



**Meeting Notes (draft – please e-mail corrections to Cheryl)
Falls Prevention Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2007 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Warner Park Community Center, Community Room**

Attending: Kendra Jacobsen, Amy Vieth, Ann Albert, Linda Mahlberg, Mary Jean Eisenga, Cal Bruce, Virginia Robbeloth, Marilyn Lawler, Carrie Meier, Joyce Pohl, Sandy Miskelly, Jean O’Leary, Kathy Martinson, Myra Enloe, Amy Elske, Jannie Riebe, Lori Mertens-Pellitteri, Susan Kaminski, Terry Shea, Colleen Howes, Cindy Walters, Pam Bracey, Cheryl Wittke; **Regrets:** Andy Kosseff, Chair; Mary Stamstad, Mary Zimmerman, Dottie Krull, Frank Salvi

Welcome to new task force and workgroup members!

Falls Hotline and Introduction to 211

A prospect for a one-stop shop for people looking for falls prevention resources is the 211 system. Kathy Martinson from United Way briefed the Task Force on 211. 211 is a non-emergency, 24-hour/365 days a year resource and referral line staffed by trained volunteers. 211 is a national effort with a local presence. Locally, 211 is bringing a new database software on line that will expand its capacity to drill down further to help people find services within organizations. NOTE: 211’s ability to make referrals for falls prevention services is only as good as the information we (the task force) provides.

Questions for Kathy: Q: Is it a confidential service? What are liability/referral issues (is 211 required to report callers in life-threatening situations to authorities)? A: The line is confidential and they don’t collect caller information. Q: What do you do to promote 211 – some on the Task Force hadn’t heard of it. A: Part of the public education campaign would be to direct people to call 211 for falls prevention referrals if this is the appropriate route.

Workgroup Meetings

Given busy schedules last month it was difficult to schedule workgroup meetings, so we devoted time for workgroups to begin their planning.

The MD Visit Workgroup did meet February 8th and began developing a model that is central to work of other groups – that of coordinating falls prevention referrals and activities within each medical system. Lori Mertens-Pellitteri and Susan Kaminski, Dean Health Systems provided an overview of meeting outcomes and next steps (see workgroup meeting minutes, attached)

We divided into the following groups, which met and gave short reports:

- MD Workgroup and Hotline Workgroup meet jointly to discuss interface, facilitator, Lori Mertens-Pellitteri
- Exercise/Balance Workgroup – facilitators, Jean O’Leary and Janie Riebe
- Home Safety Assessment Workgroup – facilitators Sandy Miskelly and Cindy Walters

Each group leader will provide the Task Force and their own workgroups with meeting notes from their break-out, but in summary:

Exercise/Balance Group discussed: individualized and group exercise options; Bottom line – we know what models work – task is to develop a delivery system that reaches people given barriers (transportation, reaching people who don't/won't attend organized exercise classes). *Next Exercise/Balance Workgroup meeting: (tentative): Tuesday, March 6, 3:30 PM Area Agency on Aging, 2322 S. Park Street.*

Home Safety Assessment Group discussed: identifying what interventions are out there now and who's referring for falls; home safety and falls prevention assessments are two different things – with many good tools out there there's no need to come up with one tool, but rather identify what elements need to be included in the tool to make it effective. Health care providers will have different (and more complex) referral needs than will community members. *Next Home Safety Assessment Workgroup Meeting: March 5 (details forthcoming)*

MD Visit/Hotline Group (joint meeting) discussed: Who will call 211 (health care providers looking for community resources; people who have fallen/are concerned about falling and their family/friends/caregivers; community organizations looking for links to medical providers?). 211 typically refers callers to nonprofits – can they refer callers to for-profits health care organizations? To be effective, there needs to be internal coordination within each health care provider group and/or a separate “health care 211” that coordinates across systems. The two workgroups can proceed separately and touch base rather than meeting jointly on a regular basis. *Next MD Visit Workgroup Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 8:30 – 9:45 AM, SAFE Study Office, 2870 University Ave, Suite 106; Falls Hotline Workgroup Meeting: TBD*

Other issues/questions:

- When will we begin work on public education campaign? Thought is to put our plans in place so we know what our message should be/what it is we're asking people to do before we launch that campaign.
- We'll need to keep in mind that whatever we put in place, it needs to be maintained after task force runs its course.
- There are many pockets of activity in place (eg. ACE group at UW Hospital – group of geriatricians trained to conduct multifactorial falls assessments). Challenge is to pull it all together.

8:55 Adjourned

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TASK FORCE MEETINGS ARE THIRD WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 – 9 am

NEXT MEETING: March 21

Madison School and Community Recreation, Hoyt Building, 3802 Regent Street