



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 4th 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.