

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 13, 2008**

Present: *Board Members:* Chris Decker, Eloise Green, Bob Herdt, Sonya Islam, Lorraine Johnson, Mary Opperman, Jim Pratt, Elizabeth Schneider, and Bill Tomek, Joy Blumkin, Jim Henery

Excused:, Melissa Gatch, Cathy Paddock, and Margaret Washington

Staff: Carolyn Arnold and Steve Griffin

Vice Chair Bill Tomek called the meeting to order at 6:19. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Minutes of the June 9, 2008 Board meeting: Motion to approve by Bob Herdt, seconded by Elizabeth Schneider and carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance/ Bob Herdt: Year to date comparisons with 2007 offer some interesting trends. There has been a decrease in home delivered meal numbers. Contribution per meal is up, and expenses for each meal are up, due to inflation. Labor costs are also increasing, due to raises for staff that took effect in July, 2007. Jim Pratt questioned whether Foodnet is becoming stricter on the authorization of home delivered meal services. Carolyn reported that Foodnet is sticking to New York State guidelines to review who continues to receive meals. Higher number of people served reflects turnover in recipients. New York State visits annually and conducts an audit, which is scheduled for December 2 and 3 this year.

Review of budget: Cash flow is good, personnel costs are close, and meal delivery costs are okay, even with the increase in gasoline prices that were experienced this year. Occupancy is currently under budget, due to getting vans from Tompkins County. Total expenses are currently \$46,000 under budget, and there is a projection of a budget surplus by January 1.

Tompkins County is in the process of planning the 2009 budget, but there are no Foodnet budget numbers as yet from the committee.

There was a discussion of the 2009/2010 budget with potential NY State cuts.

There was a discussion and a demonstration of the new food delivery system (meal trays). They are fiber board and plastic, and can be reheated in the microwave or oven. A clear plastic cover means that the food is visible. These meal trays cost one cent less than the aluminum trays that were used, saving \$1350 annually.

Jim Pratt asked about Foodnet's plans for sustainability. The Board discussed the issue of priorities in 2007 regarding contingencies for wait listing new applicants and increasing income from meals. The board will discuss contingency planning and other counties response at next month's meeting.

Lorraine Johnson thought that Foodnet needed to find a source of income that is steady to ease future budget problems. Bob reported that of the \$1,000,000 budget, \$900,000 is steady income from State and County sources.

Development Committee/ Steve Reported that Foodnet did not win the \$30,000 computer makeover from the Computing Center. The Learning Web was the not for profit organization that took the first prize.

2008 year to date donations are \$59,479. Steve foresees that we will reach \$100,000 by the end of the year.

Steve met with Loren and Loren, and went to thank Wheelathon donors in person. Joy stated that as a Board we should revisit the Wheelathon as our signature event, and look to another food related event.

Nominating Committee/ A new committee should be appointed next month. Bill Tomek volunteered to chair. The new committee will have to address filling vacancies, including Mary Opperman , who is at the term limit, and Cathy Paddock, who is resigning as board member and secretary of the board.

Staff Reports/

Carolyn:

The initial assessments of new home-delivered meal clients are now being conducted primarily before starting the service. The exceptions are when the need for meals is urgent and the client is too ill for an interview (I then have ten days to complete the assessment), or the assessment has already been scheduled or conducted by a caseworker at DSS Long-Term Care. Assessment prior to service has allowed me to more accurately determine eligibility and better target the service to those who need it most. I have also been stopping meals to clients whose eligibility changed due to changes in circumstances. Determining when meals are needed or just a convenience is not easy, and one client has filed a grievance. Generally, however, when I explain that our resources are limited and others need the service more, people are understanding.

On October 16 & 17, Steve and I and Brianne will be attending the annual Unity in Our Diversity Conference, sponsored by the Meals on Wheels Association of America /New York State Chapter, the New York State Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (Steve is a member) and the Aging Services Dietitians of New York State (I am a member). Each association provides a program track of topics of specific interest to that group. The dietitians' track includes "Effective Nutrition Messages for Seniors" and an update on vitamin D requirements. General sessions include "Senior Nutrition Program Challenges", by the Meals on Wheels Association of America President & CEO. This conference provides a unique opportunity to share experiences, information and ideas with our counterparts in other counties, and has proven very useful in the past.

Steve / Steve will attend the Meals On Wheels training in Washington DC on November 17 and 18. The National Center for Nutrition Leadership program will be funded by a "development scholarship."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17.

Submitted by Christine Decker