

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

Minutes

Annual Meeting

July 27, 2022

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Council members present: Janice Price; Rhonda Dettmer; Jessica Gerdes; Karen Richardson; and Cheryl Walsh

Absent: Lana Likens; Jennifer Schell and Tracy Wieckhorst

Guests: Danny DeLong, State Unit on Aging Advisory Committee member

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

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

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

**MOTION** to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022 as printed by Richardson; second by Walsh; voice vote; motion carried.

Cheryl Walsh our newest Advisory Council member from Thayer County was introduced to all of the council members.

## **DISCUSSION ON LONG-TERM EFFECT OF THE CHANGING COVID VIRUS HAS ON SENIOR SERVICES – CARLA FRASE**

One of our volunteers who delivers meals every day and is 100 years old had contracted the covid virus. He is back to delivering meals again. The employee that drives him also got covid. Discussion followed.

## **BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THE AREA PLAN – CARLA FRASE**

A copy of the Area Plan was handed out to all Council members who were present. Members who were absent will be given a copy at the next meeting. Frase discussed the Area Plan components.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- April 26: 2pm-Charting the Life Course, AD Waiver Service Coordination Presentation by Karen Houseman, DHHS Program Manager II, HCBS Waiver Services Operations DDD
- April 26: 3pm-Nutrition Coordinator Meeting
- Updates continue as SUA request for Area Plan Last Week of April through First Week of May
- May 4: 1pm-Person Centered Planning, Mark Friedman
- May 5: 11am-Met w/Laura Weatherby, Resource Developer for Medicaid, SSAD and Waiver Programs re: Title XX agreements, rates, background checks

- May 5: 12pm-NIRMA roundtable
- May 10: 9-12-AAA Director's Meeting, see agenda, minutes, Cynthia notes
- May 12: 12pm-Nebraska Caregiver Coalition
- May 16: Received email notification from SUA-AREA PLAN APPROVED!
- May 16: 10am-ADRC Leadership Team Meeting
- May 16: 11am-3:30-Interviews for Service Coordinator position
- May 19: Received Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation \$5000 check towards the purchase of a transportation vehicle. We have currently received \$13,402 from Big Iron Auctions for 2 Beatrice buses and 1 Syracuse bus-to be utilized in the transit program
- May 19: I had carpal tunnel surgery-out through June 3, still worked on emails etc. from home during that time.
- May 24: 3pm-May nutrition coordinators meeting
- June 6: 8:30am-Legal Services training presented by Chuck Bentjen, attorney
- June 6: Received notification from All-Savers, United Health Care of an annual reconciliation of surplus being returned to Blue Rivers, see letter
- June 7: 8:30am-Big Give Gage discussion on project for 2022-Transportation services in Gage County
- June 7: Purchased two Jeep Compasses for AD Waiver program from Twin Rivers
- June 8: 8:30am-Care Management/Respite meeting w/CM/Choices supervisor
- June 9: 2pm-check in call w/Cynthia Brammeier
- June 9: 3pm-Met w/Leadership Team, see minutes
- June 13: 9am-Supported Decision Making presentation-very informative, Nebraska has undertaken this initiative as an alternative to Guardianship, a collaborative effort sponsored by Disability Rights Nebraska, the Nebraska DD Council and UCEDD I have pictures of slide presentation if interested
- June 13: 2pm-Quarterly Nursing Facility Call
- June 14: 9am-12:30am-AAA Directors Meeting, see Agenda/minutes
- June 15: 9am-Leadership Meeting
- June 16: 8:30am-Staff meeting
- June 16: 11am-Looking ahead the latest research on Alzheimer's
- June 16: 3pm-ADTBI-Therap questions Web-EX
- June 22: 2pm-June Nutrition Coordinators Meeting
- June 23: 11am-APS presentation by Susan Bergmeier, in-house to staff
- June 27-June 29: in-house-scheduled county board meetings, zoom on technical iN2L technology; completed WEAAD report, submitted, Erik White call on home delivered language; background checks; staff stuff
- June 30: 12pm-Zoom Healthy Living for your Brain, Body and Mind-Alzheimers
- July 7: 9:15am-"What Matters Most"-Person Centered Webinar, required by SUA
- July 7: 12pm-NIRMA HR-How to Hire-Beth attended
- July 11: 10am-AD/TBI Waiver-AAA/LHD/DHHS/EDN supervisor quarterly call, slides available if you want to see them
- July 12: 9:30am-Pawnee County Board Meeting
- July 12: 10am-2:45pm-AAA Director's meeting via Zoom

