

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2021

→ via ZOOM video conferencing ←

DR. SANMI AREOLA, DIRECTOR, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

- After the holidays, there was an increase from 300 to 400 cases a day. It's not just that it is increasing, it is how sharply it is increasing. This shows how active the virus is. We all need to protect ourselves.

Since our vaccines arrived late, people thought we were keeping them back for the second dose. We received 1,200 doses.

- Distribution is a 5-Phase process, currently we are in Phase 1:

- ◆ Hospitals received about 10,150 doses for frontline workers.

JCDHE (Johnson County Department of Health & Environment) will conduct vaccination clinics this week with the goal of vaccinating 1,000 healthcare workers each day.

KU Medical Center will open a clinic this week, including weekend, to vaccinate 1,700 Johnson County health care workers.

Hy-Vee and Walmart are looking into a mobile vaccination clinic.

- ◆ The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.
- ◆ Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) are community-based health care providers that receive funds from the (HRSA) to provide primary care services in underserved areas. This is a tremendous program. It does work out of local churches as well.

- Questions:

- ◆ Do you get a choice of which vaccine you can take? *Not at this time.*
- ◆ COA expressed concern about how will the home-bound and homeless get their shots?
The Health Department will get in touch with Debbie Collins.
- ◆ Can you get vaccinated at Walgreen's or CVS? *No, they can only work with nursing home.*
- ◆ Where to get Corvid information? *The County website: www.jocogov.org; Commissioner Hanzlick also posts information on her Facebook.*
- ◆ What will happen to those that don't have a computer, how will they be notified? *That is one of the logistical situations that is being worked on.*

Jay Leak suggested working with faith-based and the community services to get lists of homebound citizens?

Dan Goodman: The Health Department Nurses searched out to Angela Pelger and me for help to identify home-bound adults aged 80 and 90 years old.

MINUTES

- Pam Shernuk, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the November 2020 minutes, there were none.

John P. Smith made a motion to approve the November 18th minutes as written. Dale Warman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON COMMISSIONER HANZLICK

- On January 11th the County swore in three new Board of County Commissioners:
 - 2nd District Jeff Meyer - NC
 - 3rd District Charlotte O'Hara – SE
 - 6th District Shirley Allenbrand – SW (She has a background in (LTC) administration.)
 - Liaison changes are coming up. I have asked to stay with the COA. I'm also interested in transit. I'm liaison with KCAYA (Kansas City Area Transportation Authority), the Transit Council and MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) transportation Council.
 - Strengthen the County's relationship with Long Term Care Facilities (LTC). While we have no oversight, the County would like to be more directly involved with residents of these facilities.
 - ◆ Chris Osborn, CEO, Evergreen Living Innovations, appreciates the Covid meetings with the County. Long Term Care doesn't have a voice and is often overlooked. He would welcome a connection with the County.
 - Continue to help Debbie Collins and Dan Goodman with the transition of the department.
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DIRECTOR OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES (AHS) – DEBBIE COLLINS

- Reported that Human Services has worked on on several projects using Care Act funds.
 1. Creating a safe place for the homeless. We arranged for 157 individuals, including 48 kids, to stay in a hotel. This was the first time we have actually worked for the homeless. We worked through various non-profits and school districts. (There are no homeless shelters in Johnson County, but there is a program called 1020, it provides services to the homeless during the winter.)
 2. Helped nursing facilities to create a safe environment for residents so they can have face to face contact during their family visits. There were 35 different facilities that we worked with to make a safe space.
 3. Food assistance program worked with Hy Vee to give 670 low income people \$100 of food. It was a very welcome gift for these people. Thank you to Dan and Angela for their participation. HyVee was wonderful to work with, as usual.
 4. The pilot rent and utility program was short-lived, we spent \$200,000 in 2½ months to keep people from losing their home and utilities. There will be a second round and we have already been approved to receive it.
- It is January, so we are working on budgets again. We have put in our request for full-time employee for the Aging Care Services (ACS) program.

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

Our Aging Nutrition Services meal contract will expire soon. We have started the Request for Proposal (RFP) bid process. Several COA members have been asked to participate to review bids and give feedback on these bids. Currently we have a 5-year contract, we are thinking to shorten that to 3 years. Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Program Manager is lead on this process. She will let you know when we need your assistance. Our current provider is Trio formerly Valley. We are happy with their performance and service. We would like them to submit a bid.

