

Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging Governing Board

Minutes

September 26, 2022

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice, NE and also available via Zoom was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Board Members present: Schoenrock, Haxby, Crownover, Douglass, Haskell, Hill, Krueger, Pohlman, Seitz and Swenson.

Board Members absent: Gakle, Ferguson and Holtzman.

Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging staff present: Carla Frase, Executive Director; Beth Williams, Fiscal Officer; Verjean Noojin, Home and Community Options Manager; Carmen McKeever, Nutrition Manager; Cliff Lindell, Transit Manager; Tracie Fossler, Administrative Assistant; Dylan Dell-Haro; Karen Klover, Rachel Theye; Jennifer Seiboldt; Amy Mason; Jeanette Vitosh; Deanna Rentschler and Kathy Callahan-Thies.

Public Guests: Senator Tom Brandt, Senator Myron Dorn and Senator Julie Slama.

Schoenrock chair, presided over the meeting and Fossler recorded the minutes.

STATE SENATORS:

SENATOR JULIE SLAMA

Senator Slama reported that the Legislature has had a couple of big wins for Military Retirement Benefits and Social Security Income for Seniors over 65. In 2025, the tax for Military and Social Security benefits will be eliminated. Moving forward looking into 2023, she is focused mainly on Rural Development and a few other issues. In 2022, Slama is focused mainly on Rural Development and a few other issues. Slama was able to secure free Levy repair of \$15 million in Falls City and anticipates that 2023 will be more of the same.

SENATOR MYRON DORN

Dorn stated that Nebraskans need to claim the property tax relief bill called Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act, which is a refundable state income tax credit on property taxes paid to support K-12 Schools. This credit has to be claimed on your tax refund. Dorn said Slama brought up that with Appropriations our revenue has been really strong as we enter the fiscal year at \$1.60 billion rainy day funds. If the revenue slows down this can affect agencies like Blue Rivers. One Billion in ARPA funds have been appropriated to help offset a revenue decline.

SENATOR TOM BRANDT

Brandt discussed the pink postcards that were sent out to property owners. The post cards were about property tax increases and meetings being held to explain increases. Property taxes will increase by 4%, which below the inflation rate of 9%. Brandt mentioned that Inheritance Tax went down about 15%. Brandt is in favor of eliminating inheritance taxes if the state gives the counties that money, as they use these funds for emergencies in the counties, as part of the Bridge Build, that would help replace aging bridges in the state. The State of Nebraska will be receiving millions of dollars through several federal programs to fund rural broadband. Brandt touched base on LB873, which is the largest tax reform package in the history of the state. Dorn will visit more with Frase regarding ARPA funds. Questions were asked to the senators about how to get the Broadband companies to put broadband in areas where they are not receiving service and school district funding and formulas.

MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda by Haskell; second by Pohlman; voice vote; motion carried.

TRANSIT REPORT – CLIFTON LINDELL, TRANSIT MANAGER

The total number of miles on all of our buses is 1,281,710 miles with the range being from 4139 on Bus #21 to 185,006 on Bus #20 with several of the vehicles over 100,000 miles. This gave Blue Rivers a higher standing in the replacement of vehicles. Modivcare is a non-emergency medical transport company that has requested our service quite extensively in the Otoe and Nemaha counties area for transit of their insured to hospitals/clinics in the Omaha area as well as within the counties. The trips for our pre-school aged passengers have increased with the schools in session now. Expenses still account for a great part of our budget and this is due to a combination of factors: Vehicle repairs which includes many sub-systems to the buses such as HVAC and lifts due to their age. The new buses are getting closer to approval for purchase via the State contract process and might be available in the spring of 2023. We have taken several passengers on planned activities to the NE State Fair and to the Southeast Nebraska Cancer Memorial Garden in Humboldt. There is a trip being planned in October for the Wostrel Family's Union Orchard near Union, Nebraska.

MOTION to accept the Transit Report by Krueger; second by Seitz; voice vote; motion carried

NUTRITION REPORT – CARMEN MCKEEVER, NUTRITION MANAGER

We are actively looking for new site manager in Deshler. The Hebron center's congregate numbers keep growing and our Site Manager is working to get programs in. We have worked on our signage with a company from Bruning and will proceed as soon as we discuss removing the old D's Donut signage with the building owner. Presented to the Thayer County Ministerial group about all of our services and all talked about the need for volunteers to deliver meals. Our advisory board member, Cheryl Walsh attended and will work with the churches and our Site manager to put together a schedule. The new menu system is working although we have encountered a few glitches with ordering, delivery, etc. The cooks have made a great effort to work with this change and we will hopefully see a decline in spending for food costs, despite the rising costs. McKeever received a call from the Commission for the Blind and visually impaired and they would like to put low vision magnifiers in our centers at no cost to us. This project will allow us to provide another service and hopefully bring more people to our centers. Susan Bergmeier with Adult Protective Services (APS) brought information and resources that would be available to our centers on scams.

