

# COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2021

→ via ZOOM video conferencing ←

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## INTRODUCTIONS

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Introduction of members

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## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

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Welcome to gallery

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## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER MARK PARKINSON

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Commission Allenbrand introduced Mark Parkinson, CEO/President of American Health Care Association & National Center for Assisted Living. He will be discussing the changes that have occurred in Long Term Care (LTC) facilities since COVID.

- Average length of stay was 3 years in LTC before COVID.
- COVID brought unexpected deaths and families were unable to be with loved ones.
- Early 2021 brought vaccine and almost no fatalities due to COVID at LTC
- Delta variant has brought increase in cases again but not anywhere near the level of general population.
- Older adults who have not been vaccinated have a 20% chance of death if get COVID
- Nursing homes in low vaccinated counties have five times the number of cases verses high vaccinated counties.
- 82% of LTC residents are vaccinated.
- 62% of LTC employees are vaccinated.
- Questions –
  - ◆ Chris Osborn, CEO, Evergreen Living Innovations, asked if any suggestions on how to get remaining staff to vaccinate. Mark stated continue encouraging employees to get vaccinated.
  - ◆ John Smith asked what committee could do to help. Mark said keep older adults a priority in policies
  - ◆ Commission Allenbrand said she would take any further questions after meeting and get to Mr. Parkinson

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## MINUTES

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- Pam Shernuk, Chair, asked if there were any corrections needed to the July 2021 minutes; there were none.

**Cynthia Schendel made a motion to approve the July 14, 2021 minutes as written.**

**Dale Warman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMISSIONER ALLENBRAND

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- Commissioner Allenbrand is staying in touch with hospitals in the area regarding COVID vaccines and cases.

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

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- Debbie stated will be retiring on September 17, 2021. She wanted to thank the committee for all their hard work through the years.
- Utility Assistance program has seen a surge of people with extremely high bills. The program had a little money left over from last year so has been able to help a little extra but nothing near what is needed.

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

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- Administrative Case Management staff has served 516 clients as of June 2021. Received a 100% satisfaction rate from client surveys.
- ADRC program has served 999 clients as of June 2021. Received a 99.3% rate from client surveys.
- Olathe has not had a traditional congregate meal site for many years. Olathe Tower reached out to Nutrition Manager about having a site at their location. Surveyed residents and 65 were interested in receiving meals. Pilot program for first year to watch cost and attendance. Residents in the community would also be able to attend. Projected start is September 2021.
- Proposed SCA budget for FY2022 includes \$445,000 state increase which was \$100,000 more than anticipated. Unanticipated additional funding will allow around 148 new clients. Aging Care Services program will be adding 104 if additional county funding of \$250,000 approved by BOCC. That will bring anticipated case load to 819 clients in 2022. That is roughly 4% of 60+ Johnson County residents currently living at or below the federal poverty level.
- Pam Shernuk asked why only 4% are helped. Dan stated that SCA & Aging services use all their funding and suggested that getting the word out about the program so funding can increase to help more residents.
- Jill Zink has been hired for Aging Administrative Assistant position. She will be at next meeting.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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- **Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award Committee:** Kim Mann, Chair
  - ◆ Nominations will be held in October. Article will be in the next The Best Times. Will start contacting volunteer coordinators at organizations in September.
- **Legislative Committee:** John P. Smith, Chair
  - ◆ Unable to contact all members yet. If anyone has any suggestions, please let John know.
  - ◆ Pam asked Commissioner Allenbrand when county sets their legislative platform. Joe Connor stated in the fall, October/November. COA committee tries to parallel with county on senior issues.

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## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK**

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- Pam stated today will be Karen Weber's last meeting. Karen has been on committee for 9 years and Pam extended the committee's gratitude for her advocacy efforts. Karen thanked all the committee for friendship and support over the years. Asked everyone to continue carrying the torch for the people who cannot speak for themselves.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

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- Pam Shernuk asked committee if wanted September meeting in person or by Zoom. Committee voted unanimously for September meeting to be Zoom.

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## **OLD BUSINESS**

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- None at this time

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## **OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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- Pam Shernuk asked committee about advocating to community about getting vaccinated. Committee voted unanimously to start putting information on webpage. Cynthia Schendel suggested drafting a letter to Kansas City Star. Kim Mann asked if home delivered meal participants have had access to vaccine. Dan Goodman/Stephany Ikpe stated Health Dept had been out to participants that were interested in receiving vaccinations; 413 clients were contacted, 301 were already vaccinated and 70 participants were immunized. Commissioner Allenbrand stated will get with Health Dept about congregate sites.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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- Meeting Adjourned 10:40 AM

**Next COA Meeting via ZOOM**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021 @ 9:00 AM**