

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Meeting

January 30, 2024

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging was called to order at 11:30 am at the Beatrice Senior Center.

Council members present: Likens, Walsh, Ossowski, Schell and Wieckhorst

Absent: Gerdes and Richardson

Guests: Danny DeLong

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.

MOTION to approve the agenda as printed by Ossowski; second by Walsh; voice vote; motion carried.

MOTION to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023 as printed by Schell; second by Wieckhorst; voice vote; motion carried.

DIRECTORS REPORT

A copy of the Director's Report was distributed to all members via email and the members present. The report included calendars and a list of meetings that Frase attended since the previous meeting. Each member was also emailed a copy of the Transit, Nutrition, Home & Community Options and Financial Reports that had been shared with the Governing Board. Frase reported on the discussion concerning the Table Rock Center at the Governing Board Meeting. We will continue working with the community. Keep members updated. Hebron could be next to relocate, due to landlord change. We will soon be offering Tai Chi and Bingo Size classes at our centers, which are Evidence Based programs, based on Title IIID funds. We will be ordering table top banners for each of our centers, stating that Blue Rivers AAA is the sponsor of the meals. We will also take when presenting and educating about our services. In July we will celebrate the 50-year Anniversary of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging. We have been having meetings to make plans. **The current mission statement is "To develop or support a system of coordinated and comprehensive services for older individuals that promotes a safe, healthy, and independent lifestyle. Our goal is to develop and support services or programs that are designed to maintain or enhance the independent living styles of adults age 60 and older in our service area. Priority has been given to serving adults age 75 and older with specific attention to frail adults age 60 and older. Funding has been the determining factor limiting how many services can be provided; therefore, core services and programs have been developed.**

We have asked for an extension of our Line of Credit. We have a new auditor as previous auditor left the business of single audits of non-profits. Frase was on a zoom meeting today with

Nebraska Transit Auditors. They are currently looking at our May 2022 invoice. We haven't received any reimbursement for transit bills since July 2023, which is an issue and we keep working with NDOT. Frase was interviewed and our services were highlighted in the Beatrice Daily Sun Silver Salute on January 26, 2024. We will be having our Monitoring Visit with the SUA on February 15, 2024.

COUNTY UPDATES

GAGE COUNTY: OSSOWSKI

Ossowski plans to visit the Wymore and Cortland Senior Centers.

JEFFERSON COUNTY: LANA LIKENS

Likens reported that the manager is doing a good job in Fairbury. The hospital has started a walking program in the gym on the new walking track. Walkers keep track of their laps and top 3 received prizes in January. Likens did a free PSA on the radio for the Senior Diners and another for Transportation through KUTT. The Sterling Connection through the hospital is planning another education presentation, which could bring in 40-50 people.

JOHNSON COUNTY: JENNIFER SCHELL

A new cook was hired in Tecumseh. She is doing good and Loretta stops in once in awhile to check on her.

NEMAHA COUNTY: JESSICA GERDES

No Report. Gerdes was absent

OTOE COUNTY: TRACY WIEKHORST

Wieckhorst reported that the Syracuse center has had some staffing changes. They are planning activities. Nebraska City center has a group that meets one day a month and eats at the center. Some of the congregate participants are returning. Frase reported that the city is working on the Memorial Building and it will be approximately one year until it is done. We have been asked to relocate upon the completion.

PAWNEE COUNTY: KAREN RICHARDSON

No report. Richardson was absent.

RICHARDSON COUNTY: NO REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS TIME

THAYER COUNTY: CHERYL WALSH

Walsh reported that a new meal delivery person had been hired. Connie is having lots of activities. There is nailcare done one time a month. Walsh has been contacting groups of volunteers to help deliver meals. The Lions Club will discuss it at their next meeting. Deshler has had the preschool come once a month to do activities with the diners and is planning other activities. Davenport does not have any congregate meals except the manager and her husband. All meals are home delivered.

UPDATE FROM AARP – DANNY DELONG

AARP has 200,000 members in Nebraska. When testifying before the legislature, that is the first statement identified. There are 35,000 veterans in Nebraska that are members. This is larger than the VFW and other Veteran Chapters. This year in the legislature there are 170 bills that AARP is paying attention to, with a total of 600 submitted for review. Approximately 200 of those were held over from the last session that weren't heard. AARP main focus: bills for housing, caregiving, lung cancer screening and colonoscopy screening with removal of polyps at not extra cost. They also feel that all communities are in need of facilities that people can go to use telehealth.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Tuesday April 23, 2024 at 12pm at the Fairbury Senior Center.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Likens at 1:19pm.

Tracie Fossler