

## **LOVN CHAT Meeting Summary August 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am**

**Present:** Kathy Turner, Ann Favreau, Tom Gosler, Pat Maurer, Carolyn Stephens, Susan Haley, Richard Rogers, Rachel Perry, Paula Carney, Tom Davie, Diane Ramseyer

**Welcome and Introductions** – Paula Carney welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

### **Update and Discussion – Rx Meds Project**

Paula reported that the Rx Workgroup has met and continues to work on the plan to increase awareness of the dangers of prescription drug misuse. She share a flyer developed for distribution by any organization throughout the area which explains proper medication disposal and has a medication inventory list. Copies of the PDF will be sent to LOVN Members with the meeting summary. Additionally, outreach continues with the Venice Police Dept. Data from the Sheriff's drop-off boxes and City of North Port, may help the Venice Police make their decision. Since there is a box off 766 at the South County Sheriff Station, Venice has at least one point. However, the location of the City Police Dept is an ideal location in terms of proximity to residences of many seniors. Group approved Diane sending a preliminary letter of intent to the Venice Lion Club – noting the intention to apply for a grant to cover the cost of a box at their January grant release. She will obtain cost figures to include in this letter. Tom suggested checking with the post office for surplus mailboxes to be used. He will make some inquiries.

March 25 Community Forum- Work continues on the planning for the March 25<sup>th</sup> event. Dr. Leedy from Tidewell has agreed to participate and several other physicians and providers are interested. Manatee Coalition on Substance Abuse, SCAN, and Englewood CHAT (for Charlotte County) are interested in hosting similar events on that date – providing a larger 3-county regional coverage. CHIP's Health Provocateur Group is also working on this issue, and may be an additional source of collaboration.

The National Institute for Health and National Institute on Aging produced a book "Talking with Your Doctor". The CHAT will request copies of it for all attendees at the Forum. It is a practical book with great worksheets to help individuals document the information they need to share with their physician, as well as learn from their physician in order to maintain good health and understand health issues and treatment.

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/TalkingWithYourDoctor/>

The next workgroup is September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm – Bella Vita.

## **Announcements and Catching Up with Member Activities**

Tom Davie reported that First Step is active with the county plan for reducing prescription drug abuse. The latest stats indicate that 1100 deaths came last year from overdose of Oxycodine in Florida. Work is starting to replicate efforts in North Port for Drug-Free Youth to Sarasota Military. The hope is to have this initiative throughout the county.

Venice Lions Club continues to offer vision and hearing screening monthly.

JFCS continues services at the South County Resource Center.

Pat reminded the group that the library can provide meeting space for non-profit organizations to hold meetings and community events. Contact: Rolland M. for reserving space at the Venice Library.

Tidewell Hospice has a new CEO. They are also open for new volunteers – they have a large variety of areas where people can volunteer –from clowns to horticulture. They are also doing “Tidewell Honors” pinings – They present a special pin to honor veterans who are part of Hospice. They have expanded this to other veterans in the community who are not involved with Hospice. They welcome other organizations to partner with these evenings.

Kathy Turner affirmed Venice Regional’s support of the efforts of the various groups who are working to address the issue of prescription drug misuse.

Diane asked for suggested for upcoming meeting presentations. One idea is to have the Senior Sensitivity Program – will schedule for September.

“Within a mile” is an initiative by the libraries to help identify and link residents to volunteer opportunities “within a mile” of their library.

**Next CHAT meeting – September 10<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 pm Venice Library**

**Next Rx Workgroup – September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4:00pm – Bella Vita**



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