

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

Monday, February 22, 2016

The Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging Governing Board met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2016 at the Valentino's Restaurant meeting room, 701 Court Street, Beatrice, NE.

Board Members Attending: Ivan Zimmerman, Wilma Nieveen, Steve Lade, Rex Adams, Michael Braun, Robert Ferguson, Marlene Gakle, Bob Hutton, Mark Schoenrock, Ron Seitz, Carol Sorge, Ralph Steven, Homer Ward, and Dean Kruger. Staff members attending: Zoe Olson, Kathy Erickson, Jill Cammack, Carla Mortensen, and Glenda VanEperen. Guest attending: Larry McKee

Chairman Ivan Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and roll call was taken.

Chairman Zimmerman informed all in attendance that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the room.

Motion was made by Mark Schoenrock and seconded by Wilma Nieveen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2015 were presented. Motion was made by Steve Lade and seconded by Robert Ferguson to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Ivan Zimmerman introduced Zoe Olson as our new Executive Director, who began her position at Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging on December 21. Olson's past experiences include director of marketing and public relations for Aging Partners in Lincoln; public information officer for Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association executive director. Homer Ward was introduced as the new board member from Jefferson County. All Board Members introduced themselves.

Steve Lade discussed the mandatory pay increases for minimum wages effective January 1, 2016. He discussed possible five year bonus raises for longevity, promotions, or a merit system performance. These items are to be considered and ready for budget time. A discussion was held. No action taken.

Kathy Erickson presented a status report for the caregiver, care management, senior care options and medicaid waiver programs.

Jill Cammack presented a report on all our area directly run senior centers and public transit offices and their locations. She reported on Nutrition numbers and contributions by sites, transportation trips, housekeeper hours and handymen hours. Fairbury and Hebron received defibrulators (AED) for their centers. Open house and trainings are being held for these communities on February 25 and 26. Cammack said Blue Rivers will celebrate Nebraska Public Transit Week April 11-15. Carol Graham, Syracuse driver, will represent Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging in the National Community Transportation Association of America Rodeo competition and Cammack will attend the competition and Expo in Portland, Oregon on May 21-27.

Carla Mortensen gave a report on all areas of finances for Blue Rivers and the percentage maintained thus far for the first seven months of this fiscal year. The budget is on target.

Zoe Olson reported the State Unit on Aging performed their State Monitoring visit on January 5. The Agency received a compliance plan and the staff is working to meet all deadlines in the plan. Olson requested a review of the By-Laws and noted changes that should be incorporated. She stated the Board will receive monthly financial reports even in months where no meetings occur. Staff will be reviewing all contracts and inventory lists. Olson spoke with our auditor and is following the suggestion to search for a volunteer CPA to review the Agency financial statements and provide additional oversight. Olson will be working on the upcoming Area Plan and ADRC implementation. She is working to create events for Heart Month, Nebraska Public Transit Week and Older Americans Month. She has created an Agency Facebook page, updated the website and is currently designing a new logo.

Olson thanked the Board, Janice Price and staff for all their help. Monthly staff meetings have been implemented and the staff practices Tai Chi three times each week. Janice Price and Kathy Erickson are presently holding weekly sessions on Powerful Tools for Caregivers. Sloane Cornelius resigned effective February 2. A search for a receptionist/administrative assistant is underway and an ADRC representative will be hired soon. ADRC is a new position made possible by DHHS grant monies and will help the aging and disabled populations find resources in our area. Olson will be looking to create a transit position in the coming year and is looking to move the Beatrice Transit office into the Administration offices.

Larry McKee addressed the meeting about what had to be done to get the home delivered meals started in the Beatrice Senior Center. Olson explained this can be implemented with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. Persons mentally or physically unable to attend the center for meals are eligible for home delivered meals after documentation by Center staff. They may start a carry out meal program at full price, as it is considered a retail sale. He also inquired if a decision had been made with the Beatrice Bus Office lease.

Olson informed the Board that the complaint received by the Attorney General's office, from Coranne Moss, was found in favor of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging.

Ivan Zimmerman made a motion and seconded by Robert Ferguson to have the next board meeting on March 21, 2016 at Valentino's Restaurant at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Ivan Zimmerman made a motion and seconded by Dean Krueger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Glenda VanEperen