

**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**ATTENDANCE**

**May 11, 2022**

~HYBRID~

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**COA BOARD MEMBERS**

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Pam Shernuk, Chair  
Paula Hurt, Vice Chair  
Rob Givens  
Robert Cantu

John P. Smith  
Cindy Green  
Andrea Leavitt  
Jarrod Ousley

Kim Mann  
Carol Feaker

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON**

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Shirley Allenbrand

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**AGING & HUMAN SERVICES**

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Tim Wholf, Aging & Human Services Director  
Megan Laha, Director, Administration

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**AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

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Jay Leak, Deputy Director  
Angela Pelger, Program Services Manager  
Carol Colnar, Operations Manager  
Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Program Manager  
Jennifer Butterfield, AAA Finance Coordinator  
Jill Zink, Administrative Assistant  
Katie Baker, Nutrition  
Pat Wyle, In-Home Services Coordinator

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**GUESTS**

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Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager  
Chris Osborn, CEO, Evergreen Living Innovations

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**ABSENT**

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Dale Warman  
Chris Talarico

# COMMISSION ON AGING

## MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2022

~Hybrid~

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### OPENING AND WELCOME

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- Call to Order 9:05 AM

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### INTRODUCTIONS, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

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- John P. Smith moved to approve the April 2022 minutes. Rob Givens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON–SHIRLEY ALLENBRAND

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- Commissioner Allenbrand reported progress in economic development plan for New Century Airport which includes new hangars being built. They are breaking ground on the new New Century Commerce Center on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

Meetings continue in regard to road development or improvements especially in District 6.

Solar planning continues with the planning commission.

ETC, a company that conducts surveys, reported Johnson County scored in the 97th percentile where residents are happy living in the community. The report is on the county website and COA Facebook page. Aging Services was ranked near the top being a priority amongst the community.

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### HOME DELIVERED MEALS – KATIE BAKER, NUTRITION

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- Katie Baker provided the Commission with an overview on home delivered meals. These meals supply at least half of the daily food consumption for our clients. Many have reported improved health and the ability to stay in their homes. Volunteers act as a daily contact as well as a vital safety check to these recipients. Funded by the Older American's Act (OAA), lunch and breakfast meals are delivered to clients Monday through Friday near the noon hour. There are 54 routes in the county and a total amount of 265 volunteers are needed each week to provide this service to seniors 60 years of age and over & homebound. Suggested donations are \$3 for lunch and \$2 for breakfast, however no one is denied due to inability to pay. Monthly menus are distributed to clients. There is always a need for volunteers and monthly orientations are provided every month.

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### AGING & HUMAN SERVICES (AHS) – TIM WHOLF

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- Tim Wholf stated May is Older American's month with the theme being "Age My Way".  
K4ad will be joining efforts with the State to update policy guidelines on nutrition services.  
US Aging has issued policy priorities for 2022. The four areas of focus are investing cost effective home & community-based services, promote successful healthy aging with support for communities, connect health care and aging sectors to improve care and reduce costs, and strengthen systems to support the aging population.

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

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- Jay Leak, Deputy Director expressed the importance of donations needed for home delivered meals. Jay also introduced Pat Wyle to the Commission and welcomed him as the new Information & Referral Assistance Specialist. Pat has worked in the Aging department for over 20 years.
- **Angela Pelger, Program Service Manager** provided an update on the addition of transportation needs for Aging Care Services. County funds are now servicing 87 clients that is utilizing this program. Cards will be purchased for Z-trip rides for clients and we are in the process of obtaining an agreement with Freedom Transit for Wheelchair Transportation. We do have contract agreement with Jewish Family Services who will assist in the installation of grab bars for those clients who need it. In addition to Jewish Family Service's "Help at Home" program, we will also be able to offer 7 visits over a 3-month period for client relocation assistance such as

moving furniture, hanging items, etc. Companion service will also be rolling out, as well, where companionship is offered to in-home service clients who would benefit. 8 of our providers will be adding this service as an option.

- **Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Services Manager** stated all congregate centers are up and running with “grab & go” meals still being an option. There has been a large increase in home delivered meals since January with 641 clients increasing to 672 in May. A new flyer was sent to clients which includes the “Institute of Aging Friendship Line” and the “Compassionate Ear Warm Line”. Virtual cooking classes have started, which 30 clients signed up for.

This partnership with K-State Extension will be recorded and posted on the AAA website. Supplies and directions are included in packet.

The 3rd food drop will likely take place in June. This drop will serve approximately 800 clients. In light of Older Americans month, all home delivered clients will be receiving insulated bags which include shopping tips and instructions are reading nutrition labels.

- Andrea Leavitt and Pam Shernuk expressed concern on the growing population of seniors projected to live in Johnson County and the ability to accommodate services. Along with a new website and easier forms to complete, discussions plan to be had about what this looks like in the future.

- **Carol Colnar, Operations Manager** informed the Commission we are currently in audit season. We are working on spending \$270,000 by June 30 so County does not have to come up with \$209,000 to pay back. This can be challenging but efforts are underway to make this happen. This amount does have to be spent on certain items such as social isolation and nutrition needs and approval is needed from the State if any modifications are made. We are asking for in-home services that may be needed to assist with dental bills. Upcoming food distribution costs are approximately \$170,000. IN2L (It's Never Too Late) tablets are being considered for seniors who do not have access to internet services. This would assist with social isolation. The tablets are specifically designed just for seniors that include music and tv programs. The hope is to serve 200 clients.

- **Megan Laha, Director, Outreach & Administration** informed everyone that in-person client meetings have resumed at the multi service centers. The State has launched the Kansas Homeowners Assistance Fund that is ran through (Kansas Health & Resource Corporation) KHRC. Mortgage, property taxes, utilities, HOA fees can be included in this assistance program up to \$35,000.

In 2021 Outreach had 800 volunteers who served over 23,000 hours. These volunteers are being celebrated. There are still volunteers needed in areas Desoto, Gardner, Merriam and Overland Park. The County highlighted the volunteer efforts of Max Deweese. Max is 101 and volunteered for over 35 years.

In addition, ARPA funds will be used to purchase four commercial grade double ovens for the kitchen.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- Jarrod Ousley stated the KS Governor plans to sign a bill for sales tax relief on food that will begin with a drop by 2.5% in January of 2023 and January 2024 with it then hitting zero percent in 2025.
- Kim Mann is currently in the process of updating information for the Outreach Committee. The goal is to update and revise so information can be presented to the community through local rotaries, social media outlets and the Best of Times magazine.

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## REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR

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- Pam Shernuk extended an invitation from Katy Hoffman, (Chair for the Silver Haired Legislature) to discuss and develop the Legislative Platform.

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## OLD BUSINESS

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- Tim Wholf presented the latest American Community Service (ACS) data of seniors over 65 living alone in Johnson County. Approximately 22,083 people live alone. About half of those live in in 34 of 154 census tracts. Most of those tracts are Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village, and Overland Park. The top 10 tracts by count represent 4,566 who live alone. The top ten tracts by percent of seniors living alone only represent 2,302 residents.
- Joe Connor reported that were no updates to the discussions taking place on the kitchen. The County is working with other organizations but cannot be presented at this time.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

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- None at this time
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## **OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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- Andrea Leavitt alerted the board of scams amongst the elderly population and stated tax season is a time they can be targeted.
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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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- Meeting adjourned at 10:32.
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**Next COA meeting will be Wednesday, July 13, 2022 @ 9AM**

**NO JUNE MEETING**

**11811 S. Sunset Drive, RM 1070/1075**