

Meeting Notes (draft)

Gathering in lieu of Falls Prevention Task Force

May 13, 2009 7:30 – 8:45 AM

Fitchburg Senior Center

Participants: Kim Kristensen, Carrie Meier, Janie Riebe, Carmel Tesmer, Liz Kelly, Amy Hirata, Amy Schumacher, Anna Stranski, Charlene Avery, Burlie Williams

Purpose of meeting: to discuss ways we can further engage EMS services to connect older adults who have fallen with services.

Background: Carrie Meier, Dane County EMS and Falls Prevention Task Force member, worked with Dane County EMS Medical Director to develop a referral process that complies with HIPAA. Carrie then circulated a flyer to all EMS services describing the process that reads: “ask the patient if you can refer them to the local senior center in your area to give them a hand. If the patient agrees, document the conversation on your refusal form and have the patient sign. The when you return to the station call the local senior center and suggest that the patient receive a phone call and possible evaluation.

“By documenting the conversation and the patient’s approval on your refusal form, and getting their signature, you have complied with HIPAA.”

Carrie also developed a powerpoint presentation and circulated it to training directors of all EMS services. The powerpoint describes the scope of the falls problem and outlines the procedure described above.

Amy Schumacher, social worker from Fitchburg Senior Center, has noted in past Task Force meetings that they’re not seeing referrals from EMS for falls related services and wondered if we could revisit.

Meeting outcomes:

Carrie has noted that in the age of HIPAA, it continues to be an educational process to bring EMS providers around to this way of doing things, but she’ll keep plugging away. Carrie will do the following:

- Look into the prospect of making a presentation to Dane County EMS Medical Advisory Subcommittee (comprised of ER docs and nurses).
- Issue another reminder of this referral process via EMS newsletter (received by all technicians).
- At the EMS Association meeting May 27th, pass out the bookmark provided by Janie Riebe of Area Agency on Aging that includes contact info for all Dane County focal points.
- Carrie will develop a form a la the 211 referral form that EMS services can use to fax or call 211; then 211 can pass on to appropriate senior focal point.

- Carrie will look into collecting EMS run data to help the Task Force track incidence of falls in Dane County (as an interim measure to WISH data). Dane County EMS is refining their electronic data collection systems and there are MANY requests for this data, so it'll be a longer-term (still a year or so off) prospect. Types of data they could gather: location/community; time of day; total number of falls; went to the hospital or not; fall frequency.

Janie Riebe and Amy Schumacher will:

- Survey Dane County case managers to find out about their relationship with their EMS services (do you work together; have they made referrals)
- Once we find out status of relationship, perhaps set up drop-ins where senior centers stop by EMS stations and introduce themselves and their services.
- Disseminate Carrie's powerpoint to senior focal points and suggest that they make presentations to their local EMS services.

Other EMS related stuff:

- Carmel will send form we developed for discharge planners to use; could be useful for EMS.
- Is there a way to facilitate communication about "frequent fallers" at shift change? Cases sited where person fell three times in a 48 hour period and was picked up off the floor by EMS but this wasn't communicated internally among technicians.

Other discussion – how are things going/what suggestions do folks have:

- Promote classes/falls prevention efforts via neighborhood newsletters and church bulletins
- Add "call United Way 2-1-1" directly into the discharge instructions. Liz Kelly will find out how that would happen at Meriter Hospital; others can follow suit.
- See about another falls presentation as part of hospital grand rounds
- Time to remake contact with geriatricians and discharge planners?
- Send brochures to hospitalists via email?
- Strength and balance video to CBRFs and senior centers, since classes are often cancelled due to lack of instructor?