

MINUTES

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 17, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

**Aging Resources of Central Iowa
Via ZOOM**

I. ATTENDANCE

Present

Ron Jome
Nancy Nichols

Phil Clifton
VACANT

Don Corrigan
Lisa Heddens
Crystal McIntyre
Linda Westergaard

Boone County
Dallas County
Jasper County
Madison County
Marion County
Polk County
Story County
Warren County
City of Des Moines

Pam Myers
Kim Chapman
VACANT
Kylon Schmitt

Steve Van Oort
Ron Smith
Jean Laverty
Robert Mahaffey

Absent

Denny Carpenter
Mark Raymie

Jasper County
Marion County

Others Present

Les Bascom
Margaret DeSio
Anthony Lee
Joel Olah
Carol Schmidt
Kay Vanags
Stephenie Labenz

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Board Chair, Crystal McIntyre called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Attendance was recorded by Data Management Coordinator, Anthony Lee.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Linda Westergaard – to approve the June 17, 2021 Agenda as printed.

SECOND: Phil Clifton

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2021, MINUTES

MOTION: Steve Van Oort – to approve the May 20, 2021, Minutes as printed.

SECOND: Jean Laverty

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Reports

- A. Advisory Council –. Joel will cover items from the Advisory Council in his report.
- B. Executive Director

Kay Vanags was recognized for her leadership, hard work and her 20th anniversary with the agency. She was presented with a longevity certificate and a visa gift card. Kay spoke about how she has enjoyed her work and appreciates the certificates/ recognition.

The past month has been very active, with several meetings with the Iowa Department on Aging and the quarterly conversation on June 3rd. The Department on Aging was satisfied with the performance of the agency. The Department on Aging has hired many compliance officers who do not always understand the daily efforts of Area Agencies. Joel has invited them to come to the agency and witness these efforts so they can have a better understanding of how services are provided. Joel is hopeful they will take him up on this offer to see how services are provided.

The Area Plan was presented this month. This plan has taken a great deal of time and effort to produce. The Area Plan is a four-year plan that includes responses to anticipated issues arising from this pandemic. It is expected that we will find an increase in elder abuse, depression, isolation, and personal neglect. As caseworkers return to the community, they need to be prepared to face these issues. Due to these issues some targets/ goals will need to be modified. The Commission on Aging approved the plan without corrections or recommendations.

Joel is working on lectures for Des Moines University's upcoming fall semester. The lectures are for third year medical students and provides an opportunity to educate them on aging related issues. The lectures will be recorded and implemented sometime in August.

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging is rebranding, and recently had a vote on their change of name. It is semi-official that in the middle of July they will change their name from The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to USAging. Their new tagline will be "Leaders in Aging Well at Home". They hired an outside consultant to assist with the rebranding and creating a new logo.

The nutrition program has added a new staff member who Carol will introduce later. The agency is in the process of hiring an Information and Assistance Specialist and an Administrative Associate.

Joel will be taking additional education courses regarding COVID-19 variants. The information will be condensed and sent out to the Aging Network and all Board Members.

On August 2nd the staff will be able to return to the office if they choose. Some will be working a hybrid model where they work part in the office and part at home. It

is important that people feel comfortable and can take care of both home and work responsibilities. The data shows that this has been a successful transition from office to work from home over the past year.

C. Chair
None

V. FY2021 Agency Budget Amendment

Les presented on the FY2021 Agency Budget Amendment. The primary areas being modified are contracted services and material aid. These areas are adjusted due to the pandemic. We have been running above budget, this is expected to continue for May. For May and June, the payables will be addressed. If there is extra funding leftover, it will be carried over to the new FY2022 and put into carryover accounts that are projected to be around \$500,000.

VI. FY2022 Agency Budget

Les Bascom stated that there are still a few unknowns for the FY2022 budget, including the American Rescue Plan and how that money will be allotted. By the end of the month there should be more details. First the money will be used to cover any expenses from this final quarter, and then shift the title three money into carryover. The department has waived the September carryover for this year. Meaning whatever is not being used is able to be carried over to next year. During the September meeting there will be a more detailed budget presented.

MOTION: Phil Clifton – to approve the FY2021 Agency Budget Amendment

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. Supportive Service

Margaret DeSio presented on Supportive Services. On Monday Sharee Huffer will be starting and transitioning into Margaret's position as she reduces her hours and works on other special projects for the agency. Margaret and Sharee will start to perform Annual On-Site visits so that Sharee can be introduced to the contractors. July starts the second year of the two-year contracts. We will have the same providers with the addition of Go-Go grandparent and the food box program for refugee clients.

