Lennon, Arthritis Foundation, OK Chapter, OKC
Marisa New, OTR, MPH, OSDH Arthritis Prevention and Education Program
Kjulonda Ogles, Oklahoma Primary Care Association
Betsy Replogle, OAN Vice Chair, Patient Advocate
Richa Ross, Avery Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Shirley Payne, Dept. of Rehabilitation Services
Cynthia Trent, Homewatch Caregivers
Kimberly Watley, COINS
Bill Wells, Lee and Wells
Carla Wilhite, ABLE Tech AgrAbility Project

I. WELCOME – Norma Goff, OAN Chair

New OAN Members: Richa Ross, Shirley Payne, Leslie Elliott and Richard Ingham

II. SEPTEMBER MINUTES APPROVED

III. Oklahoma Arthritis Network Projects/Committee Updates

a) ADVOCACY – Betsy Replogle, Chair, Advocacy Committee

- No Report

b) PROMOTION - Marisa New, OTR, MPH

[Brochures distributed]

- Buenos Dias Arthritis! ¡No, Me Venceras El Dia de Hoy! - Media Campaign
- Collaborating with the Latino Community Development Agency, Claudia Barajas
- Distributing brochures in the community
- Launched targeting our Spanish speaking community on September 21st on radio (KYYS-FM, KTUZ-FM) and in print *El Nacional*.
- Bus Benches/Shelters

c) COMMUNITY EDUCATION - Shona Lennon, Arthritis Foundation, Oklahoma Chapter

Leader Training Workshops

Arthritis Foundation Self Help Program

October 26-28, 2005, Tulsa

Please contact the Arthritis Foundation in Tulsa at (800) 400-4526, if you are interested in being trained as a leader in your area.

Community Arthritis Foundation Programs -AF Exercise Program, Aquatics Program and the Arthritis Self Help Program

Visit www.health.ok.gov/program/apep or www.arthritis.org for locations in Oklahoma.

[Location handouts available]

IV. Announcements

- Congratulations to Bill Heaton! He is the winner of Champions of Health Ageless Hero Award. He received his award last night at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in OKC. (more next month)
- Oklahoma Association for Rowing (OAR) - Bill Wells
 - Will be opening its new boat house soon
 - Reviewing the potential of offering a program for people with disabilities

- “Making Health Care Safer: What You Need to Know” – Marisa New
 - Monday, October 31, 2005, 10a-1:00p, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Campus, Robert M. Bird Library Auditorium, 1000 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Room 299, Oklahoma City, OK
 - Sponsored by the OU College of Public Health and Federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
 - Free Admission
 - Light Breakfast Refreshment
 - Must Register on-line at <http://www.hsrnet.net/ahrq/townhall>
 - Must Call to Register, 877-828-5101
 - Deadline for Registration is October 21, 2005

V. “Understanding the New Medicare Drug Benefit” Speaker: Richard Ingham, Attorney

[Handouts distributed – Visit www.kff.org for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, publication #7044-02]

- Medicare is divided into different parts
 - Part A (Hospitals)
 - Part B (Physicians)
 - Part C (HMOs, combining A and B together)
 - Part D (Outpatient Drug Benefit) *will be offered for the first time in 40 years*
- After you pay a \$250 Deductible, Medicare will pay 75% and you pay 25% of the drug costs.
- Between \$2,250 and \$5,100 in Drug Costs, the beneficiary is 100% responsible for the drug costs.
- Medicare calls this a gap in coverage. Cynics call it the “doughnut hole.”
- Chronic diseases do not have gaps in the year in which you are not afflicted. What does a person do during the doughnut hole?
- The economic theory “moral hazard” implies we are better consumers when we are spending our own dollars. When others are paying for your expenses, we may be less careful with what we buy.
- 14% of Oklahomans must make decisions between paying their rent, eating or paying their drugs. This doughnut hole creates a huge dilemma for these people.
- Another reason for the doughnut hole was to help solve the budgetary problem.
- Once you get to \$5,100, the program is good. The split is then 95% Medicare and 5% beneficiary.
- Norman Prescription Assistance Service at (405) 701-2185 will help determine if you are eligible for a pharmaceutical discounts and then help you apply. Before you call, get your list of medications and your dosages. Over the phone, she will assist in completing your application and mail it in for you. Not sure how long this assistance will be available.
- Another solution that will help deal with the doughnut hole. Review the plans offered. Secure Horizons Classic Enhanced Plan will cover drugs completely but generics only. Only 26% of Oklahomans will have access to the plan. See handout “Oklahoma Medicare Advantage and Cost Prescription Drug Plans”
- Visit www.medicare.gov for instructions to enroll. A list of your drugs and dosages plus you’re your nearest pharmacy and it will help narrow down the plans in which you are eligible.
-Open enrollment until May 2006-
- **DHS Aging Services Division offers a wallet card that lists the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all Oklahoma sources of information on the new drug benefit.**
Please call (405) 521-2281 to request a card.

VI. Next OAN Meeting will be Thursday, November 3, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at OSDH in Room 314.

Videoconferencing is available; please call (405) 271-9444, ext. 56410 or marisan@health.ok.gov for more information. -See Calendar of Events for other announcements and upcoming meetings-