

“JumpStart the Conversation” Grant – Wichita Interim Report
Advocacy Training
March 5, 2010

Grantee:

Wichita Educational Foundation

350 W. Douglas
Wichita, KS 67202
Fred Bright, President
Suzie Ahlstrand, Resident Agent
Phone: 316-268-1135

Partner Organization

Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
2622 W. Central Ste. 500
Wichita, KS 67203
Annette Graham, Executive Director
Phone: 316-660-7298
Email agraham@cpaaa.org

Primary Contact

Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
2622 W. Central Ste 500
Wichita, KS 67203
Cathy Landwehr Bailey, Program Manager
Phone: 316-660-5232
Email: clandweh@cpaaa.org

Grant Outcome Summary:

- Following the training 90% of the attendees will indicate that they have a better understanding of aging issues

- 90% of the attendees indicated that they understand steps to take for advocating on these issues.

- Establish an interested group of 10 or more seniors or caregivers willing to advocate on behalf of seniors in this community/state.

Grant Narrative:

The goal for this project is to engage older adults by providing a four hour educational opportunity to help them be effective and confident advocates for themselves and others to influence positive change in Wichita, the surrounding counties and the state and federal government.

The Central Plains Area Agency on Aging in partnership with the Older Adult Alliance has researched many advocacy training models to find material that is specifically tailored to persons 55 and older. We plan to develop an advocacy base that can be called upon to speak up for important issues in many areas of concern to older adults such as aging policies, zoning issues and funding issues for necessary services. Older adults and caregivers participating in this program will learn the tools to be effective spokespersons for developing communities and services that are friendly to all generations to help us all age in place.

A draft PowerPoint presentation and agenda are developed titled Senior Advocacy in Action. Sections include:

- What is Advocacy?
- Key Components of Advocacy
- Ten Advocacy Commandments
- The Realities of Long Term Care in America
- Options for Supporting Long Term Care:
- How to Influence congress Without Leaving Home
- 10 Stems to Successful Legislative

We have developed and distributed a flyer to recruit interested seniors to the training. We targeted senior centers; elderly focused housing and advisory councils to Central Plains AAA. We also submitted an article to Active Aging Newspaper regarding advocacy with an invitation to readers to attend the training. That newsletter reaches all seniors in our tri-county area over the age of 60. We currently have 33 registered for the March 25 training and have a capacity to train 50 in the space we have reserved.

We have secured 4 speakers including a Kansas legislative staff person, an advocacy expert from a Kansas Area Agency on Aging who has experience holding an office, a strong aging advocate from CPAAA advisory council and a grassroots advocate with experience at the state level. In addition, Annette Graham from CPAAA will lead the training initiative.

Handouts will be provided to the participants and from this class, a core group will be formed to continue with advocacy training and a deeper understanding of aging issues for the future.