

Loveland Senior Advisory Board

Minutes from February 1, 2012

Board Members Present: Anne Brown, Elaine Brush, Doug East, Kim Ferro, Phoebe Hawley, Lynn Hayden-Ugarte, Judy Jones, Marigail Jury, Larry Roos, Earl Stevens, Bobbi Sutton, Chauncey Taylor and Donita Fogle. Guests today include Chris Kanowitz, Carol Rehme, David Fraser, Tami Murdock, Rich Hedlund, Teri Volk, Angie Sawtelle, and Shelley Widhalm.

Minutes of December 7, 2011 approved and accepted. Minutes of January 4, 2012 approved and accepted, revised and corrected.

Guest introductions - Teri Volk is the community liaison for House Call Physicians, which has been in operation for three years. This is a group of three practicing physicians and two physician assistants that see patients in their homes. Dr. Mitch Janasek started recently, and a female physician will be starting as of April 1. They are not affiliated with any particular group and are a "stand alone" service. They currently have approximately 600 patients serving Greeley to North Denver. Patients are primarily seniors and disabled folks who are "homebound" yet their criteria for homebound is different than traditional home care criteria. These folks are out in the community but have a reasonably difficult time leaving their homes. They may have problems with transportation, long waits in doctor's offices and incontinence issues. They also see patients in assisted living facilities. Dr. Brian Mathwich started this practice in Longmont, which is where their physical office is located. They accept Medicare, as well as Medicaid, and other insurances and process all of the billing. They can do some diagnostic testing (such as x-rays) and labs. On average, they see about ten patients per day, and each patient is seen an average of six times per year. Couples may be covered as long as at least one person is considered homebound. Call are taken and answered between 7:30 am to 5 pm each day, and doctors are on-call after 5 pm. Phone: 970.223.4983.

Shelley Widhalm is with the Reporter Herald and covering senior issues. Phone: 970.669.5050 ext. 531.

City Council Update: Chauncey Taylor reports that he has been listening to presentations and that the 2013 goals and missions have been discussed. Particular advisory boards were not part of these discussions, but he reports they remain "status quo" at the present time. He believes that the roles and values of the Loveland Senior Advisory Board are working and will remain intact as a viable, functioning and active board. SAB is different from other boards, such as the construction and planning and zoning boards, which offers a strong role in making recommendations to the city and are most visible and oftentimes have a strong financial impact.

At a recent retreat, the focus of the city council involved core services: water, power and fire. Old, existing water lines need to be repaired. Discussion about placing electrical utilities underground, and the fact that the downtown area is most affected by power

outages, are major issues. Plan for the fire district is that the rural fire district and Loveland fire department have merged. They will share resources and costs. \$2 million is budgeted over the next eight years. Codes need to come up to standard, which includes staffing and equipment. New building is at 29th and Wilson.

There is a request and discussion for a new museum at the projected sum of \$14 million. The City of Loveland's full service level is for the population of 100,000.

There should be more announcements soon regarding the ACE project, which should help to fund budgetary needs.

Earl Stevens suggested that the SAB should ask the city council for funding in the sum of \$1,000 for the sake of getting noticed. Chauncey advised to only request funds if and when needed and that, more importantly, the SAB move forward with services related to seniors and the aging population.

Teri Volk indicated that she is the chairman of another city advisory board, which makes a huge effort to educate and act as advocates. She suggested the SAB get some PR, approach the mayor, incorporate other boards and their values and ask for explanations when unclear.

Larry Roos put together a report he called Comments on SAB's Mission (and Execution) dated 2/2/12. He indicated that 15% of the population in Loveland are seniors and that 95% are registered voters. This report compares other towns with SABs, including Boulder County, as well as excerpts from a recent community assessment survey for older adults for Loveland (2010) which clearly shows the contributions of older adults, paid and unpaid.

It was determined that further evaluation of this report and its contents will be discussed by an appointed committee to include Larry Roos, Phoebe Hawley, Kim Ferro, Richard Hedlund and Marigail Jury. This group will meet in February and report its finding at the March SAB board meeting. The committee will also present a list of 2012 goals for SAB to consider, and approve or disapprove.

Discussion of other SAB boards were discussed. Judy Jones indicated that the Fort Collins SAB is very active, verbal and well known and works in conjunction with the senior center.

Elaine Brush reported that the vision and mission of the Chilson Senior Center Board is primarily fund raising. For instance, they raised \$75,000 in 1987 for furnishings. Grants are offered and opportunities for low-income seniors to participate in activities are offered. They do not act on issues such as transportation and housing. Comparing budgets and staff of Chilson to Longmont or Fort Collins, the Chilson board acts with about one third less staff and resources. It is a different structure; very conservative. Informational and referral phone calls are not tracked by staff or volunteers.

The Loveland SAB has been invited to attend a regular board meeting and luncheon of the Fort Collins SAB. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The overall goal would be to see how their board functions and discuss similar goals. After further discussion, an arrangement for a meeting was later verbally tabled by our Chair, with no objection from SAB members.

Accomplishments of Loveland SAB for 2011 needs to be submitted to the city by 2/3/12. This report will be done by Elaine Brush. Elaine asked for any corrections or further inclusions for this report ASAP. Establishing goals for 2012 should be our top priority as we move forward into the new year.

Election of SAB members: Phoebe Hawley and Doris Helwig have been approved. Loveland Housing Authority submitted a request to have Donita Fogle serve as a representative at large. Motion was approved and will be submitted to city council to act on 2/7/12. Donita is willing to accept position of secretary to SAB, which can be further addressed at March SAB meeting.

Senior Singles was discussed, and it was established that this position was created and sponsored by SAB in 1997 and remains as an active SAB member.

Next meeting on March 7, 2012 will be held at the Gertrude Scott Library and will be devoted to discussing goals and accomplishments of 2012.