- ◆ Aging Care Services (ACS) (new local Senior Care Act (SCA) program.) Launched January 4th. We added 5 new clients to that program in the first week. There should be no problem reaching our goal of 67 through-out the year. I'm confident we will be able to keep more seniors at home and safe with the program.
- ◆ Aging Care Management (ACM) - Angela Pelger, Aging Program Services Manager has hired a new manager for this program, they will start in a couple of weeks.

➤ Short-term Charter programs

- ◆ **Aging Services review**, Carol Colnar, AAA Operations Manager is the lead on this project. So far, the team discovered new providers in the community.

Charter team examined the EYO (**Explore Your Options**) book to make it user friendly. Making it more intuitive in finding items in the book. The book was updated then we printed 80,000 using Older Americans Act funds. We used Covid funding to mail one to everyone on "The Best Times" mailing list. At first, we didn't hear anything, then this week, Stacy & Ed told me they had received about 10 positive response.

The team is looking at a plan for the future. While we won't be able to do another mass mailing, we are looking for ways to distribute the EYO.

- ◆ This Charter team is developing a new county **Aging Services webpage**. Jay Leak, Deputy Director AAA is lead on this project. They are working with the County PIO Officer to develop new content and visuals for the site. PIO is building the webpage tool. It will be ready for external testing soon. Again, we will need the help of this group. We appreciate the help we always get from the COA.
- ◆ The next Charter team, led by Angela Pelger, Aging Program Services Manager, are examining an **on-line intake and client tracking option** for the Aging Services webpage. This will be helpful to the public as they may choose to complete the application on-line at their convenience. This will likely minimize those callers from having to repeat why they are needing services. This will also expedite the time the Information & Referral Specialists (IR&A) spend gathering information they think they may need. This tool is now ready for internal testing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Due to COVID-19, committees have not been very active.
- **Legislative Committee**, John P. Smith, Chair. reported that the letter was sent to the 2021 Legislators along with a copy of the 2021 COA State Legislative platform. We received a few responses. There will not be a Legislative Breakfast or trips to Topeka scheduled at this time.
 - ◆ The Governor gave the State of the State address last night. Focused on Covid. The budget will be released soon.
 - ◆ Stephanie Clayton, COA member and Kansas Representative will help monitor Legislation.

- **By-Laws Committee:** Karen Weber and Paula Hurt, both lawyers, will be reviewing the By-Laws and will report back in May with any changes needed. They welcome anyone who is interested in the committee to join them. The meeting will be by phone or ZOOM.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- All COA meetings will be virtual through May 12th. There are typically no meetings in June or December. The July 14th meeting is tentatively scheduled in meeting room 1055. This is the budget meeting - the Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Area Plan.
- Expressed concerned about the mental health of those in nursing facilities that still have had no social contact. Several members shared their experiences and some thought of what can be done.
It was decided to invite Tim DeWeese, Director of Mental Health to the March COA meeting if he is available.
- Give Dan and his staff a huge thank you. Staff have not stopped doing their work these last 10 months. Nutrition has continued to deliver meals throughout.
- Thank you Commissioner Hanzlick for your support.
- Joe Conner, Assistant County Manager & Debbie Collins, Director, Aging & Human Services, thank you for all you do.
- February meeting guest, Christine Mozingo, Regional Long-Term Ombudsman.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Karen Weber thanked Debbie Collins for sharing all the projects that came from the Cares Act fund.
- Karen also asked if there is any progress on the kitchen. Debbie reported that the consultants have put together a draft report, however it has not been presented to the BOCC. Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager, stated there is no longer a deadline in the search of a kitchen. The County decided that since it is going to evaluate the Public Health building, they might as well do that for the rest of the County's properties. The work on the Strategic Facilities Master Planning Project will include all of the county's buildings, including the kitchen. It should be completed by June.
- Dan Goodman thanked Paula Hurt for sewing a second batch of colorful face masks for the Department.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned 10:45 AM

<p><u>Next COA Meeting via ZOOM</u> Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 9:00 AM</p>
