



## OAKHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

**MINUTES for special meeting on January 3, 2024 at 11 am at Town Hall/Senior Center**

**Meeting called to order: 11:11 am**

**Members attending: Barbara Wreschinsky, Janice Handrahan, Clare and Rick Hendra  
Also: Melanie Silva (coordinator); Paul and Diane Rochette, Becky Austin, Liz Ott, Judy Menard, Kathy Corcoran**

**And invited guests: Miriam Nyante and Sandy Knipe from the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition**

**The COA invited the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition to speak with us about the services they could provide if we were to join their Coalition:**

- **Sandy Knipe, a Public Health Nurse, tracks community incidence of around 100 different diseases, including tick borne diseases and TB.**
- **The Coalition has a grant to support their services and the Oakham BOH is onboard**
- **The Coalition could provide us monthly blood pressure and glucose readings.**
  - **The COA thought that would be a good service to offer in addition to our current once-a-month blood pressure testing.**
  - **We agreed to start providing this service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.**
- **Miriam and Sandy will participate in our Health Fair on Feb. 14.**
- **Sandy asked what issues the people gathered were concerned about:**
  - **Judy recalled a nurse who gave us a bone density test on your feet, which can help flag osteoporosis. Sandy said they didn't have that equipment, but they'll look into it.**
  - **Rick asked about skin cancer screenings. Sandy said she'd be glad to take a look at spots we might be concerned about when she comes by.**
  - **Barbara and Jan asked about the availability of a social worker, or help with quality of life issues**
    - **The Coalition makes referrals for issues around housing and such that go beyond direct health needs.**
    - **Similarly for home health aides: an agency like Tri-Valley Health would probably be a good resource for that, but they could help.**

- **The topic of transportation was discussed and liability was a concern; there are transportation services available...**
- **They can also schedule vaccination clinics, though most of us are vaccinated for this year already.**

**The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:15 pm.**