- July 13: 8:30am-KWBE Radio Broadcast Discussion on Dementia/clients/care available. Reps from BCH, Whispering Pines and Blue Rivers, on collaboration of services.
- July 13: 1pm-Elder Rights Coalition
- July 14: 9am-MaC Workgroup Meeting
- July 14: 3pm-Division of Development Disabilities/Liberty Healthcare-Karen Houseman facilitator
- July 15: 10-2 pm-Pop-Up Dementia Booth @ Beatrice Community Hospital, 5 staff in Choices Unit involved, a lot of foot traffic and interest
- July 20: 10am-Nemaha County Commissioners Meeting, Auburn Courthouse, see report, 20 minutes, some questions asked, well received.
- July 20: 2-3pm, Beth and I attended Employ Beatrice-sponsored by NDoL; information on Gage wages vs. statewide, vs. job positions. NDoL is willing to work with employers in all aspects of hiring-completing our job postings on-line, freeing up our staff etc.
- July 21: 10:30am-ADRC Leadership Meeting
- Elder Justice Training Flyer for August 10, 2022, 8:30am – 4:30 pm attached
- MAC funds for Q2 2022 claim is \$31,312. This is for March-April-May 2022 claiming. Still outstanding is Dec-Jan-Febr 2022 for \$38,700.

#### Upcoming events:

- July 26: Jefferson County Commissioner Presentation
- July 27: Advisory Council Meeting at Senior Center, 12 pm, see Agenda
- August 1: BigGiveGage Meeting, BCH 12-1
- August 2: 8:30am-Otoe County Commissioners Presentation
- August 3: 9am-Thayer County Commissioners Presentation
- August 9: 9am-AAA Director's Meeting, via Zoom
- August 10: 8-4:30, Elder Justice Training, in-house, our facility is open to public.
- August 16: Johnson County Board, 7:30 am presentation

Frase handed out a report of items approved for purchase by the Governing board with ARPA funds, including computers, laptops, TV(Zoom), freezers, refrigerators and tray sealing machines. Frase mentioned that we want to purchase the tray sealers so we can expand our meal services for people needing meals 7 days a week, thus requiring extra deep freezers for additional storage of these meals. We also need to purchase an accounting software update. Other AAA's are using the funds for retention bonuses. We approached the governing board with it; however, it was not approved at this time. We purchased two new Jeep Compass's at cost through the AD Waiver program. Effective September 1 we will be increasing the rate for our suggested contributions for meals. 60 and older will go from \$4 to \$5. Under 60 and to-go meals will go from \$6 to \$7. We are planning to install a larger sign on East side of building, which was approved by the Governing board. We also plan signage on doors of our facilities stating they are sponsored by Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging. We are updating our services brochure and will be outsourcing to have them made. This week we will also be moving our Nebraska City Transit Office, as the current building has been sold. The new landlord is raising the rent by \$200 a month and wanted us to sign a contract that says we can never get out of the contract. We are moving to a new location down the street this week. Our staff from this office are continuing to go out to Health Fairs, Parades and meetings to promote our services. Frase had a report pulled out of peerplace that tells the

services we are giving in the counties, so when Frase goes to a commissioners meeting they can see what all we do in their counties.

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

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

Walsh asked what she should be looking at for her future reports. Ideas were presented to her.

