

COMMISSION ON AGING

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2022

~HYBRID~

OPENING AND WELCOME

- Call to Order 8:55 AM

INTRODUCTIONS, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- Pam Shernuk asked board members and AHS staff to introduce themselves and provide information on their background to the new AHS Director, Tim Wholf.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- Rob Givens moved to approve the March 2022 minutes. Dale Warman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON–SHIRLEY ALLENBRAND

- Commissioner Allenbrand stated BOCC is working on budget for next year and discussed Johnson County real estate prices. Retail sales are up over 17%. Johnson County mill levy is the lowest in the state of Kansas. The Homestead Act (Property Tax Relief) is part of the COA Legislative Platform in which expanding eligibility for lower income seniors is a primary goal. Jarrod Ousley commented on House Bill #2239 and reported there being property tax relief among seniors ages 65 years of age and older. The amount of property value not taxed was increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- Solar planning is being discussed with the Planning Commission.

KS LEGISLATIVE REPORT – REPRESENTATIVE JARROD OUSLEY

- Jarrod Ousley informed everyone that House Bill #2543 including early onset Alzheimer's patients in the Senior Care Act funding is not moving forward. It is the hope of the COA this group of people would be able to obtain assistance, but it is not in the best interest of seniors that funds come out of the Senior Care Act (SCA).
- Another State bill that would affect the senior population is Charlie's Bill which proposes the option to appeal if involuntarily discharged or transferred from an assisted living facility. This bill was forwarded to the Judicial Council under the Judicial branch government. There should be more information on this after the next state session.
- Due to the pandemic and staffing shortages in nursing homes, a new law (SB 453) was passed. This bill requires licensed nurses at adult care home facilities to teach and evaluate courses in which nurse aides who demonstrate certain skills and successfully complete 40 hours of training can then administer medication and other tasks at adult care facilities.
- There is no movement on Medicaid expansion or the elimination of sales tax on groceries.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA) – JAY LEAK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

- Jay Leak, Deputy Director gave a brief overview of AAA. The request for an additional Information & Assistance Specialist was approved with the hope of that position being filled within the next month. AAA has also entered into an agreement with Johnson County Department of Health & Environment. (JCDHE) to provide funding and/or programs that are beneficial to the senior population. A few of the programs are "Walk with Ease" and "Chronic Disease Self-Management".
- A revision of the Area Plan was submitted to the State recognizing the addition of three (3) IHOP locations as an option for CHAMPSS nutrition sites.
- BOCC approved accepting \$1.6 million dollars in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) which will be a great help to the AAA. Additional food drops with these funds are being planned.
- "All About Me" books were viewed. As soon as AAA obtains the rights, changes will be made and item will be sent to print. This will also be available in a digital format.
- Kim Mann stated that the Animal Control has pet food and will supply people with 4lbs for each animal. This may be beneficial for home-delivered meal recipients in Gardner. Stephany Ikpe will share with the Gardner volunteers.

AGING & HUMAN SERVICES (AHS) – TIM WHOLF

- Tim Wholf, AHS new director provided a background of his history. Tim previously worked for the State of Missouri as a Probation/Parole Officer and a Warden for the Department of Corrections in Kansas City. He had multiple leadership rolls before he served as the Director of Division of Developmental Disabilities for the last 7 years in the northwest region of Missouri. After 32 years with the State, he retired and has joined our team. He is eager to learn and help identify the many needs of the senior population.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Kim Mann is currently in the process of revising the information for the Outreach Committee. This includes brochures, handouts and talking points when speaking to the public and organizations. Kim suggested the Outreach Committee should not only reach seniors but target more of the business communities to inform them what the COA is. Pam also suggested to target caregivers as well and asked if there was interest in serving on this committee to let her know. Shirley Allenbrand volunteered to assist. A previous PowerPoint presentation from the 2019 Aging Forum will be forwarded to the board for review and updates.
- The Legislative breakfast is tentatively scheduled for the October meeting. Invitations will go out to the Kansas Legislature candidates and incumbents from Johnson County as well as the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners in September.
- The Peg Deaton Award (award for outstanding leadership & volunteerism) is slated for the November meeting.

REPORT FROM THE COA CHAIR, PAM SHERNUK

- Pam Shernuk reported that April is volunteer recognition month. She commended the board for the voice and representation. Rob Givens expressed his thanks to Pam for her service and engagement as the COA Chair.
- Pam mentioned while serving on the Advent Health Committee to assess the needs of Kansas City regional community, there were top 10 areas of focus. These included Mental Health, Health Insurance and Accessibility, Preventative Care, Nutrition & Healthy Eating, Diabetes, Food Insecurity, Pregnancy & Maternal Health, Drug Abuse, Cardiovascular Disease and Lack of Affordable Housing. Advent Health will be reaching out to the regional area to address these issues.
- From the 2020 census, Johnson County has over 22,000 people over 65 living alone in Johnson County. As a board, Pam suggested we advocate for these individuals. Assistant County Manager, Joe Connor, stated census tracking may assist in narrowing down a zip code as to where these seniors may be located. There are currently 650 home-delivered meal clients in the county but not all residents may have information on the services we offer. The goal is to make sure this population has access to resources such as home delivered meals, congregate sites, "Explore Your Options Directory" as well as many other services we have to offer. Rob Givens suggested surveys amongst this group may also be helpful in identifying specific needs.
- Vice Chair, Paula Hurt will serve as chair for the nominating committee. Board members Andrea Leavitt and Dale Warman will be assisting her as well. Pam expressed that her term as chair, is for 2 years. If no one comes forward, she would be willing to continue one more year if someone would come in as a vice chair to take over.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pam spoke about the COA board member retreat that had been discussed in the past. There is consideration of a possible half day retreat in the future where multiple items can be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dale Warman reminded the board how important it was to check on seniors living in their neighborhoods

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM

Next COA meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 9AM
11811 S. Sunset Drive, RM 1070/1075