

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

Minutes

April 23, 2024

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging was called to order at 12:00 pm at the Fairbury Senior Center.

Council members present: Likens, Walsh, Ossowski, Richardson, Schell and DeLong

Absent: Gerdes and Wieckhorst

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

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

**APPROVAL** of the agenda as printed; voice vote; approved.

**MOTION** to approve the minutes of January 20, 2024 as printed by Walsh; second by Schell; voice vote; motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ABOUT THE TABLE TALK AND HOW IT IS DISTRIBUTED**

Frase stated we receive 1,000 newsletters from our vendor, LPI. We have to print in house additional copies if needed @.08/page, plus labor to print them and postage to mail them. Fossler stated that she currently sends out 1,156 Table Talks a month to various places. Fossler also stated that once a year she sends out brochures to clinics and hospitals. This year she is including pharmacies. She is sending out to 59 places of businesses such as hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, etc. It is a total of 1,860 updated brochures that are going out. Walsh asked if she could send out the Table Talk digitally to some of her contacts. It was agreed that everyone could also do this to help get the word out about our services.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

The Executive Director's notes were distributed to all members via email. The following are highlights of her report.

- January 23 - ADRC Leadership team meeting
- January 24 – Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- January 25 – 2024 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Meeting
- January 29 – Caregiver Program Quarterly meeting
- January 30 – Advisory Council Meeting
- January 31 – HCBS Waiver Mini training
- January 31 – Care Management Quarterly meeting
- January 31 – Fairbury Community Forum meeting
- February 1 – NIRMA HR Roundtable, Sexual Harassment/Relationships in the Workplace
- February 5 – CMS/AAA Assn. Quarterly
- February 7 – HHS Region 7 Virtual Office Hrs.
- February 7 – Care Management, AD Waiver, Respite monthly meeting
- February 8 – ACL finalizes updated Older Americans Act Regulations
- February 9 – MAPS Coalition Meeting

- February 13 – Fairbury Community Forum
- February 14 – Find Your Community Match
- February 15 – Monitory with State Unit on Aging
- February 20 – Ne4a Meeting in Lincoln and Senator Reception
- February 22 – Senior Farmers Market Tutorial webinar
- February 26 – TCM/Service Coordination Directors Meeting
- February 27 – ADRC Leadership Team Meeting
- February 27 – AD/TBI Service Directors Meeting
- February 27 – Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- February 27 – Fairbury Community Forum
- March 4 – Senior Fair Planning w/Kim @ Home Instead/Verjean
- March 5 – ADRC Plan/Application discussion w/CM's for Area Plan
- March 6 – HHS Region Virtual Hours
- March 6 – Legal Risk Detector refresher
- March 7 – AD Waiver Supervisor Meeting
- March 7 – NIRMA HR Roundtable on Workplace Culture
- March 8 – APS/AAA Systems meeting
- March 11 – Info webinar for New Learning Comm on Developing Kin Caregiver Support Programs
- March 12 – Ne4a Meeting
- March 13 – Care Management/Waiver/Respite Meeting
- March 13 – Big Language info webinar on Interpretation for the Agency
- March 19 – Planting Hope, Cultivating Understanding on Housing in Beatrice
- March 19 – March Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- March 20 – Met w/Kim S. on Health Fair progress
- March 20 – Leadership team meeting on staff training/50<sup>th</sup> Anniv. And Older Americans Month
- March 21 – AD/TBI Waiver Performance Measures Review Committee
- March 21 – Fairbury Community Forum
- March 26 – ADRC Leadership Team Meeting
- March 27 – Meeting on AD/TBI SC Family Support Waiver
- March 28 – Met w/Chad Engel/NIRMA on Safety Issues and Agency Disaster Plan
- March 28 – Fairbury Community Forum
- March 28 – Interpretation Training for Admin Staff
- April 1 – Fairbury Community Forum
- April 2 – AD/TBI Waiver – TCM Services Coordination Directors/Supervisors
- April 3 – Meet on Staff Training/50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and other Agency concerns
- April 4 – NIRMA HR roundtable on Disability Discrimination and the Mental Health Crisis
- April 4 – Back to Basics Series Fiscal Policies and Procedures on new OAA Final Rule
- April 5 - Area Plan Budgets w/Fiscal
- April 8 – Area Plan Budgets w/Fiscal
- April 8 – MAC Workgroup Meeting
- April 9 – Ne4a meeting
- April 9 – Area Plan Budgets w/Fiscal
- April 10 – Care Management/AD Waiver/Respite monthly meeting
- April 10 – Area Plan Budgets w/Fiscal
- April 11 – AAA State Assn. call w/USAgings

- April 12 – Spring Into Healthy Living, Hosted by BRAAA and Home Instead

Other notes:

New SUA Administrator has been hired, Josie Rodriguez. Pete Rickets is hosting a Mobile Office Hour (MOH) at Hebron Senior Center on May 1 from 11:30 - 12:30pm. Frase and Noojin will be attending the Nebraska Medicaid Spring Listening Tour on May 1. May 8 Frase and Noojin will be attending the DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities Let's Talk Listening Tour, regarding the elimination of the DD Waiting List. They feel that this will affect our AD Waiver program tremendously. This is also in Lincoln. We will be holding our All-Staff Training at SCC on May 30 from 9am – 3pm. June 4 Frase and Noojin will be traveling to Eastern Office on Aging for the Ne4a meeting.