Go-Go Grandparent can be used by anyone 60 years of age or older who wants to use Uber or Lyft but do not have access to the app. They will be able to call in to order a ride for either medical appointments or social events/ personal transportation. Currently it is approved for up to four round trips per month, once a week, per client. This is currently a pilot project through the Department on Aging who is directly funding the agency for this program. Go-Go Grandparent is only available where Lyft/Uber is available, not all eight counties are able to participate. Those who know someone who could use these services

are encouraged to reach out to Aging Resources and can be signed up through an I&A specialist.

The Food Box Program is through Lutheran Services in Iowa and serves the older Refugee population whose diet differs from the standard home-delivered meals. The boxes include more produce, beans, and rice to better fit the older refugee's dietary wants/needs. LSI is working with local farmers to provide the produce through the Global Greens program. They also work with small minority-owned grocery stores to supply the other produce/food. Currently around 121 boxes go out each month, 1 box a month to 121 households.

VIII. Nutrition Update

Carol reported on the Nutrition update. Stephanie Labenz was introduced, she has been a contracted dietitian with the agency for 14 years and since May 10th of this year she is a full-time staff member overseeing evidence-based programs and contracts. Stephanie is training to be a Tai Chi instructor. Stephanie's current focus is on delivering evidence-based programs to rural areas within our service area. She will also continue to work on nutrition education with the Fresh Conversations program and working to bring Fresh Conversations to sites that currently don't have it. She will still facilitate one-on-one nutrition counseling which has experienced an increase in participation.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is in full swing with 1652 signed up for this year. Those receiving checks will have until October 31st to use them.

Congregate meal sites are starting to open back up gradually. Several opened June 1st others are waiting until August, and a few are undecided.

Iowa Café currently has contracts with Pella Hy-Vee and DNS Grocery in Melcher Dallas. Carol is waiting on order of iPod Touches needed to register the clients for Iowa Café and used to swipe the key cards and track the meals. It has been tough finding places to contract with, Carol is working on expanding the program.

IX. LifeLong Links Update

Kay Vanags presented updates for LifeLong Links. Carla Moon started about 6 weeks ago as an Information and Assistance Specialist. Carla previously worked with a subsidized housing program as a service coordinator.

The LifeLong Links has received funding to encourage vaccinations. Carol and Rhonda have been working together on a mass mailer that includes information on vaccination and an advertisement for the agency. This mailer will be sent out in Marion County to start. If successful and there is an increase in inquires for information, they will start to mail them out to other rural counties.

The previous day was Elder Abuse World Prevention Day, Kay discussed that there are informational videos on Aging Resource's Website. Kay was not able to play the videos on the computer but encouraged everyone to check them out when they have time.

X. Let's Hear from the Counties and Cities

Phil Clifton presented updates on the opening of different service sites in Madison County. Hopefully they can open in July, although before that they will be replacing the flooring and other maintenance.

Linda Westergard presented updates on neighborhoods in Des Moines moving to in-person meetings. Neighborhoods are still offering the option to zoom/ attend virtually due to convenience and making sure people are comfortable.

Steve Van Oort presented updates on the opening of senior centers and meal sites in Polk County and incentives for vaccination. On June 1st all 16 senior centers and meal sites opened. They have discontinued curb service, but people can pick up a meal box to go. They are also working closely with Wesley-life MOW to provide meals to those at home.

The percentage of those over 60 years of age who have received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is now over the 70% range with the goal being to reach 75% by July 4th. Starting June 25th, they will be having a drawing every other week for those who are vaccinated. One person every other week will win \$50,000 if over 18 years of age and a \$15,000 scholarship if under 18 years of age. There will also be 10 \$1,000 prizes, and other merchandise. Steve recognized and complimented Joel's work and presentation to the Commission on Aging.

Crystal McIntyre presented updates for Warren County. Warren County has a new director for their nutrition program, Marty Davis. Due to staff taking vacations this summer, meal sites will re-open in August.

XI. Other/Comments

Crystal McIntyre reminded members that the next meeting will not be until September 16th, 2021.

Anthony Lee rechecked attendance.

XII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be conducted on September 16, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.

MOTION: Steve Van Oort to adjourn the June 17, 2021 Board meeting.

SECOND: Kim Chapman MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

With no other business to discuss, the June 17, 2021 Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

No documents were distributed during the meeting.