

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING July 8, 2021 1:00 P.M.

Aging Resources of Central Iowa VIA ZOOM

I. ATTENDANCE

Present

Sue Huetter	Boone County Dallas County Jasper County Marion County Polk County	Kelli Van Manen Mike Roberts Liz Seiser
Joy Ihle Shala Harsh	Polk County Story County Warren County	Amy Alden Marty Davis
Barb McClintock	At-Large	

Absent

Nancy Johnson Julie Weiss Quincy Southers Mike Credidio JoAnn McKibben (Excused)	Dallas County Madison County Polk County Warren County At-Large	Ruth Bartels (Excused) Roy Smith
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Others Present

Joel Olah	Aging Resources
Margaret DeSio	Aging Resources
Sharee Huffer	Aging Resources
Anthony Lee	Aging Resources
Carol Schmidt	Aging Resources
Kay Vanags	Aging Resources

Vice-Chair Mike Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00P.M. Attendance was recorded by Anthony Lee.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Barb McClintock to approve the July 8, 2021 Agenda.

SECOND: Roy Smith **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. APPROVAL OF May 13, 2021 MINUTES

MOTION: Barb McClintock to approve the May 13, 2021 Minutes.

SECOND: Roy Smith **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. REPORTS

A. Executive Director

A new council member from Jasper County was introduced, Sue Huetter. Sue is an active volunteer in her community.

This is the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Counsel, usually there is a potluck/ indoor picnic. Hopefully next year that tradition can resume.

There will be a vote today for the Slate of Officers.

Everyone should be receiving an update on COVID-19 and the vaccines in the mail.

Joel has continued to take medical continuing education courses regarding COVID-19 and will continue to educate and share this information with the Aging Network.

Starting August 2nd staff will have the opportunity to return to the office. Staff will be able to choose what options work best for them, hybrid, in-person or fully work from home.

Work from home has been shown to be just as effective/ productive as in-person.

Work from home is also beneficial when there is a snow day, or someone needs to be at home for personal reasons, such as a sick child.

There have been a few staff members hired recently, their supervisors will be introducing them later.

Everyone received information on the American Rescue Plan funding. We have challenged some of the Iowa Department on Aging's ideas on how the money should be utilized.

Iowa Department on Aging must follow the intent of Congress when developing guidelines for funding. The funds should be used as flexibly as possible to better meet the needs of the community.

Funding distribution is outlined in the four-year Area Plan which has already been approved. When presented with documentation the Department agreed and stated we should be as flexible as possible with the funding.

The agency has not heard about the extra 1.3 billion dollars that Iowa received that is currently in the Governor's office. We have put together and submitted proposals and will inform everyone when there is a response. There were two main focuses in these proposals, the first being affordable housing and the second being additional funding for elder abuse. As we get back into the community it is expected we will see many cases of depression, self-neglect, and abuse.

Joel and Margret are working on a few lectures for Des Moines University. The lectures will be virtual, the Medical Students are not back in the classroom yet, but hopefully will be soon.

Joel continues to meet with an Advocacy group, and there has been some traction for the support of direct care workers. They are working with DHS to expand the registry so that people can go online and find qualified direct care workers to serve their community.

B. Chair

None

V. Election of Officers

Barb McClintock, Denny Bock and JoAnn McKibben formed a Nominating Committee and presented a Slate of officers. They submitted the names of Amy Alden, Mike Roberts and Shala Harsh as the officers for the Fiscal Year 2022. Amy Alden is submitted as chair, Mike Roberts as Vice-Chair and Shala Harsh as Secretary. They have all served a one-year term and are eligible to serve a second-year term in those offices.

MOTION: Roy Smith **to approve the slate of officers**

SECOND: Joy Ihle **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Supportive Services Contract Update

Margaret DeSio reported on updates for Supportive Services and Contracts. Sharee Huffer was introduced, Sharee will gradually assume Margaret's duties. Sharee was working for Madison County Elderly Services for over 20 years before transitioning to the Agency.

Margaret and Sharee have been visiting the supportive services contractors, which has been going well so far. Margaret will be transitioning to part-time and working on different projects for the agency.

