

# **BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Agency on Aging was called to order at 10 a.m. at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice via Zoom.

Council members present were: Janice Price; Lana Likens; Karen Richardson and Tracy Wieckhorst.

Absent: Jessica Gerdes and Jennifer Schell.

Guests: No guests

Blue Rivers Agency on Aging staff members present were: Carla Frase Executive Director and Tracie Fossler, Administrative Assistant.

Price, Chair, presided over the meeting and Fossler recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**MOTION** by Likens to approve the agenda as printed; second by Richardson; voice vote; motion carried.

**MOTION** by Richardson to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020 as printed; second by Likens; voice vote; motion carried.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

All members received a copy of the notes for the report.

- December 10 ADRC Training on Disability Partners presentations.
- December 15 Nutrition Coordinator's Meeting
- December 16 Dec NE Time Study workgroup meeting
- December 16 Check in call with Cynthia Brammeier
- December 17 Received 700 sets of 7-day shelf stable meals
- December 17 Zoom meeting with Nebraska Strong Recovery Unit on "Self-Care" for all staff
- December 23 Conference call with Madhavi and Cynthia B from the State Unit on Aging, Kathy Erickson and myself regarding the Senior Volunteer Program, beginning 7/1/2021. This programs are stagnant due to the Pandemic and will be discontinuing June 30, 2021 and beginning a Legal Contract with Chuck Bentjen.
- December 23 Frase presented a program to the Nebraska City Rotary Club regarding our Agency and services available. There were 20 people on the zoom meeting.
- January 5 SPR Training (State Program Report) with Beth and Kathy, on variance report.

- January 5 Management Team meeting regarding Monitoring Tools, Training on Goals, Strategies, Objectives and the Performance Measures that our Agency has achieved in the past 6 months.
- January 7 Disability Education Series on Nebraska Olmstead Plan
- January 8 Continuing Disability Education Series in Nebraska Olmstead Plan, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act and signed into law in 1990 by George Bush and that Separate can never be Equal. ADA takes a sledge hammer to wall of exclusion organized under 5 titles: Employment, State/Local Government, no persons of public entity may discriminate, Telecommunications-providing services of TTY etc. and Miscellaneous. The Olmstead Plan must have concrete goods, timelines and benchmarks for providing and implementing community based services and may not simplify or contain vague assurances by the State. Nebraska signed the bill into law May 17, 2019. Project Manager hired and steering group is identified to meet quarterly to make sure all federal guidelines and strategies outlined in the Plan are met.
- January 12 AAA Director's Meeting
- January 12 Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- January 13 NE Time Study Workgroup
- January 13 Met with Les White at Twin Rivers regarding the approved purchase of two replacement meal delivery vans.
- January 14 Luncheon meeting with Chuck Bentjen, Kathy Erickson regarding Legal Services contract of \$25,000 CASA funds to begin 7/1/2021, and to replace the current Senior Volunteer Program funds. He agreed to do this, will develop a program, and contract and is aware of the SUA guidelines, as he currently has a similar contract with SCWAAA. He plans to become an Aging Law Specialist, developing his programs as such.
- January 21 Management Team met with Christina Lyons from the Beatrice Daily Sun. Provided her with information for an article regarding our services we provide, service area, transit system etc. Should be in the Daily Sun on January 29, 2021.
- January 22 Management Team attended a breakfast meeting: Mandating the Covid-19 Vaccine: Important Considerations.
- January 22 ADRC Leadership Team Meeting
- February 1 Governing Board Meeting, rescheduled from January 25.
- February 9 AAA Directors Meeting
- February 17 Zoom monitory with State Unit on Aging, had sent paperwork prior to this meeting. Approx. 450 pages and the same to Auditor of Public Accounts, this included the Disaster Plan/Review.
- February 18 Impact of Covid on Workers Compensation via zoom which was free through NIRMA. Frase and Williams attended.
- February 23 Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- Work continues on our Transit Application, which is due March 21, 2021. This application will be in effect for two years, with FY2022 budget of \$807,647 and FY2023 budget of \$833,127. Our Area Plan to SUA is due May 2. We will be utilizing our same Goals, Strategies and Objectives as in prior year due to the Pandemic. Our PeerPlace

Champions, Kathy and Michelle completed a request from our partners at UNO for additional data to complement our surveys that we completed for them late last summer as they work to complete articles on the findings that could have positive impacts on funding/additional services for our Agencies statewide.

