

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

September 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Agency on Aging was called to order at 12pm at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice.

Council members present were: Janice Price, Tracy Wieckhorst, Jessica Gerdes, Karen Richardson, Jennifer Schell and Lana Likens.

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

MOTION by Gerdes to approve the minutes of June 5, 2020 as printed; second by Richardson; voice vote; motion carried.

REVIEW OF SURVEYS SENT OUT TO PROVIDER, CARE MANAGEMENT AND RESPITE CLIENTS.

Surveys are sent out by Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging two times a year, after December 31 and June 30. Surveys are sent out to Provider, Care Management and Respite clients. When the surveys are returned, the data is entered into a spreadsheet on the computer with the answers they give on the survey. After that the surveys are totaled for a count of how many have been returned and what percentage that was received. The data is then sent on to the State Unit on Aging and filed. The results show that our services are needed and appreciated.

REVIEW OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUT LAST MEETING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE PLANS GOING FORWARD.

The Area Plan was approved on June 15. Frase stated that the Area Plan is how we get our funding. Frase also stated that the Area Plan also includes the Disaster Plan. Frase stated that the longtime Nutrition Manager has retired and a new Nutrition Manager has been hired and started on August 31, 2020. Frase stated that the way we are getting our name out there is to Advertise, word of mouth, webinars and Frase also did an interview on television. Frase also stated that we used some the Cares Act Money that we received to do some one-time handyman projects. These were repairs that were needed to help our aging population to safely remain in their homes. Frase also reported that the housekeeping program had started again June 1, 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- On June 15 the Area Plan was approved.
- June 17 Frase received a retirement letter from Nutrition Manager, Glenda VanEperen. The Nutrition Manager position was then posed on NeWorks, Indeed and the BRAAA website.
- June 22: Ongoing Medicaid Administrative Claiming Conference Call.
- June 30: Interview with Lyn Holley, Gerontologist at UNO regarding Gerontological Society of America webinar of Aging Native American, Rural and Homeless populations that Frase would be a panelist on.
- July 2: Sent a letter of rebuttal to Cindy Janssen and Cynthia Brammeier to accompany our Sub Recipient Monitoring of the Aging and Medicaid Programs for fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Received an email request from Professor Julie Masters to all AAA's regarding a focus on community reintegration of older adults along with care-givers, mid and post COVID-19. We then distributed a survey with questions to all Home Delivered recipients. We sent out 550 surveys and received 268 back. That is 49% of the surveys were returned.
- July 14: AAA Director's meeting via Zoom from 9-10 a.m.; from 10-11 a.m. AD Waiver/LHD Quarterly call; 2-3:30 p.m. Next steps regarding ADRC Integration with AAA's and Disability Partners.
- July 15: Dress rehearsal for GSA Webinar on 7/22, received an email from Eric McKay, News Anchor of News Channel Nebraska to participate in a live TV interview at UNO in Omaha on loneliness of our area seniors during COVID-19 and our responses to it, on "Nebraska Forward).
- July 16 was a Retirement Party for Glenda VanEperen the Nutrition Manager.
- July 21: Live interview on Nebraska Forward, 3 p.m. at UNO in Omaha.
- July 22: Closed the Beatrice Senior Center due to possible exposure to COVID-19 of a staff member by daughter. Meals were prepared in Fairbury going forward, assembled and delivered by Agency personnel in the home office. Frase participated in a Live webinar as a Panelist from 3-4 p.m. for the Gerontological Society of America. We also had a Stuff the Bus event at Russ's Market for the local Food Pantry.
- July 23: The first day of assembly of 45 meals for Beatrice clients in-house. Four routes were delivered by Care Managers and Service Coordinators.
- July 27: Governing Board Meeting in-house
- August 4: Elder Justice Training via live Web Streaming.
- August 5-6: Interviews began for the Nutrition Manager position. On August 14 Carmen McKeever was hired for the position and her first day was August 31.
- August 5: Received notification from SUA that additional funds had been approved in LB1008 for the AAA's in CASA for \$1.2M. See attachment
- August 17-20: In-house Audit by HBE. We are still awaiting the results of the audit.
- August 25, 27, 31: Ongoing training for the MAC, via Random Time Study Moment
- September 2: Visited the Syracuse, Palmyra and Sterling Senior Centers with Carmen.
- September 3: Visited the Fairbury Senior Center with Carmen and Beth.

- September 10: The Big Give Gage Event at the Indian Creek Mall. We will be using all donations towards the replacement of the Meals Route Van that delivers the meals to Wymore, Odell and Diller. All employees from the home office participated. We raised \$1,375.
- September 14: Meet with AAA Directors and DHHS DD Leadership with Tyla Watson and Tony Green.

COUNTY UPDATES

- **Otoe County:** Wieckhorst reported that she is seeing an increase in the number of scam calls in her area. Wieckhorst asked if we could help get the word out about scam calls to the aging population. Frase told her that we have been putting things like that in our newsletter and on our Facebook page to help warn people of the scams that we have heard about. Frase said that we would research contacts and get back to the Council.
- **Nemaha County:** Nothing new to report
- **Pawnee County:** Nothing new to report
- **Johnson County:** Schell reported that the Johnson County Hospital had sent out a survey to see if there was a need for home delivered meals over the long Labor Day weekend. The hospital provided hot meals, cold meals and snacks to 50 people. They plan to continue this during future long Holiday weekends.
- **Jefferson County:** Likens reported that she looks forward to representing Jefferson County. Likens stated that when the Senior Center had been open for Congregate meals, the hospital went and had a program once a month. She is familiar with what we do.
- **Gage County:** Price reported that the Wymore Senior Center has moved to a new location. It was previously in the American Legion building and has moved to the Wymore Fire Department building. They also have a new site manager. The Village of Plymouth has showed an interest in having a meal program once a week. They have volunteers ready to start. Blue Rivers would only need to provide the meal and drive it to Plymouth and the rest would be handled by the volunteers. This will be discussed in the upcoming Governing Board Meeting. Price also stated that the Village of Adams had previously showed interested in starting a meal program. Price also asked the question if the shelf stable meals were going to be available again, and Frase told her we would be ordering the fall 2-meal components soon for distribution.

DISCUSSION ON WHAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AS A GROUP CAN DO TO HELP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Price asked what the Advisory Council could do to help. Frase stated that if they hear of anyone in need of help to please refer them to us. Frase asked for all Council members to be good advocates of our Agency and the services that it provides. Frase also stated that word of mouth is the one of the best ways to get the word out. Lana Likens and Jennifer Schell, representing Jefferson County Hospital and Johnson County Hospital will receive 2 dozen newsletters each month for distribution at their facilities. September newsletter was sent with them, as well as information flyers listing our services.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday December 9, 2020 via conference call or zoom meeting. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Price at 1:40 p.m.

Tracie Fossler