VII. Introduce New Program & Provider Services Director

Sharee Huffer introduced herself previously. She is excited and glad to be with the agency.

VIII. LifeLong Links Update

Kay reported on Lifelong Links updates. Two new staff, Carla Moon and Peggy Lockhart were introduced. Carla Moon is a social worker with 8 years' experience in assisting older adults in a non-profit elder housing development. Her previous position was cut due to funding and Carla was able to secure a position with Aging Resources. Peggy Lockhart started this past Tuesday and is in the process of training and orientation and transitioning to work from home next week. She previously worked in Information and Assistance at Heartland Senior Services, and just completed her Doctorate in Gerontology at Iowa State University.

There will be a shift with the Information and Assistance specialist positions, staff will be moving to either Elder Abuse or Family Caregiver programs.

Update with the Medicaid Administrative Claiming, we continue to fill out time studies but have yet to see the funding/ money from it. Medicaid claiming allows us to receive funding and support for the education we provide to the people who call the agency daily. Around 20-30% of our time on the phone is spent discussing Medicaid and its qualifications.

The County Provider Sessions, each of the eight counties have a representative, in these sessions where they are updated with what is happening at the agency every month.

Kay Vanags encouraged everyone to look at the website under the Family Caregiver section. They have added a Wellness series with various videos of different speakers covering topics about Caregiver Wellness. They plan on doing more information sharing between the Area Agencies on Aging.

Nancy asked what other ways you can get the information to the consumer since these resources are available online. Kay was unsure as this was just put up yesterday, she is open to ideas.

Another update was a recent marketing piece that just went out to every household in Marion County about the COVID-19 vaccine. If this is shown to be successful, they will consider mailing more out to other counties.

IX. Nutrition Updates

Carol Schmidt reported on the Nutrition Program. Stephanie Labenz was introduced. She started on May 10th as a full-time staff member. Stephanie was a contracted dietitian for 14 years.

The Farmers Market program is going well, we have received 4800 sets of checks with 2410 checks already distributed. Applications are still being accepted and checks can be used until the end of October.

The Iowa Café program now has 3 providers, Pella Hy-Vee, DNS Grocery, and The Depot in New Virginia. They have been loaned iPod Touches and each participant has a keychain that is scanned with the iPod. These devices record and track the meals. Carol continues to look for more providers to join the Iowa Café program.

X. Let's Hear From the Counties & Cities

Kelli Van Manen reported on updates for Jasper County. They will be starting to reopen congregate meal sites. Newton site will open July 12th, Colfax August 2nd and Monroe August 3rd.

Roy Smith reported on updates for Madison County. Tammy Ellwanger, Sharee's replacement as Madison County Elderly Services Director is doing an excellent job. Madison County plans to re-open meal sites August 2nd, they are remodeling, putting in new kitchen equipment, flooring, and fixing up the dining room and offices. They are in the process of changing the name of their sites and are reaching out for suggestions.

Joy Ihle reported on updates for Polk County. On the 1st of June they opened nine sites, with the rest opening on July 6th. They continue to monitor their programming and modify where possible to keep people safe.

Mike Roberts reported on updates for Marion County. They plan on opening their sites on August 24th. They are working on how to implement social distancing while still providing different social activities, he reached out for different suggestions.

Another county is limiting the amount of people who are allowed to participate in an activity or be in the building at one time. Joel suggested that masking still works, and they should be encouraging people to continue to wear masks.

Norman Hill from Boone County thanked Joel for his assistance with a case of suspected abuse of his neighbor. He reminds and encourages people to utilize their resources to keep those around them safe.

XI. Other

Joel reminded everyone the next meeting will be in September and that a new person will be taking minutes, Elena Lopez who will be starting on July 12th.

Knoxville received their first Amerigroup check after two years.

Joel doublechecked attendance

XII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

MOTION: Barb McClintock to adjourn the July 8, 2021 meeting.

SECOND: Nancy Johnson MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The next meeting will take place on September 9.

With no other business to discuss the July 8, 2021 meeting of the Advisory Council was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.