

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2021

→ via ZOOM video conferencing←

WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES

Two corrections noted May 14, 2021

- Pam Shernuk, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the March 2021 minutes. There were none.
John P. Smith made a motion to approve the March 10, 2021 minutes as written, Cynthia Schendel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES (AHS) – DEBBIE COLLINS

- MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) and the First Suburbs Coalition offer the *Community for All Ages Recognition Program*, an incentive for cities and counties to become a “Community for All Ages” (<https://www.marc.org/Community/KC-Communities-for-All-Ages>). Communities that have taken steps to make public spaces that meet the needs of all its residents. E.G. ramps instead of steps helps the elderly and the family pushing a baby carriage.
In 2019, Johnson County, became the only county in Kansas to participate. We completed the first step, Bronze, about Awareness, looking at areas around the county through an “all ages” lens. There are two other levels Assessment and Implementation to go.
- Deputy County Manager’s update on behalf of Joe Connor: The CMO (County Manager’s Office) is working on the 2022 budget.
- ◆ The AAA has requested the second half of the \$500,000 that was requested from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) last year to fund a local Senior Care type program This is in the current budget. This program, Aging Care Management (ACM) is a Johnson County program based on the Senior Care Act (SCA). The County opted to give us half of the funds in 2020 to see how the new in-home services program would fair. Thanks to Angela Pelger, Aging Program Service Manager, and her team, it is ahead of schedule!
 - ◆ The home-delivered meals kitchen has been placed in the FAC (Facility) Strategic Master Plan as a new build, although they are open to other options.

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



➤ May is Older Americans Month (OAM). This month's slogan is *Communities of Strength*. Older Americans Month is an annual event dating back to 1963, when President John F. Kennedy designated May as Senior Citizens Month. It was later renamed Older Americans Month, honoring older Americans, and celebrating their contributions to our communities and our nation.

Normally the COA would attend a BOCC meeting and receive a proclamation from the Chairman, it is unclear if this will occur in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Recent Aging Service numbers:

- ◆ Information & Referral Assistance (I&RA) reported 1,157 service inquiries in February.
- ◆ Assessors also completed 291 assessments for long term care services.
- ◆ Our diversion rate is up 11% in 2020 from 2019.
- ◆ Aging Care Management (ACM), a program started in 2020, has reached 700 clients.
- ◆ According to ADRC program satisfaction surveys completed in 2020, 963 of the 984 clients (97.8%) were satisfied with the ADRC services provided. This is an exceptionally high satisfaction rate considering that ADRC has gatekeeping function embedded in the service. This would be considered a high satisfaction rate in a non-pandemic year.
- ◆ Shared an email from a gentleman in California who spoke with Angela Pelger, Aging Program Service Manager, concerning his Aunt. Afterward he wrote a letter to Dan highly praising Angela's service in walking him through the waiver process step by step. Dan expanded that thought to include all AAA employees, it's how the Johnson County AAA provides services that sets us apart from other like service providers.
- ◆ State Legislators are considering adding \$3M for Community-based in-home services to support the SCA program.
- ◆ Additionally, the County is considering the second half of the \$500,000 the COA advocated for the Aging Care Management (ACM) program last year. This would allow us to service another 104 people with community-based services in 2022.
- ◆ The willingness for both groups to invest additional funds into, in-home supports and services programming for older adults demonstrates a broad acceptance of community-based aging services as the type of long term care that is both cost effective and the preference of older adults.
- ◆ There is potential for the Kansas AAAs to receive a share of the \$5B Federal infrastructure funding to address the long-term care needs of older Kansans.

AAA Projects

- ◆ Carol Colnar, Operations Manager, is leading on the Big Grocery Drop project. Along with assistance from Angela Pelger, Aging Program Service Manager and Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Program Manager. Plans are that 640 residents in need will receive the groceries, toiletries and cleaning supplies. We are seeking interest from area grocery stores to assist us with the grocery purchase and deliveries by late Spring.
- ◆ We are also working with Health Department to assist our home-bound clients get vaccines. So far we have identified about 30-40 people in Lenexa and Merriam who still need the vaccination.

