

## **DSAC Chair's Report**

**June 6, 2017**

### **What's happening at North End Senior Solutions?**

We received a letter notifying us that North Samaritan and Pacific Community Hospitals, through the Samaritan Foundation, is awarding us the \$22,900 we requested to support the following:

1. \$5,000 for continued support for our transportation program, to reimburse volunteer drivers for mileage.
2. \$17,900 to add and develop two new components to NESS Club, our adult day service program.
  - a. RN: We will hire a part-time registered nurse to come every week to monitor our health and well-being. Samaritan's grant includes \$1000 for purchase of scales, blood pressure cuff, thermometers, and other equipment and that matches the \$1000 from Spirit Mountain that we received earlier this year. We will model the nursing component after that of the Grace Center Adult Day Services in Corvallis. Rene Knight, the Grace Center's Director of Operations, answered my questions prior to the proposal and shared their job description for the RN. To the RN's job, we add "Lunch with the Nurse." We've enjoy very successful outcomes with the lunch visits from Senior Mental Health Coordinator Tim Malone and now Marie Laper, to discuss our mental health issues. We hope that having a nurse around for casual consultation will also make a difference in our health, and make up for the time we wish we had to talk with our doctors. Doctors don't have time to answer all our questions, is a common complaint. Our nurse can be our advocate to our PCP.
  - b. BH: Behavioral Health Counselor: The success with Lunch with Marie convinced us we need a counselor at NESS more often. In fact, I think it was during Marie's first visit to NESS Club that she took me aside and said, "You need a counselor here all the time." Thank you, Marie for helping write and edit this grant proposal. Michele Warner, a SHIBA counselor in Lincoln City, will be part of the Behavioral Health team.

Samaritan's grant spans an 18-month fiscal cycle. We need to raise additional funds to sustain these components. With the help of Jo Calk, Lincoln City's nonprofit Beach Thrift Store, we have submitted one letter of intent and two grant proposals for additional support. Having a nurse on staff will now enable us to apply for a contract with the Veterans Administration and Medicaid will increase our consumer fees. With these additional services offered to participants and their caregivers, we hope enrollment increases at the NESS Club.

Jo Calk is also helping to write grants for our Capital Project. We need our own place. We need a residential care home, so when a participant's family is no longer able to care for their relative

at home, we can keep our loved ones in our community. We have begun requesting help from Lincoln City, Lincoln County, and others, and so I think I should make SSAC and DSAC aware of our Capital Project. Capital Project means brick and mortar; we are looking at property to purchase on which we can build a common building to house NESS Club, offices, classrooms, and meeting spaces, and enough property to build perhaps independent cottages, and a residential care home. I will send a link to Lisa so you can see our rough draft of our proposal and more information at our Web Site. We encourage and welcome your suggestions and input, and help!

By the way, we are redesigning our web site and it is not fully functional yet.

One last Acronym: Last year we wrote a proposal to IHN-CCO for funding to add educational programs. We didn't receive that funding. But the wonderful thing about writing grant proposals is that we outline new projects, the reasons we need these projects, and we imagine desired outcomes from these new projects.

In our proposal to IHN, we spoke to the need of elders and people with disabilities to learn the new advancing computer and electronic technologies. Such technologies will help us to remain living at home. Too often, I hear "I don't need to know that stuff." I encourage people to get on board; it will make your life easier. Two weeks ago, a new potential volunteer came to NESS and the first thing she asked was "do I have to have an email account to volunteer, I need one at Hospice. I don't want to do email." That's an example of people not wanting to learn.

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| E—Elder       | Without IHN funding and with the help of our beautiful Driftwood Library, we have begun the EIEIO project....a technology café of sorts. I am hoping people won't feel so dumb with they see other people being dumb about technology.   |
| I—Information | The second and fourth Friday of each month, Matthew the research librarian comes to NESS Club offering personalized help with our devices, cell phones, smart phones, iPad, computers, etc. We held the first EIEIO, with coffee and snacks, last Friday from 10:30 -12 noon. We haven't stopped talking about it. I overhear people telling other people about it. When is it? People ask me. With Matthew's help, six people renewed their library cards over the telephone. |
| E—Education   | Normally, you have to go into the library to verify your address and phone number, but Matthew spoke to the library clerk and all cards were updated over the phone. Next Friday at EIEIO, I'll ask Matthew to help everyone get their own email account. Then they can check email either, here at NESS Club, or at the library.  |
| I—Involving   |  |
| O—Others      |  |

Humbly submitted, Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald