

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

December 9, 2020

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, Tracy Wieckhorst, Jessica Gerdes, Karen Richardson and Lana Likens.

Absent: Jennifer Schell

Guests: Danny DeLong, State Unit on Aging Advisory Council Member

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 Wieckhorst to approve the agenda as printed; second by Likens; voice vote; motion carried.

MOTION by Likens to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020 as printed; second by Wieckhorst; voice vote; motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE SUA AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

All members received a copy of the agenda and minutes from the State Unit on Aging Advisory Council Meeting on October 8, 2020. There was a presentation on vaccine planning. A discussion was held on the vaccine approval and the upcoming vaccine distribution. We were contacted by the Federal Transportation Bureau asking if they could use our transit department to transport people to get vaccinated. We are available to help with transportation and facilities for vaccine clinics when needed later when it gets to that point.

DeLong added that the state has a vaccination plan. The state will need to make a plan to determine who will get the vaccine after the Healthcare works, staff of nursing homes and residents. Frase noted that in our eight counties, our Care Managers would help identify our clients.

DeLong added that when polio came out people went into the medical clinics to get vaccinated. When the Sabin Booster came out they went out to the communities and announced it. Then went into the community halls or fire halls and administered a couple drops into a sugar cube. Then everyone went in for theirs. DeLong added that he wonders if they will reach out to facilities to have the clinics in a central location. Frase stated that our facilities will be available if needed and that we are ready to help with anything.

DeLong reported that at their State Advisory Council meeting that they asked the state office for a review of their data program that they are putting together. Several of the members met via Zoom and was given a presentation on the program. Frase added that we are already using the program and are struggling with it daily. The state is also teaching the disability partners the program. We are having problems getting the reports we want out of it.

DIRECTORS REPORT

All members received a copy of the notes for the report. We are trying to promote Home Delivered meals, to-go meals and 7 days a week meals. We are using some of the Cares Act funds on the 7 day a week meals.

- September 21 was the Governing Board Meeting
- September 23 was the Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- September 29 ADRC Leadership Meeting
- September 29 Let's Talk Tour at the Beatrice Public Library with Tony Green, Director of Division of Developmental Disabilities at DHHS
- October 1 met with Danny DeLong, State Advisory Board member
- October 2 NIRMA membership meeting via Zoom
- October 6 MAC NE Time Study workgroup meeting
- October 8 9-2 p.m. State Advisory Meeting
- October 13 AAA Director's meeting via zoom
- October 13 Zoom meeting with Rebecca Briney regarding the Plymouth meals start up. They started with 12 meals and now are at 20 meals.
- October 14 Teleconference meeting for Elder Rights Coalition
- October 20 Big Give Gage at the BPS Administration parking lot. We received \$1,445.98.
- October 22 NIRMA free webinar "Managing the Work Environment after Coronavirus. Frase and Williams attended.
- October 22 MAC Cost Reporting Guidance meeting
- October 22 met with Jill Hilkmann regarding Nebraska Strong Recovery Unit Partnership
- October 22 Williams, McKeever and Frase attended the Village of Palmyra meeting regarding the new contract for use of the facility.
- October 28 BRAAA staff, Ryan Sothan from the Attorney General's office and NE Strong Recovery Unit helped build Protection Kits for all of our clients.
- October 30 Frase and McKeever met with Larry & Linda Mitchell, owners of the Hebron Senior Center building regarding repairs, agreements for water damages.
- November 9 ADRC Operations Manual Feedback meeting via webinar
- November 10 AAA Directors meeting
- November 12 Nutrition Coordinators meeting
- November 16 Governing Board meeting via Zoom
- November 17 November NE Time Study Workgroup meeting

- November 18 ADRC Referral Process Session, our Budget Revision was approved by the SUA
- November 20 Met with Vicky McNealy the director of SENCA via zoom with McKeever regarding meals expansion to Pawnee City and Humboldt.
- December 2 AARP, Caregiving, The Care in Health Care with Richard Lui via webinar
- December 3 AARP, Coronavirus Q & A Event vial Facebook
- December 8 ADRC Training, AAA presentations to Disability Partners

COUNTY UPDATES

- **Otoe County:** Wieckhorst reported that the Nebraska City Senior Center Manager transferred to the Syracuse Senior Center as the cook. Wieckhorst stated that Frase could do a presentation to the Rotary Club via zoom to help get the word out about Blue Rivers and our available services. Wieckhorst reported she put up posters about scams for senior citizens in hope of preventing people from getting taken advantage of. DeLong added that the stated passed a bill that if someone is withdrawing a substantial amount of funds from their account, the bank can intervene and freeze the account without the person's permission. The bank may also call the family for their protection. All banks in Nebraska are authorized to do this.
- **Nemaha County:** Gerdes reported that the Home Delivered meals are going well in Nemaha County. There are no congregate meals at this time. There have not been any toenail clinics in Auburn due to the virus. If someone needs their feet looked at and toenails trimmed they can call and someone will go out to their home. Gerdes reported that they have someone that usually gets presents for the home health clients. This year they received more donations and are sending them out with home delivered meals also. Frase reported that at the Table Rock Senior Center, the Sitzman Sisters made Christmas ornaments and donated to the center to hand out in the home delivered meals. Syracuse Senior Center had a sock drive initiated by a local church, which then donated all to the center. They were sent out in home delivered meals. Next they are doing a blanket drive. Some of the grade schools are decorating cards and meal sacks in Otoe County to send out to clients.
- **Pawnee County:** Richardson reported that they have had successful flu clinics in Pawnee County, but does not know how it would go when people need to have two separate shots. Richardson added that the Pawnee Assisted Living is at 75% now, after being open for 2 years. Richardson stated that she will email Frase about potential PR opportunities in Pawnee County. Richardson commented on how the meals on wheels in Pawnee County are coming out of the hospital. They are only preparing three to four meals a day. Pawnee County is needing a better meal program.
- **Jefferson County:** Likens reported that with communication between the Fairbury Senior Center and the radio station, the radio station was able to put on their annual Thanksgiving meal. It is usually a sit down meal, but they did it as a drive-thru. They served over 400 meals. Jefferson County has also had previous luck with vaccine clinics. Likens could see them also doing something similar for the Covid vaccine. The nursing homes in the state will be receiving them from a company that will be doing them all

throughout the state. Direct Care staff will be also getting theirs first. Likens has been distributing the Table Talks that we have been sending her.

- **Gage County:** Price asked if anything had been done with the community of Adams requesting a meal program. Frase stated that we have no researched it yet. Wymore and Beatrice are still sending out home delivered meals. Frase added that one of our Care Mangers had been going to Wymore to deliver meals, because the site manager had been very sick with the virus. The driver also got the virus, so if anyone needed a trip to the doctor, we would send a bus from Beatrice to pick them up. We have the meals for Plymouth coming out of Beatrice, because Fairbury is already busy with meals to Wymore, Odell and Diller. We are not sure where the meals for Adams would come out of. Frase will pass that on to McKeever to work on and perhaps send out some surveys to see where we are at. Price stated that the Advisory Council will think of more ways to help get the word out about our services and programs. Frase reported that we just contracted life lines through Medscope. We have always had lifelines that need to be hooked up to a landline. Medscope does not have to be attached to a landline. So we need to get the word out about those services that we offer through CST and Medscope now. There is an income guideline if we pay for them. We also have self-pay.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday March 10, 2021 via zoom meeting. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Price at 11:15 a.m.

Tracie Fossler