

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

December 17, 2019

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Agency on Aging was called to order at 12:00 p.m. at the 4one8 Restaurant, 418 Court St, Beatrice, NE 68310

Council members present were: Janice Price, Tracy Wieckhorst and Jennifer Schell

Blue Rivers Agency on Aging staff members present were: Zoe Olson, Executive Director, Carla Frase Fiscal 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 Schell; voice vote; motion carried.

MOTION by Wieckhorst to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019 as printed; second by Schell; voice vote; motion carried.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS OFFERED BY BLUE RIVERS AAA THROUGHOUT REVIEW SERVICE AREA

Olson reported that:

- Most of our programs are in really good shape. We have been doing our evidence based program Tai Chi in Wymore and it has gone over wonderfully. Every week there are more people joining. Public Health Solutions was also able to get one of the people from the class to agree to take the training to be able to teach the class. Then we will have another person who can train. It is a fall prevention program that is held two times a week for 12 weeks. A person can even take the class if they are in a wheelchair because it is for balance. We also offer a Stepping on Class in which is a seven week program that is held one time a week for two hours. During the class we bring in a physical therapist three times, optometrist, pharmacist and a safety officer. The class teaches balance and strengthening exercises. We also offer a class Powerful Tools for Care Givers. We will start the programs up again in the spring.
- Public Transportation has hit a little bit of a road block. We have raised money to replace buses but the state is having problems with their contract. It usually takes one year to get the bus, but now it is going to take two years to get them. Our buses are aging and starting to breakdown more. We cannot purchase them on our own because the state will not reimburse us. We were successful in raising the money to match on all the buses without going to the counties to ask for money. Otoe County did however give us additional money to purchase a bus. We also did two Driven to Give events with Beatrice Ford Dealership to earn money. Olson wrote a grant for the Beatrice

Community Hospital Foundation to purchase a bigger bus and a minivan. We will contact the Hospital and show them that we have ordered them and they will write us the check. Jefferson County received a bequest about three years ago of funds to benefit the Senior Center and Seniors. So those funds are there when we need them. Syracuse also had a big bequest that we found when we were consolidating accounts. So that money is also there when needed. Otherwise the transportation is doing well. It is a program that is separate from Aging. It is public, so you pay a fare and ride.

- The Pawnee City Senior Center is closing on January 3, 2020 and moving their transportation office.
- We are still looking for someone for the Resource Development position and the Senior Volunteer position. We took the ADRC position and split it between the three care managers. We make sure that one of them is always in the office everyday so they can handle the ADRC calls. We were to the point that we were going to have to eliminate one of the care management positions due to care management hours being down and they have expertise with ADRC. It made more sense to split it between the three than hire another person for the ADRC position.
- Medicaid waver, SCO and LOC is still not under managed care. The directors of the association are still trying. We found the Ohio legislation and bill that was passed saying the MCO's have to contract with the AAA's to provide service coordination. We are brought it to Mathew VanPatton and he asked what we wanted to do. We told him this is what we want. So we will see how that goes. It used to be that we could bank some money and now it is reimbursement as well. If we are not successful in getting it into legislation, we will lose that whole programs and the program will go to the MCO's. Centine bought Wellcare and Affinity is buying the other one. Basically managed care is more expensive then the way we are doing, but it is a predictable cost. What is also attractive about this is that it is run by businessmen with a lot of clout. It is not the best experience or the best service but it is how we manage costs, not how we help people. It is going to be a shift there. We are hoping we can follow Ohio's example. Mathew VanPatton seems to think that Aging is important so we will see. He is the director of Medicaid.
- Information and Assistance is going well.
- Chore and housekeeping we are severely limited and are staying on budget. We can't just let people have as many service hours as they want. We are looking at maybe trying to contract with skilled nursing facilities to offer chore services to help keep people in their homes. Also keep people employed in the rural areas and keep the skilled facilities open. We are also thinking of contracting with the nursing homes to provide the meals. We need to start working together because there is a finite amount of resources and it's just how do we work together to do that. We just came up with it at our last directors meeting. There are people who are in nursing facilities that are skilled at taking care of for example lifting. So that's what we are looking at.
- The only service we are really concerned with is Nutrition. It is probably one of our most important and visible services. We need that help working together. We have some issues with some of the centers being rented out on the weekends and no one is making

sure to change the heat/AC back when the event is over. So the utility costs rise for us. We also have issues where the buildings we rent are already paid for by the community but they keep increasing our rent. They are costing themselves out of a meal program if we cannot continue to pay the rent increase. We need to work together on it so we can keep the meal program going. Olson has advised the board that when there are hard choices to be made, that they will be hearing from their constituents and it is not going to be pretty.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS AT BLUE RIVERS AAA – ZOE OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Olson stated that the previous four years we have come a long way. The administration is in a safe and secure new building.
- There is a new Parkinson support group that meets in our large conference room the first Wednesday of each month.
- SHIP is here two times a month working out of our small conference room.
- The Chester site was closed in November 2018. We continue a home delivered meal program there.
- The Diller site was closed this past year due to the manager retiring. We are still continuing the home delivered meal program there.
- In Wymore the cook retired, so we now bring in the meal from another center.
- The Village of Plymouth has contacted us two times asking for us to do a meal program there. They are in the process of taking surveys and they will contact us. We explained to them that if we don't have the funds to start it we will not be able to.
- In Auburn their cook is leaving. They have very few congregate meals but more home delivered meals. They have asked us if we would like to take it over, but we will probably not be doing that.
- We are financially stable and in compliance with our federal programs in which we were not four years ago, but we are now. Over all the staff know that we have to do things the way we are told to do it.
- We have had three successful light tours this year. One in Beatrice and two in Hebron this month.
- We are in good shape with our transportation.
- We passed our audit and it was clean.
- We haven't used our line of credit in four years. We have it but we do not use it because the interest cannot be charged to any program.
- We have had a lot of fund raising success.
- We have fewer staff vehicles, but they all work.

COUNTY UPDATES

- Gage County: Price reported that since Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging took over the meal program at the Beatrice Senior Center everyone seems satisfied with the program. The Wymore Senior Center is also operating well.
- Johnson County: Nothing to report at this time.

- Otoe County: Riverview is contracting with the trolley for a light tour for their residents. They will look into using Blue Rivers next year.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Tuesday March 17, 2020 at the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging offices in Beatrice. The meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. and lunch will be during the meeting

MOTION by Schell to adjourn the meeting; second by Wieckhorst; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Tracie Foster