

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2020

→ via ZOOM videoconferencing ←

NOTES

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

MINUTES

- Karen Weber, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the April minutes – there were none:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. John Smith made the motion to approve minutes as written. Kay Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON – COMMISSIONER HANZLICK

- **COVID-19 update.**
 - Phase One of opening Johnson County begins with restaurants, daycares, retail stores housekeeping services, libraries.
 - Visit the Kansas website for information on the response and recovery for opening up of the State. <https://covid.ks.gov>
 - Visit the Johnson County website for information on the response and recovery for opening up of the County. <https://www.jocogov.org/>
 - There have been 54 COVID deaths in Johnson County with 40 being in LTC (Long Term Care) facilities.
 - Brighton Gardens has reported cases of Covid-19, County responding
 - Per Chris Osborn, CEO: Evergreen nursing home has not seen any cases.
 - BOCC will start working on 2021 budget. Property tax is steady. We will have to wait and see about sales tax.

Questions for the Commissioner

- Is there concern in the County that the State will only be releasing data updates three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday?
 - Per Joe Conner, CMO Assistant Manager: It is not a concern at this time. The county has very reliable information resources.
- What is the plan for opening the nursing facilities (NF)?
 - Per Joe Conner, CMO: The County does not regulate the nursing facilities,
 - Commissioner Hanzlick said per the *Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas*. NF will open up in Phase 3.

- There is a concern within the COA that there hasn't been enough transparency in regard to nursing facilities. Families weren't told there were cases of COVID in their facilities for almost a month.
 - The CMS has changed its rule, Facilities are required to inform everyone as soon as possible.
- Does the County still have its own task force?
 - No, it was decided to follow the State's recommendations since the State has more resources and better contacts.
- The County was doing random blood samplings of NFs,

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES (HSD) – DEBBIE COLLINS

- EOC (Emergency Operations Center)
 - Responsible for mass care and shelter
- Cities are helping to pay rent and utilities
- Carol Colnar, AAA Operations Manager, is the HSD *Feed the Need* representative. Due to the quarantine, donations to the food pantries started dropping. Our Community Relations Manager found an online food drive through *Amazon*, so residents can order food online and have it delivered to HSD office. Last Friday our donations hit \$15,000!
- **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 a fraction of the orders 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

- May is Older Americans Month. Dan read this year's proclamation.
- Eugene Lipscomb tendered his resignation due to medical issues. He would have had 9 years come August 31st. He didn't think he would be able to attend another meeting and felt it would serve the COA for him to resign.
- Nancy Tanquary, AAA Nutrition Program Services will retire in June. She has been with the AAA for 16 years. During her tenure, she created the CHAMPSS (Choosing Healthy Meal Plan Solutions for Seniors) program. This is now a national program for an alternative dining option to the traditional congregate meal program.
- Our two new Administration Case Management (ACM) assessors are on board and serving the public.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Katy Hoffman announced that nominations are open for the *Peg Deaton Leadership & Aging Award*. There are forms on the website, Deadline is August 3rd.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - KAREN WEBER

- On behalf of the COA, we thank the County for all that they have been doing to keep us safe and informed.

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM

- Dan Goodman reminded everyone that there will not be a June meeting. The July 8th meeting is most important as it opens with the Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget. We must have a quorum for this meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED

- COA Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

ADDENDUM:

On June 24th the COA executive committee made specific decisions regarding COA activity for the remainder of 2020.

- 1) The COA meetings of the whole will be held via ZOOM for the remainder of 2020. The decision being made out of concern of need for social distancing during the pandemic.
- 2) The Legislative Breakfast(s) for 2020 are being cancelled for 2020. In place of the breakfast(s), the COA will send out an advocacy letter and legislative platform to all current State Legislators and candidates for legislative seats after the primary. Again, this decision is being made out of concern of need for social distancing during the pandemic.

Next Meeting via ZOOM

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Public Hearing on 2021 Area Plan on Aging

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