

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2020

→ via ZOOM videoconferencing ←

NOTES

- The meeting was conducted via ZOOM videoconferencing due to concerns related to COVID-19. The Commission attendance had the standards needed for a quorum.

MINUTES

- Karen Weber, Chair, reminded everyone that we had no minutes to approve since the March meeting was cancelled.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON – COMMISSIONER HANZLICK

- BOCC is now meeting twice a week. All meetings streamed on Facebook and Johnson County website
- **COVID-19 response.**
 - A survey has been sent out from the county with a few questions about whether the household is experiencing any symptoms.
 - \$400,000 has been designated for testing in the county. However, the testing supplies are not readily available.
 - The health department has put together a dashboard with numbers of people who have tested positive and negative.
 - Clusters of the virus have been spotted in nursing homes and church gatherings.
 - About 250 tests have been sent out to nursing homes.
- **Questions for the Commissioner**
 - How soon will testing be in effect?
 - Very soon. However random selections will get a notification before they can drive up.
 - How will notification be sent out?
 - Either from email or phone call. Patrons can opt in or out and won't be forced to test.
 - Johnson County has mobile food pantries around the county and will the people operating them be tested?
 - People will not automatically be tested because of their duties. There is a calculated approach to testing.

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DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES (HSD) – DEBBIE COLLINS

- Housing program has gone through many changes to the funding formula recently.
 - HUD hasn't pushed back any due date timelines considering the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Outreach program, A good note is utility companies haven't been shutting off services.
 - Once the pandemic is over the real work will begin with people who've had delayed payments.
 - Being creative how donations are accepted for the food pantry.
 - We are working with Red Cross to get some mass feeding locations for the homeless.

➤ Questions for Debbie

- Are there still funds to assist with utility bills?
Still helping with payment plans but right now companies aren't cancelling services and that is helping. We can foresee needing more funding after the pandemic because that's when the real heavy work will come.
- A driver for RideKC has tested positive for the virus. Why are we still providing public transportation? Can the county provide a reduced single rider option?
This will be addressed Thursday at the BOCC meeting. Transit services are thoroughly cleaning in between routes. No fees are charged to ride to reduce the exchange of money. Hopefully more information will come within the next few days.
- The Evergreen healthcare facility needs gowns. Is there an effort from the county to provide gowns?
Multiple requests have been put in for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) however only fractions of the ask have been coming in. There hasn't been a specific set of items going to that facility with the nationwide call for PPE.

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

- Back on February 27th and 28th, Dan began talking with Deputy Secretary DeBoer of KDADS about the possibility of COVID and how we could adapt services should it hit Kansas. Then on March 13th those discussions began to really heat up between K4ad and KDADS as it became clear that it wasn't if, but when the virus would impact us. As a result, we were more ready to make service adjustments and keep services going to the extent possible. I would complement KDADS leadership during this crisis as they really have given us the flexibility necessary allowing the AAA's to keep those critical services going throughout.
- As a result, here are our services outputs thus far during this crisis:
 - 907 Calls to Aging Information and Assistance
 - 110 CARE assessments
 - 57 Home-Delivered Meal intakes for assessment
 - 55 HCBS assessments

- 17 Senior Care Act (SCA) intakes for assessment

- As of today's date all 575 home-delivered meals clients have not missed a meal.
 - We did move to weekly meal delivery on March 23rd, by providing them 5 frozen meals each Monday morning.
 - The meals are produced each week in our central kitchen and delivered by a group of people made up of 2/3 volunteers and 1/3 County employees.
 - As of this morning all home-delivered meals clients will have a week's worth of stable shelf meals and a 2nd week of stable shelf meals will be delivered for distribution on April 20th.
 - These meals will be delivered by County employees, using AAA staff, Human Services Department folks, and other County staff from Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, JCDS and Transit.
 - Not everything has gone smoothly but we would define these service levels as success considering the situation, we all find ourselves in.
- We will be receiving federal emergency assistance funding to help keep services running.
 - The Deputy Director of KDADS shared that the 6 million of federal funding was to assist us with the increased costs associated with keeping Older Americans Act (OAA) services going.
 - The money wasn't being provided to increase the number of folks served but rather to ensure that this service continues.
 - The Deputy Secretary did caution this support provided to the AAA's would be subject to reconciliation on the back end of this crisis, so it is important that the funds are spent in support of OAA services and meeting the needs of the older adult population.
 - There will be an opportunity to access some admin money as well but that draw down would be subject to local match.
- The Kansas Legislature passed a budget bill that put an additional \$3 million in the Senior Care Act (SCA) program.
 - As a result, the Johnson County AAA stands to gain about 11% of that funding for the support of those services.
 - Dan thanked both the COA and more broadly the work of the SHL for their advocacy in convincing legislators that this was a good idea.
 - Dan also thanked Representative Clayton as she was a champion for this funding and conveyed thanks to all other local legislators that voted in support of this funding.
- Dan shared that the AAA hired two new people for our new service, Administrative Case Management (ACM), Suzanne Burgin and Frankie McAfee will both start on April 27th. They will be assisting those attempting to gain access to Medicaid's waiver programs by helping them through the financial application process. The new hires have a combined 60 years in Kansas Medicaid experience regarding financial eligibility.
- **Questions for Dan**
 - Are we contacting clients other than the weekly meal delivery?

Yes, calls are being placed about every other day to check on client well-being.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Legislative Committee- Pam Shernuk
 - Kudos to the bill being passed for Senior Care Act.
 - Reiteration of being on the same page and speaking with one voice through the appropriate channels before reaching out and asking for certain supplies.
 - Conveyed her thanks to the AAA staff for all their efforts in keeping services going and meeting the needs of Johnson County's older adults.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - KAREN WEBER

- Karen conveyed her thanks to the Commission on Aging for participating today and for all they do in support of the County's older adult population.
- Karen thanked the Commissioner for all her support of the COA and the AAA.
- Karen shared warm thoughts of the AAA staff for all that they do.

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM

- Dan asked if ZOOM videoconferencing would work for them again in May should we still be dealing with the virus. The group was in support of using ZOOM again in May if needed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

- COA Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

via ZOOM

Area Agency on Aging - 913-715-8860 ♦ Human Services Department - 913-715-8800