

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: October 2, 2017
SUBJECT: Partnership for Independent Living
PRESENTER: Penny Summey, DSS Board Chair
ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Times-News Article dated 9-17-17

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Department of Social Services is providing informational updates to the Board of Commissioners regarding various Social Services issues. The October 2017 update, provided by DSS Board Chair Penny Summey, is an informational presentation regarding the Partnership for Independent Living; an on-going collaboration between the Department of Social Services and the Council on Aging.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No Board Action Necessary - Informational Purposes Only

SUGGESTED MOTION:

No Motion Suggested

Henderson County's Compassionate Collaborative for Aging Adults

In 2005 the Council on Aging for Henderson County (COA) and the Henderson County Department of Social Services (DSS) started a private and public collaborative program that shares the mission of delaying or preventing out-of-home placement of seniors. This collaborative is known as the Partnership for Independent Living (PFIL). Other goals of the Partnership include reducing private and public costs, maximizing the use of limited private and public revenues, and placing a high value on a person's choice and right to self-determination. DSS contributes four social work staff and COA contributes two social work staff to the Partnership. The social workers provide case management services to 25 to 30 adults each. Social workers arrange and coordinate a wide variety of in-home and supportive services including home health, meals on wheels, adult day care, home modifications/improvements, lifeline services, in-home aide services, transportation access, and the list goes on. The assigned social worker makes at least monthly contact with each adult to assess and monitor the adults' needs and make any referrals that will help the adult to remain safely in his or her home.

At the inception of the Partnership it was found that the two agencies were unknowingly duplicating services to clients. One of the first goals of the Partnership was to eliminate this duplication. Well organized efforts and close communication between COA and DSS soon resolved this issue and resulted in better and more coordinated services to the clients.

In 2011 a registered nurse was added to the Partnership to provide health support services. Health support services offer a limited number of slots to PFIL clients to provide medication management, client education, and advocacy. The RN works closely with medical providers and pharmacies to ensure successful medication reconciliation and to support the client to properly take prescribed medications. In addition, the RN and social worker coordinate to develop a plan of care with the client. The goal is to monitor the adult's ability to understand the prescribed medications and how to take them effectively.

Last year the Partnership served an average of 181 clients per month. Currently 175 clients are being served by the program. Seventy five referrals were made to the program last year with 36 new clients being added. Referrals are made by physicians, hospitals, home health agencies, other non-profits as well as friends and relatives of seniors in the community.

In discussing the Partnership, Trina Stokes, the Director of the Council on Aging, stated "The Partnership for Independent Living is a unique collaboration between two like-minded organizations. Both DSS and COA are passionate about coordinating local resources to ensure older adults have the necessary tools to remain living independent, safely. Both agencies work hard to ensure client's right to self-determination is protected while opening their mind to opportunities and resources that enhance their quality of life. Henderson County residents are lucky to have two agencies that work so well together to provide this unique service to seniors."

For additional information or to make a referral please contact the Council on Aging at 692-4203 or the Intake Department at DSS at 694-6241.