

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2021

→ via ZOOM videoconferencing←

WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

Carol Feaker, District 3, new COA member

Tim DeWeese, Director,
JOHNSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

- Mr. DeWeese has been the director of Johnson County Mental Health (MH) for six years. Has worked for Johnson County for twenty-five years.
- **Crisis Hotline:** 913-268-0156. There is no wrong call to this number and no insurance affiliation needed.
- Mental Health affects children, teens, young and older adults.
- We realized that we needed to do more for older adults living alone. All should be assessed in person if possible, but at this time we are using telehealth.
We sent 12 staff members to help deliver home-delivered meals. It was a unique opportunity to see how older adults lived. Most of our appointments are in the office environment.
- The suicide rate has dropped in Johnson County. The methods haven't changed although the percentage of gun use has risen.
- As a means of outreach, we purchased a mailing list of adults 55+ and older living alone. If possible, we prefer to focus on individuals that are not affiliated with a facility.
Were postcards also sent to those living alone in independent living facilities? *No, we do work with other organizations, however, we do have some clients in facilities who do not want us to interfere.*
Commissioner Allenbrand reported that she and Debbie Collins, Director AHD are working with the DHE (Department of Health and Environment) to help with this older adult situation. The Commissioner suggested Jay Holbert of the COA be contacted as well.
- Mr. DeWeese will also send a list of resources for us and other affiliations. Dan will address any questions that may be left.

MINUTES

- Pam Shernuk, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the February 10, 2021 minutes. John P. Smith reported a typo in the Legislative Committee report. After the 1st paragraph, "*Is the po*", on a line by itself and should be removed from the page.

**John P. Smith made a motion to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes as corrected.
Dale Warman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON
COMMISSIONER ALLENBRAND**

- Commissioner reported that she and Debbie Collins are starting to work together on Long Term Care (LTC) and Independent Care communities.
Pam Shernuk asked if that was something that could be shared with the COA.

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

- We have requested \$250,000, the second half of the \$500,000 that we requested from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) last year to fund a new program. This program, Aging Care Services (ACS) is a Johnson County program based on the Senior Care Act (SCA). The County opted to give us half of the funds 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 older population has been the highest priority of the Department of Health and Environment (DHE) to receive the Covid-19 vaccines. 80 & 65+. Dan, Angela and Stephany Ikpe, AAA Nutrition Program Manager are working to get the vaccine to our Home-Delivered Meals clients. If they can travel, DHE is working with the Transit – The JO (Bus).
- Debbie was asked if the Rental Assistance Program would also help older adults with their mortgage payments. To verify, Debbie will contact KHRC (Kansas Housing Resources Corporation) to find out.

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

1. Reviewed January 2021 I&RA (Information & Referral Assistance) data on residential Long-term Care (LTC), shows a new record of 1,221 service inquiries. Prior to December 2020 the record was 1,142; there were only 3 other times the search for services requests exceeded 1,000. We believe this may be the beginning of a surge for services for people who have been waiting for the pandemic to end.
 - Rob Givens ask if this is just the beginning, where are the choke points (challenges in moving past a certain point)?
We are above 300 assessments in 2021 so far. We are doing ok, if it increases this could be a choke point.
Another choke point would be the ability to fund the services that are needed, such as nutrition programs, for those coming up.
2. KDADS nutrition budget reduction program could affect us directly – reducing by \$95,000 of our State Fiscal budget for 2022., which may or may not be funded in the state budget in SF 2023.

However, there is a new Federal bill that passed in December 2020, H.R. 133; Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 an emergency assistance funding. Among other things, it includes Coronavirus stimulus and relief money, similar to the earlier Covid CARE Relief fund last year. This fund is specific to the Home-delivered meals program. We will receive a total of \$184,000 total which will support home-delivered meals though 2022. We just received this news and will meeting on it later today.

3. We are seeking county approval to use extra OAA (Older Americans Act) funds to provide \$100 of groceries, cleaning supplies and toiletries to our clients. We are talking with our clients to see what items they need. We must use these funds by September 2021 if not the money must be returned to the State of Kansas. We estimate we can serve up to 2,000 Older Americans Act clients. Part of the reasoning for this program is to limit public exposures for our clients and minimize their anxiety in regard to needing to get out.
4. We have booked Christine Mazingo, Regional Long-Term (L-T) ombudsman, as our guest speaker at the May 12th COA meeting,

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award**, Kim Mann, Chair. Will put several articles in “The Best Times” magazine showcasing previously older adults or organizations who have created programs or services to aid or assist older adults in the community. Articles will help to advertise where to obtain and submit nomination forms.

Pam Shernuk would like to discuss the possibility of changing the date of the award program to make it more special.

- **Outreach**, Jay Holbert, Chair. Has contacted several churches in the northern part of the county to make sure they have vaccine information. Is working with the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), posting information on their website. Commissioner Allenbrand suggested he talk to Dr. Areola, Director, JCDHE, Johnson County Department of Health & Environment, for needed transportation.
- **By-Laws Committee**, Karen Weber, Chair. Meeting with Rob and Paula and reviewing the history. We will have more to report next month.
- **Legislative Committee**, John P. Smith, Chair. Thank you, Dan for sending out the white papers.
 - ◆ Bills tracked COA:
 - HB 2114:** Establishing the Kansas senior care task force.
Hearing March 23.
 - HB 2024:** Providing immunity from civil liability for adult care homes for COVID-19 claims
Referred to Committee on Judiciary

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- At the May 12th COA meeting, Christine Mazingo, Regional Long-Term (L-T) Ombudsman, will be our guest speaker. Commissioner Hanzlick suggested we have her as a guest and former Commissioner Klika suggested that Johnson County should have Regional Long-Term Ombudsman position.

Debbie Collins reported that she has not heard anything about a County position for a L-T Ombudsman. However, Commissioner Allenbrand will be working with these facilities to find out if the county will consider creating a position.
- Has the format of the electronic Best Times changed? Yes, no longer need to flip pages, just scroll down.
- Concerning the conversations with the LTC facilities, could a COA representative attend these meetings? No meetings have been scheduled at this time. The Committee will be updated.
- Meetings are as follows: April 14, May 12, July 14 - Public Hearing, August 11, September 15, October 13, November 10. No meetings in June or December. **Must have a quorum July 14th.**

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

- Please don't forget to send Pam items for the COA Facebook. Items can not be in Pdf form so send links. Items must be non-partisan.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Pam Shernuk asked if the County has unused vaccine left over. Susan Mayer reported that they monitor the usage and there usually isn't any vaccine left.
- Kim Mann asked if the Covid Dashboard was down. Susan Mayer will check on it.
- Cynthia Schendel reminded everyone that March is Social Worker month.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned 10:30 AM

Next COA Meeting via ZOOM
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 @ 9:00 AM