MOTION to accept the Nutrition Report by Crownover; second by Pohlman; voice vote; motion carried

CHOICES UNIT – HOME AND COMMUNITY OPTIONS – VERJEAN NOOJIN, CHOICES MANAGER

Medicaid Waiver numbers fairly consistent; typically, we have around 90 clients on our caseloads. Numbers in our area remain decreased from previous due to lack of ALF beds in the area, following the closing of The Kensington. Waiting lists at both ALF's in our area continue. We have recently noted an increase in the referrals for in-home services, however, a lack of providers continues to be an issue. We are receiving referrals for Waiver services from all age groups. Waiver Services Coordinators continue to perform the nursing facility screens. Care Management- Numbers remain relatively consistent, with approximately 130 clients served. We continue to provide Respite services, Housekeeping/Handyman services, ADRC and Lifelines. A presentation will be held at the Syracuse Senior Center on Friday, October 7th regarding services available through Care Management and Medicaid Waiver. Planning to present at the other Senior Centers in our area also. We will be meeting with Johnson County Home Health, in Tecumseh, on Friday, October 7th also, regarding services available. Our agency continues to collaborate with other home health agencies in our area.

MOTION to accept the Choices Report by Seitz; second by Hill; voice vote; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – BETH WILLIAMS, FISCAL OFFICER

MOTION to approve the Financial Report, July & August 2022 bills, Approval of Remaining Bills from FY22 and Proposal for Accounting Upgrade by Haxby; second by Haskell; voice vote; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CARLA FRASE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

- July 26 – Frase presented our Agencies services to the Jefferson County Commissioners. Vicki Haskell was also present.
- July 27 – Advisory Council meeting
- August 1 – Check in call with Cynthia Brammeier
- August 1 – Nutrition Taxonomy Town Hall/ WebEx for Area Plan
- August 1 – BigGiveGage Meeting @ Beatrice Community Hospital
- August 1 – In-home Services Taxonomy Town Hall
- August 2 – Care Management Assessment Discussion, SUA, Cheryl
- August 3 – Thayer County Commissioners Meeting
- August 9 – AAA Director Meeting
- August 10 – Elder Justice Training, all day, via zoom
- August 11 – ADRC Toll Free Number Discussion
- August 11 – Legal Services Taxonomy Town Hall, Area Plan
- August 12 – APS/AAA Systems Monthly, conflict
- August 16 – Johnson County Commissioner Meeting
- August 16 – AD & TBI Waiver – TCM/Service Coordination Meeting
- August 17 – Care Management/Service Coordination Meeting in-house
- August 17 – Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- August 18 – Leadership Meeting
- August 23 – ADRC Proposal Beginning Discussion for Oct. 3 Deadline, with Care Managers and Choice Unit Supervisor. Completed project was sent September 8, 2022.
- August 24 – Attended the Cortland Center BBQ in the park.
- August 25 – Leadership Team went to Chautauqua Park to scout for Team Building/Training on September 19th.
- August 25 – Aged and Disabled Rate Study via WebEx
- August 31 – ADTBIS – NFOCUS
- September 1 – ADRC Proposal finalization, Care Managers/Supervisor
- September 1 – NIRMA HR Monthly Roundtable, termination
- September 1 – Disability Series, The ADA process in Nebraska
- September 7 – HBE Preliminary Audit In house
- September 12 – Finalize Staff Teambuilding Agenda
- September 12 – Care Management Recertification Process
- September 13 – AAA Directors Meeting
- September 13 – AD/TBI Waiver TCM/Service Coordination
- September 14 – Care Management/Caregivers/Service Coordinators meeting in house
- September 14 – Sept. Nutrition Coordinators meeting
- September 16 – Partners for a Healthy Community Strategic Planning Session, Doane Campus – grass roots meeting.
- September 19 – All day Staff Team Building Event @ Chautauqua Park
- September 21 – Presented Agency information to Leadership Beatrice on Non-Profit Day for group.
- September 24 – Beatrice Senior Fair at Beatrice Senior Center
- September 26 – Area Plans, Goals meeting

Upcoming meetings:

- September 27 – Operations Manual Training
- September 27 – FY2022 SPR Training
- September 28 Peru State Discussion via Zoom on student trips
- October 6 – All Day, State Aging Advisory Committee Meeting
- October 11 – Meeting with the Beatrice Senior Citizens Board

- October 11 – Oct. MAC Workgroup Meeting
- October 11 – BigGiveGage Check Distribution, \$2,050 plus match @ Classics
- October 12 – Monthly Care Manage/CareGiverSupport Meeting
- October 14 – Monthly APS/AAA Systems Meeting
- October 17 – Direct Service Waiver via WebEx
- October 18 – AD/TBI Waiver – TCM/Service Coordination Directors
- October 19 – AAA Directors Meeting in Kearney
- October 20 & 21 – NIRMA Conference in Kearney
- October 26 – Employ Beatrice, Dept. of Labor
- October 27 – Advisory Council Meeting @ Table Rock
- October 31 – Area Plan – Goals meeting

NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING will be on Monday November 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice and via Zoom.

MOTION to adjourn by Krueger; second by Haxby; voice vote; motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 2:40 p.m. by Schoenrock.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tracie Foster