

BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 23, 2018

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council of Blue Rivers Agency on Aging was called to order at 1:00 pm at the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, 103 Eastside Blvd., Beatrice, NE 68310.

Council members present were: Janice Price, Jessica Gerdes and Marva Honea,. Absent were: Betty Harmon, Karen Richardson, Diana Thiemann and Tracy Wieckhorst.

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

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

Don Wassom, representative from Thayer County, has resigned. We also have an opening in Jefferson county.

MOTION by Gerdes to approve the agenda as printed; second by Honea; motion carried.

MOTION by Gerdes to approve the minutes of October 17, 2017 as printed; second by Honea; motion carried.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL OVERVIEW

This item was postponed to the April meeting.

UPDATE ON BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Olson reported that:

- The Monitoring Visit for FY 2017 was interesting. The State Auditor of Public Accounts was included by invitation of the State Unit on Aging (SUA). We received 4 recommendations and a response has been submitted.
- The Transit Plan for FY 2019 is in preparation to meet a March 1 deadline.
- Work has begun on the next Area Plan, which is for FY 2019. It is due May 1.
- Payroll was outsourced to ADP beginning January 1 and the pay period is now every two weeks. Overall the transition has been smooth with few hiccups.
- Our health insurance renewal is due February 15 for March 1. We continue to pay 100% of full-time employee premiums for this year but of course the future is uncertain.
- The Alexandria meal site has completed the move to the community building. The Chester meal site has been closed and some furnishings were left for the town's use.
- The Personnel Policy Manual was rewritten and vetted by our Human Resources attorney. Vacation carryover was reduced to 160 hours; sick leave carryover remains at 520 hours as we do not offer short term disability insurance.

- Recent closings due to weather have been handled without major problems.
- Our 2017 goals were completed and we are working on a new list for 2018.
- Statewide, senior nutrition has been in the news. Midlands Area Agency on Aging withheld funding for Hall County meals due to lack of compliance. These news stories have been instructive to our own meal site staff in realizing why their supervisors are so particular about procedures. Aging Partners in Lincoln has outsourced all their meals to Omaha as a cost cutting measure and have made the news with the poor quality of the food. Blue Rivers is proud of the hard work of our cooks in providing delicious, nutritious meals.
- We have done intensive training with our Site Managers, Dispatchers and Cooks, and will continue that in 2018.
- Ron Buchinski and Olson did a presentation about the Senior Companion program in Table Rock with plans to start a program there.
- Legislation to make the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) permanent was introduced Friday. The request is for the same level of funding with the AAAs to choose one disability partner to act as a primary agency.
- An ongoing project is fingerprinting for homemaker and handyman providers in Medicaid Waiver and transit drivers.

COUNTY UPDATES

- Gage County: Price reported that the Beatrice site has had some closings due to weather. Evening meal attendance remains strong but Beatrice continues to struggle with noon attendance. Beatrice continues to cook for Wymore, Odell and Diller. The Cortland meal site is doing very well. Gage County has a new representative on the Board, County Commissioner John Hill.
- Nemaha County: Gerdes reported that everything is going well. Bob Hutton was re-appointed as a Board member from Nemaha County.
- Richardson County: Olson reported that the Falls City site has a temporary manager who will work through April and hiring of a permanent manager is in process.
- Otoe County: Olson reported that Mary Wilson is the new manager for our site at Riverview Terrace in Nebraska City. She was previously a school cook.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 17, 2018 at the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging administrative office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Marcia Straatmeyer