- Our Nutrition Manager Carmen McKeever, hired to replace Glenda has been here six-month and has had her review and passed with flying colors. She is pursuing Hebron center changes, possible Davenport changes, meal vouchers in remote areas not yet served, among other items. She has been a valuable asset.
- Frase has updated the 2-1-1 information data for our agency and programs as a valuable resource center to Nebraska residents.
- Training continues every day in all areas of accounting, fiscal, data, AdWaiver, ADRC etc.

Price asked if there are any plans to open up the centers. Frase stated that they discussed this at the Directors meeting yesterday. We are waiting for most of the people to be vaccinated. We are waiting on guidance from the Public Health Solutions and the State Unit on Aging. There will be guidelines when it happens. There will be restrictions on how many are at a table, distancing, wearing a mask and capacity.

- Our Transit Application is due March 31, 2021. We have some pieces to complete. Our budget is done and our Public Hearing Notices have been in the newspapers. Our transit routes are set up. Next we need to send out our letters to the counties requesting support for two years as match dollars.
- Our Area Plan is due May, 3, 2021.
- We are working on the cost allocation. There will be a Cost Allocation Training Boot Camp next week. We are also collaborating with another Midlands Area Agency on Aging's cost allocation plan. Their plan details almost everything we are doing except a couple of things. Our Cost Allocation plan developed by Olson is not as comprehensive as what we are doing and lacks the Uniform Grant guidance language. Our Admin pool cost was the thing that was the biggest detriment. Cost Allocation involves making sure employees are allocated to the correct programs.

Price requested that Frase touch base on the UNO Gerontology Surveys that were sent out in August. They were trying to do a paper on Covid and Isolation and how it is impacting the older citizens of Nebraska. We sent out approximately 500 surveys and received approximately 67% back. Julie Masters is trying to expose the younger gerontology students to aging issues, for a better understanding of our aging population, in hopes that some may go into that field.

## COUNTY UPDATES

- **Pawnee County:** With the closing of the SENCA office in Pawnee City, they essentially have no visibility in terms of service and outreach. Richardson called Vicky McNeely who is head of the Humboldt SENCA office and wanted to visit with her. Richardson's church had some mission money that they wanted to donate, but no one has called her

back. SENCA's website hasn't been updated since October in terms of events coming up. The meals on wheels is kind of limping along that are provided by the hospital there in Pawnee City. Table Rock Senior Center has been providing meals to Pawnee City folks, but they drive to Table Rock to get them. Richardson will contact Sput about it. People are missing congregate meals and are lonely. Frase added that McKeever and herself had a zoom meeting with McNeely about those meals. We have had people from Pawnee requesting meals from Table Rock. McNeely indicated that if we could provide meals to Pawnee City through Table Rock, she was fine with it. We also have some meals going to Humboldt, with SENCA providing meals to Title XX clients there out of nursing facility. Frase told Richardson that if she hears of any facility in Pawnee City that the community of Pawnee City would be willing to donate the space and volunteers to run it, we would possibly be interested in providing more meals there. We currently do that in Cortland and Plymouth. We take the meals there and the community provides the building and volunteers. Richardson said she would check into it.

- **Otoe County:** Nothing to report
- **Jefferson County:** Likens continues to work with Harley at the Fairbury Senior Center. Harley was concerned about some shut-ins getting their vaccine. Likens stated that the hospital is willing to go to the people's homes. Harley is going to help spread the word.
- **Gage County:** The Wymore center is still providing meals out of the Wymore Fire hall. Price stated that Frase and the staff are doing a great job. Frase added that we purchased two new meals delivery vans. One went to Fairbury and the other one will be going to Thayer County. We are also working on getting another one for our Otoe County Meals Delivery route, as we will be getting more Cares Act Money The old van from Fairbury was brought back to Beatrice and is being used to deliver meals to Plymouth. The old van in Thayer County is being used in Deshler for delivering meals.
- **Richardson County:** No representative present
- **Nemaha County:** Gerdes was not present; nothing to report.

#### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

*Tracie Fossler*