### **RICHARDSON COUNTY: RHONDA DETTMER**

Dettmer asked what should be done with a person on Title XX who sometimes calls and states that they do not want a meal on certain days. Frase stated that if they have days they do not want the meal, it is their choice. We only bill for the days they receive a meals. Dettmer asked about the new form that is sent out with home delivered meals. The form is to have everyone verify when he or she receive a meal during the month. Discussion followed.

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

Gerdes reported that the Transportation is slow this summer. However, will be ramping up when school starts back up. They are expecting more school kids riding this year. They will be needing to run two buses every day. They are looking for a part-time driver. Auburn Senior Center only has 2-3 people coming in for congregate meals. They need to figure out a way to get more people to come into the center. Having foot care clinic's and etc. to entice people to come into the center. Also how to get them to stay in the center to eat. It is believed that people have gotten comfortable staying home since they have had to stay home so long due to covid.

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

Richardson stated that while talking to people in Pawnee County is how we get people going out again. Something they hope to work on this year is to make the ballfields more assessable for the elderly. The pool is open and water aerobics is going. Most of the participants are over 70. The Assisted Living is full. The nursing home was locked down for a bit due to covid. Everything is going great at the Table Rock Senior Center. They have volunteers who also are taking meals to Pawnee City and Humboldt. As far as transportation, Richardson does not know how much it is running. The nursing home takes clients to the hospital for therapy in their own bus. Frase stated that when she went to the Pawnee County Commissioners meeting she mentioned to them that it would be possible to start transportation. However, we would need to get it done in the same fiscal year. They would also need to match funds for a bus.

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY: LANA LIKENS (Absent)**

Likens sent her report for the meeting. She has been working with Jefferson County to increase attendance at the Fairbury Senior Diners and is also working with the city on a fund-drive to make improvements to the community building. Jefferson Community Health & Life and Laura Bedlan of the city of Fairbury have been working to help increase community awareness, involvement and programming. They have seen the numbers of both on-site and home delivered meals increase. JCH&L has distributed flyers to businesses who post things for them in the community. JCH&L has paid for Senior Diners to be on the lunch menus on 99.5 and will be

doing it again. She hopes to find some other sponsors. The Fairbury Public Library arranged a Nebraska Humanities program following lunch on day. JCH&L Sterling Connection had a program on Classic Dairy. JCH&L administrative staff served the Birthday meal in March and challenged the city of Fairbury to serve in April. They then challenged the National Honor Society at FHS to serve in May. They then challenged the American Lutheran Church to serve in June. They then challenged Ol Red 99.5 to serve in July. They are hoping to keep this string of challenges going in order to continue to increase community involvement. We have started a Facebook page for the Fairbury Senior Diners. We posted promoting the ice cream social and received 316 likes from people and had 60 engagements. The radio station has proposed we do a trade out for its annual Radio Auction. This would be a trade of advertising for meals.

**JOHNSON COUNTY: JENNIFER SCHELL (Absent)**

**OTOE COUNTY: TRACY WIEKHORST (Absent)**

**DANNY DELONG – SUA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

In all of our counties, we have received a lot of response to expanding Broadband. The state of Nebraska received \$20 million from ARPA funds to expand Broadband. Digital literacy is a big priority. AARP is sponsoring through libraries, classes to teach older Americans how to use the technology. “Get Set” is the program that has various things that they can learn. Fraud is still a big problem. Gerdes asked if there is funding for towns and rural areas that know that they won’t be getting broadband to get Starlink. DeLong stated that there are services through the Public Service Commission and those services have a fund that will provide discounts for people who are needing services but can’t get them very well. The one program he is thinking about provides \$30 a month to pay for broadband services. The Public Service Commission can be contacted and asked for subsidy for broadband services.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Thursday October 27, 2022 at the Table Rock Senior Center, Table Rock, Nebraska at 12 pm.

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting by Dettmer; second by Gerdes; voice vote; motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Price at 2:07 p.m.

*Tracie Fossler*