- ◆ Unfortunately, identified home-bound clients were about to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccination, when that vaccine was placed on hold for review.
- ◆ We are getting closer to external testing of website as the internal testing is wrapping up. These upgrades will also include the new on-line intake form and revised “2021 Explore Your Options” resource tool.

Questions/Comments

Kim Mann stated that, the on-line intake form is excellent. It asks all the right questions

Pam Shernuk congratulated the AAA on their successes and would like to post on Facebook, if possible. Dan was supportive.

Rob Givens asked if the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was going to be replaced by one of the others. There was a response that *this was still being discussed*.

Andrea Leavitt shared that the client Angela helped was also one of her clients.

John P. Smith shared that, he reads CDC website and they say to take which ever shot was available and people should not wait for a particular brand of vaccine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ **Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award**, Kim Mann, Chair. Last month we discussed moving the Award program to November, I think it’s an excellent idea.

- ◆ After some discussion it was proposed that the Leadership Award program be moved the November COA meetings.

Pam Shernuk asked for a motion to move the *Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award* program to the November COA meetings to bring the focus on the recipient.

John P. Smith made the motion. Rob Givens seconded it. Motion pass unanimously

➤ **By-Laws Committee**, Paula Hurt, Chair. (**correction:** ~~Karen Weber~~ is not chair)

- ◆ The committee, Rob, Paula and I have been tweaking, updating, clarifying, and reviewing. We are on the second version.
- ◆ Revision to be approved by the COA at the (**correction:** ~~June 9~~) July 14 meeting. The election of Chair & Vice Chair to be held at the August 11 COA meeting.

➤ **Legislative Committee**, John P. Smith, Chair. Thank you, Dan for sending out the white papers.

- ◆ Update on Bills the COA is following:

HB 2126: Providing immunity from civil liability for adult care homes for COVID-19 claims. This passed Senate and approved by Governor on April 5th.

Chris Osborn, CEO, Evergreen Living Innovations, reported our State Association was a major supporter of this bill. The original immunity bill did not cover nursing home.

HB 2114: Establishing the Kansas senior care task force passed the Senate April 12th.

Highlights from the second session of Legislature: The budget is still incomplete; Medicaid expansion looks unlikely but could change by the end of the session.

- **Executive Committee**, Karen Weber, Past Chair
 - ◆ Reported on the RFP (Request for Proposal) process to find a provider for home-delivered meals. The County's vetting process is very thorough. The presentations included taste testing.

COMMISSIONER ALLENBRAND

- Appreciate working with Debbie Collins on several projects.
- In reference to home-delivered meals, I do ask people of the 6th District, what they think about the meals. They say they are phenomenal!
- Held a transit meeting with 5 Chambers in the 6th District. Discussed the needs of seniors and handicapped residents. Working with Commissioner Hanzlick, BOCC Vice Chair.
- Held a round table with Mark Parkinson, former Kansas Governor and Dr. Bloom to talk about health care in District 6 communities. They don't even have mask or gowns.
- Discussed wide-spread issue of worker shortage in nursing and home health agencies. Issues include very long hours, very hard work and low pay. 12% of workers just walked out. Some wait for stimulus checks or unemployment which pays more than jobs.

HOME-DELIVERED MEALS PRESENTATION

Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Program Manager
Home-Delivered Meals Day to Day Operations

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- If you have ideas for future guest speakers, please send information to Pam.
- The COA does not meet in June. We are scheduled for an in-person meeting for the July budget meeting. Is everyone comfortable with having an in-person meeting in July? Possibly continue for the rest of the year? Please contact Pam if you are not.
- Rob mentioned a device called OWL, it is a recording option to zoom an in-person meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None at this time

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned 10:39

Next COA Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

→ 1055 ←

(under the stairs)

Sunset Drive Office Building, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe, 66061