On August 13, Frase and Williams will be traveling to NENAAA for our Ne4a Meeting. September 9-11 Frase, Noojin and McKeever will be traveling to Gering in the panhandle to Aging Office of Western Nebraska for our Ne4a meeting.

The landlord of our administrative building would like us to commit to a 10-year lease. We still have 3 years left on our current lease. Parking stalls would be added and discussion followed that the building needs roof ice blocks, to ask for a rent reduction and there is no sprinkler system in the building.

We should have the drafts of our audit soon. They are also working with us to change over to QuickBooks for our accounting system.

The OOA Final Rule went into effect on March 15, 2024. A copy of it was in the packet for all members to review.

A copy of the FY2025 budgets was sent out to all members to review, which included a 3% wage increase for all employees including Frase in the budget.

Administration is conducting an All-Staff Training Day on May 30, 2024 at SCC College Campus, who will also cater the lunch. Several speakers on QPR, Mental Health, APS and Standard Response Protocol.

We will be having open houses at all sites during July. Starting off with an open house at the Admin Building on July 1<sup>st</sup>. After that the schedule for open houses is:

July 9 – Syracuse  
July 11 – Table Rock  
July 16 - Sterling  
July 18 – Falls City  
July 23 – Fairbury  
July 25 - Beatrice  
July 30 – Deshler

We will send out emails to all the board members regarding these dates. McKeever has brought up a discussion on having a capital campaign for the entire month of July, as a “push” to secure funds from potential donors. We plan to utilize radio spots, send pre-printed postcards to industrial companies, contacts, vendors we work with, mayors, cities, churches, etc. as and ask for donations. We plan to develop a donation form, to have available at centers, in buses and at our July open houses. We plan to participate in local parades and possibly develop a banner to carry regarding this information and push the information on our Facebook page. McKeever will develop something for the June Newsletter

regarding the capital campaign. We also want to work on giving as a part of estate planning for individuals. The capital campaign will kick off with an open house at our Administration Office on July 1 from 1-3pm. We will have refreshments, booths/tables with information and staff to discuss the different programs we provide to all who come. We are planning on giveaways at our events. Neeman is going to research 1974 events and prices vs. 2024 and prices of banners.

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

### **GAGE COUNTY: OSSOWSKI**

Nothing to report

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY: LANA LIKENS**

All is good in Jefferson County with nothing new to report.

### **JOHNSON COUNTY: JENNIFER SCHELL**

The senior center in Tecumseh is running well with the new cook. The transportation is doing well in Tecumseh. Johnson County Hospital is now paying for rides for patients to ride to the hospital clinics. The hospital also has a van that they use in case the patients need a ride and the bus isn't available.

### **NEMAHA COUNTY: JESSICA GERDES**

No report

### **OTOE COUNTY: TRACY WIEKHORST**

No report. However, Frase explained to the Advisory Council about the decision to close down the Nebraska City Senior Center and meals to be taken care of by Meals on Wheels in Nebr.City.

### **PAWNEE COUNTY: KAREN RICHARDSON**

The assisted living in Pawnee City is full. The Care Home is at 20 residents. They are mostly younger people. There is a housing group who are planning to build 25 houses in the next 5 years in Pawnee City.

### **RICHARDSON COUNTY: NO REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS TIME**

### **THAYER COUNTY: CHERYL WALSH**

Walsh mentioned that the visual magnifier that is in the Deshler Senior Center does not get used due to the difficulty using it and lack of time for the staff to help with it. She wondered if that was something we could donate to the library. May 1 there will be a person on Pete Ricketts staff coming to talk at the Hebron center. On May 24 they will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner. The meal will be paid for by the Veterans Association in Thayer County. There will be two quilts of valor present that day also.

**UPDATE FROM AARP – DANNY DELONG**

DeLong handed out information on AARP Nebraska’s new family caregiver tax credits that will be starting at the beginning of January 2025. This credit will help the family with expense of caring for their loved one. The AAA’s will be helping identify caregivers. They will also be working with the Veterans Administration to make sure veteran’s caregivers file for the credit. DeLong stated that the legislature has had a good session, however, none of the priority bills AARP was backing passed. They expect the ADU issue to be passed. It is proposed housing units that you can build on your own property. You can check into it at [AARP.org/ADUS](http://AARP.org/ADUS).

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Thursday July 25, 2024 at 12:30pm at the Beatrice Senior Center.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Likens at 1:35pm.

*Tracie Fossler*

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