

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2020

→ via ZOOM videoconferencing ←

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER KLIKA

Commissioner Klika was the COA Liaison from 2012 to 2015.

Karen Weber thanked the Commissioner for appointing her to the COA in 2013 and Pam Shernuk in 2017. She also thanked him for supporting the four outcomes of the “2019 Aging Services Community Forum” held in October 2019 – Nutrition, Transportation, In-Home Support and Services and Public Awareness and the visibility of the AAA. Most of all, thank you for listening.

Commissioner Klika expressed his appreciation of the Commission on Aging. He shared his thoughts and concerns:

- Transportation – a real problem
- Home-delivered meals – the volunteer contact with homebound seniors is important.
- Advocating for seniors
- One number to access to aging services (FYI 913-715-8861)
- Better emergency preparedness for the unforeseen e.g. pandemic.
- Continue to help identify senior issues and advise the Board of County Commissioners.

Pick up the baton and run with it.

MINUTES

- Pam Shernuk, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the October minutes. – there were none:

John P. Smith made a motion to approve the October 14th minutes as written. Rob Givens seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

COUNTY MANAGER’S OFFICE UPDATE

- Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager reported that staffing is an issue because of COVID.
- Reported that the kitchen consultants will meet at 4 pm today. The cost of a new kitchen would be about \$4M. Looking at possible partnership with another County program.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON
COMMISSIONER HANZLICK**

- County has revised COVID-19 emergency procedures through January 31, 2021.
 - Supports wearing masks, social distancing,
 - Limit public gatherings to 50 people or 50% of occupancy.
Exemptions: Retail shops, bars (close at midnight), restaurants, fitness centers and religious organizations.
 - Outdoor gatherings limited to 2,000; no fairs, festivals or parades.
 - If approved, businesses may be fined \$500 for code violations.
 - Representative Clayton reported there were no plans for a state-wide lockdown at this time.
- Discussed role of the Ombudsman. It was decided to invite Christine Mazingo, local representative, to the February 10th meeting. She will be scheduled at the beginning of our meeting.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES (HSD) – DEBBIE COLLINS

- Absent

DIRECTOR OF AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA) – DAN GOODMAN

- Recap of all the progress the COA/AAA have made in 2020.
 - Department name has been changed to *Aging & Human Services*.
 - On November 23, we will be providing \$100 grocery care packages to 670 older adults living in subsidize housing. Spending \$67,000 CARES money, we bought \$100 worth of groceries for each of the 670 low income adults. HyVee delivered all meals without charge.
 - We also received approval to use CARE funding to assist the AAA with the costs associated with mailing the latest addition of the “*Explore Your Options*” (EYO) to everyone who receives “*The Best Times*.”
 - Administrative Case Management (ACM): We implemented a new program to assist customers with initial Medicaid application and Medicaid renewals.
 - The AAA is developing a new County Aging Services webpage. The work of the committee is progressing well and we hope to have the webpage ready for testing in late December or early 2021.
 - We are developing an on-line application for AAA services and hope that it will be available to the public in early 2021. This should be helpful to the public as they may choose to complete the application on-line, at a time that works best for them and likely will minimize those calling from having to repeat why they are needing services. This will also give the Information & Referral Specialists (IR&A) time to gather additional information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Due to COVID-19, committees have not been very active.
- **Legislative Committee**, John P. Smith, Chair. reported that a letter will be sent to the 2021 Legislators along with a copy of the 2021 COA State Legislative platform.
- **By-Laws Committee**: Paula Hurt and Karen Weber will be reviewing the By-Laws in 2021.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- There is no scheduled meeting for December; if the need arises one may be called.
- 2021 COA meeting schedule will be finalized each quarter. For the first quarter, meetings will continue via ZOOM.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM

- Dan Goodman shared greetings from former long-time COA members, Chuck Nigro and Gene Lipscomb. Gene is thrilled to be awarded the Leadership in Aging award.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned 10:40 AM

<p><u>Next COA Meeting via ZOOM</u> Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 9:00 AM</p>
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