

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 4, 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 Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice, NE 68310.

Council members present were: Janice Price, Lisa Westerfield and Jessica Gerdes

Blue Rivers Agency on Aging staff members present were: Zoe Olson, Executive Director, and Tracie Fossler, Administrative Assistant.

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

**MOTION** by Price to approve the agenda as printed; motion carried.

**MOTION** by Gerdes to approve the minutes of March 20, 2019 as printed; second by Westerfield; voice vote; motion carried.

## **UPDATE ON BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

Olson reported that:

- Olson is in the process of sending in the third set of minor revisions of the Area Plan.
- The State Plan has not been approved yet.
- The Emergency Supply Food Kits are expected to be delivered on June 10.
- The State received money from the disaster funds for the flooding. None of our centers were damaged. Some were closed due to the flooding. The state may be sending shelf stable meals to compensate for the meals that were missed.
- Olson attended the NTAP Roadeo National Competition in Palms Springs, CA as a judge. Blue Rivers AAA Public Transportation was represented by two drivers. Marvin Baden from Hebron and Carol Graham from Syracuse. They both did well.
- Olson attended the UNO Aging Research Retreat on May 9, 2019. All directors from the Area Agency on Aging were invited along with the Gerontology Advisory Council Department and researchers. Olson served on a panel and answered questions. One representative from a large Senior Living Company in Omaha said that Rural Nebraska needs to be shut down. He said they have never had enough money for rural Nebraska and it needs to be shut down. Then when he was on the panel he expanded on it. He said that they would build communities in Omaha and maybe Lincoln for them to live. They would keep them small at around 300 beds each. And if they still think rural is the life and still need to live in rural Nebraska, they can go there during the week and go home on the weekends. Individual researchers said they don't know how to connect with older people. Olson told them

to come to the Area Agency on Aging and they would introduce them to clients who would agree to participate. Currently Olson is receiving many calls from UNO researchers regarding projects.

- The ACL Administration that oversees Aging and Disability Services announced on May 14, 2019 that effective August 1, 2019 all Regional offices will be closed. Operations will be running out of Washington DC. They are going to hire Subject Matter Experts. Most everything will be done over the phone. They are going to change reporting requirements. They expect many job openings in Washington DC, they don't expect many people to relocate to Washington DC. They say reorganizing in Disability will be less drastic than Aging, because they don't have the structure that Aging has.
- SUA is submitting a waiver request for up to \$500 for home renovations. They want to see if they can renovate some homes for up to \$500. It would be a one-time thing that they can get. They are also looking at \$501 - \$1,000. This would be based on qualifications.
- There will be an All Staff Training held on Friday July 19, 2019. There will be CPR and AED hands on training, Stop the Bleed training and Active Shooter Training. NIRMA will be putting it on. The only cost will be for materials for the CPR training.
- Olson attended the Non-Emergency Town Hall in Lincoln for Nebraska Total Care. We are expecting to sign on with MTM Inc. to do some Medicaid transportation. We had previously been a provider for Intelliride, but the previous director said we weren't going to due to administrative issues. Olson has tried for two years to get signed back up with them and couldn't get them to do anything. So we will not be going with Intelliride for United Health Care Medicaid clients. Nebraska Total Care is doing MTM. It is supposed to be an online app that we can refuse or turn back trips. MTM's payment structure is more favorable.
- Blue Rivers AAA is going to be getting some new busses. Three in Otoe County and two in Gage County. Otoe County has received funds from St. Mary's Hospital, The Worth Foundation and The Otoe County Commissioners. Gage County has been working with Beatrice Ford Lincoln Dealership and have raised matching funds for busses and with other donations they will be able to match funds to replace two busses. Syracuse has matching funds to replace one bus. We will also be looking into another foundation in Wymore to replace another bus in Gage County.
- Olson will be attending the N4A Conference at the end of July in New Orleans and will be presenting with AAA Directors from Iowa.
- Olson is unsure when the NAMIS software will be replaced.
- LB468 is a bill to delay when the Long Term Care takes over the Aging Disabled Medicaid waiver program. It is now delayed until 2021. They are trying to get it delayed until 2022. The governor's office contacted Area Agencies on Aging to ask them to withdrawal their letter of support for Bill 468 because it would be very costly for DHHS to develop new software if they can't adapt it right now. Olson told the lobbyist that when the new Medicaid director came he said the software for all the

systems that deal with Medicaid needed to be updated, and that was one of his first projects that had to be done and had nothing to do with managed care. The Governor did sign LB468 into law.

- Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15, 2019. June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month.
- There are summer trips planned through transportation. Friday June 21 Saltdogs Game and Monday July 1 Nostalgic Trip to Lincoln.
- Olson presented a video; Dementia 101 by Teepa Snow. Other videos can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpV838VhXr4>.

### **COUNTY UPDATES**

- Gage County: Price reported that the Beatrice Senior Center will be going back under Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging as of July 1, 2019.
- Nemaha County: Nothing to report
- Johnson County: Nothing to report

### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Tuesday September 17, 2019 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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

*Tracie Fossler*