

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes

September 16, 2019

The annual meeting of the Governing Board of Blue Rivers Agency on Aging was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice, NE.

Board members present: Schoenrock, Krueger, Ferguson, Nieveen, Seitz, Speth, Hill, Hedges, Swenson and Ward

Absent: Braun, Douglass, Gakle, Hall

Blue Rivers Agency on Aging staff members present: Zoe Olson, Executive Director; Carla Frase, Fiscal Officer; Beth Williams, Fiscal Assistant and Kathy Erickson Home & Community Options Manager

Guests: Senator Tom Brandt, Senator Myron Dorn, Mr. Tim McDermott of NIRMA

Schoenrock Chair, presided over the meeting and Williams recorded the minutes.

MOTION to accept the agenda by Ferguson; second by Seitz; voice vote; motion carried.

MOTION to approve the consent agenda by Ferguson; second by Nieveen; voice vote; motion carried.

DISCUSSION was held on the Program and Service Information from FY 19. Olson reported on the amount and costs of programs and services agency wide. This information is modified to show the amounts for specific locations as we request match funds from the counties, cities and villages in our service areas. Olson explained that the services provided through Blue Rivers helps keep our seniors in their homes safely. Handymen and Housekeepers are background checked and are contractual employees of Blue Rivers. Suggested contributions cover Older American Act funds and contributions are currently down from in the past causing Blue Rivers to put limits on our handyman and housekeeper services in order to continue being able to provide those services. It was noted that Blue Rivers has the second largest rural public transportation system in the state of Nebraska. Schoenrock stated that Blue Rivers should be proud of the lives we touch through all of our services and without our agency; quality of life would be vastly diminished for many of our clients.

DISCUSSION was held with Tim McDermott of NIRMA (Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association). McDermott reported that NIRMA is a member owned company managed by a group with a governing board. NIRMA does not operate with local agents but is trying to get out and connect with members to make them aware of all the services offered and let them know staff is always available to assist. McDermott reported that NIRMA has \$60 million in total assets with \$27 million being used to pay dividends. For 23 years these dividends have been paid annually at the Self Defense Conference. NIRMA has only lost two affiliate

members since onset. Out of 101 county affiliates, 82 are NIRMA members. Six of the Eight Triple A's are members as well. McDermott stopped in today to touch base say hello and make Blue Rivers aware of the professional expertise available through the education & human resources training that NIRMA has to offer. Olson stated that Blue Rivers had used those resources in the all staff training this year as attending staff completed the following training; CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed and Active Shooter Training. Blue Rivers will continue to use the valuable resources NIRMA has to offer. Schoenrock thanked Mr. McDermott for coming and presenting.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Frase distributed financial reports for July and August 2019 Blue Rivers Program Expenses. Frase reported that the budget is on target though will appear skewed due to the yearly audit and Abila payments that occur at the beginning of each fiscal year. Frase stated we are currently awaiting the reimbursement payments for both July and August from the SUA. It was noted that DHHS has new CEO, Dannette Smith, looking into the entire procurement process and after discussions with Director Van Patton we would have to be patient as the process is updated. There are six divisions of the same agency all dealing with the delays in reimbursements. There has been a large turnover in staff at DHHS as well and replacements are in need of training. Time Study requirements for some but not all other agencies were discussed with no clear understanding of how it is decided either way. The issue of bathing came up as to basic needs and allowable service or not. The senators suggested to work with lobbyist on making sure that the bathing service was on agenda for the legislature. The senators also questioned the need for two audits. Schoenrock was glad the board was made aware of the issues and roles for working toward solutions to these issues. An email will be sent to the board with updates on receiving reimbursements. Corporate Authorization Resolutions and August Expenditures were moved to the November meeting.

MOTION to approve July 2019 expenditures was made by Hedges; second by Nieveen; voice vote; motion carried.

DISCUSSION was held regarding a June 2019 Housekeeper bill that was not remitted in the correct fiscal year. Frase proposed the use of local match funds from the county of service or from current housekeeping contributions.

MOTION made by Ferguson to use the local match funds to pay the service provider; second by Nieveen; voice vote; motion passed.

DISCUSSION on the need for EAP services for staff. Olson presented the company Continuum, a nonprofit out of Lincoln, which would provide service in all of the counties we have employees. Olson recommends providing this service to all benefit earning employees.

MOTION made by Speth to table for today, review materials and make an action item for November meeting; second by Seitz; voice vote; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Olson provided an updated first page section C for the Area Plan binder and stated that the binders with the Blue Rivers AAA Area Plan 2020-2023 are on the side tables for any board member that had not taken one.
- Olson stated that Ron Buchinski retired on September 13. The ADRC option will be moving to the Care Management team that will each spend 7 days a month with in office availability. Beatrice takes all out of state calls for information services. Blue Rivers will hire two part-time individuals for Senior Volunteer Coordinator and Resource Developer.
- Olson stated that we participated in the Big Give Gage fundraiser set up by the Gage County Foundation. Our focus was to raise additional funds for the Handyman/Housekeeper program. We will have the final amount raised in October and are expecting \$810-\$1,600 to be used to provide additional services in Gage Co.
- Olson stated that several transportation service opportunities are now actively running. The VA Services have collaborated with Blue Rivers to provide transportation of veterans to and from appointments. MTM is running non-emergency medical transportation through Blue Rivers and most of the hiccups are worked out of the process. We are hopeful and the prospect of getting the company DVM running transit with Blue Rivers as well.
- Olson stated she will be attending a meeting with the Community Association of Plymouth about the possibility of starting a meal program. Plymouth has a HUD housing unit for seniors, a small C store and a restaurant that is open irregularly. We are discussing the option of a congregate and/or home delivered meal program. The board will be emailed about the outcome of this meeting.
- Olson stated that a discussion had already occurred regarding the reimbursement and time study issues but wanted to add that the time study is being sent to the SUA and that the study was a 30-day study with 25 pages for each employee that was required to participate.
- Olson stated that Angels Home Care would be holding classes at Blue Rivers October through December.
- Olson reported that Wymore was participating in Tai Chi classes over the course of 12 weeks as part of the falls prevention program and currently has 16 participants.
- Olson reported that SHIP will be at Blue Rivers for five Tuesdays Oct 15-Dec 7 to provide assistance to clients with Medicare open enrollment.
- Olson will be attending a November 2 meeting with the Academy Physicians on what AAAs do and how we can work together.
- Olson reported that there will be hard decisions coming up regarding the meal program and the numbers served vs services needed in rural areas,

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on November 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging administrative office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Senator Brandt and Senator Dorn took a few minutes each to introduce themselves and give the board a little background on the issues that are priorities to them. They thanked Olson for the opportunity to come learn more about the functions of an Area Agency on Aging. Each senator explained which committee they on which they are seated and the functionality of those committees. The board was given a better understanding of the way the appropriations committee determined funding. Both Senator Brandt and Senator Dorn expressed concern over the fact that there is a real decrease in rural representation and the measures taken to get assistance to these areas. Each senator stated that they want to hear from their constituents. Emails and Legislative Assistants are the best ways to have opinions and concerns addressed. The senators are very aware of the changes DHHS is going through, regulation changes that need attention and are working to hold off managed health care. Senator Brandt and Senator Dorn recommend the publication Unicameral Update available either by email or mail at no cost, and welcome us to view the live stream of bill hearings.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 2:50 pm.

Beth Williams

Recording Secretary