

COMMISSION ON AGING

MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2022

~Hybrid~

OPENING AND WELCOME

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

INTRODUCTIONS, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

- Introductions and welcome to new COA board member, Mary Estrada.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, COA CHAIR – PAM SHERNUK

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON–SHIRLEY ALLENBRAND

- Absent

AGING & HUMAN SERVICES REPORT, TIM WHOLF, AHS DIRECTOR & TEAM

- Tim Wholf, AHS Director, attended the US Aging Conference in Austin, Texas in July. Tim conveyed information on the various workshops he took part in including the importance of data collection and its accuracy. Tim expressed he is creating a data project team within the department who will collect data and focus on ways to utilize the information effectively.

Other workshops focused on dementia & Alzheimer's disease. AHS staff is also working on dementia friendly objectives to benefit seniors. Another takeaway from the conference was encouraging a strong emphasis on *DEIB* (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging). Johnson County is also taking a stance on this in an effort to work towards a more inclusive organization.

Tim also met with the executive leadership team. A presentation was made from the group *REIC* (Racial, Equity, Inclusion & Community). This group will also aim to reach various populations within the community so information can be gathered in an attempt to better assist them.

With the talk about a possible revision of the Older Americans Act (OAA), conference leaders are striving to make sure these underserved populations are included in addressing their social needs. As a whole, our departments is hoping to provide outreach in accomplishing this goal to our senior population as well as their caregivers.

- Angela Pelger, AAA Program Manager, reported that we have filled the job position for an additional Eligibility & Options Specialist and they will start employment in September.
- Stephany Ikpe, AAA Nutrition Manager informed the board of a new cooking class offered to our clients. In a partnership with K-State Extension, the class this month will highlight cooking with “toaster bags”. They will offer a virtual cooking class. The department will deliver all food & cooking supplies (including new toasters, mini-blenders) to clients participating in the class. Written instructions & recipes will be provided to those who may not have computer access. The class sign-up increased from 20 in the microwave cooking class to 60 in the current class. Additional funding has supported these events that promote socialization. Surveys received from clients show positive feedback. This information will also be posted on our website as well so anyone in the community can access the video link if interested.
- Carol Colnar, Operations Manager displayed a CARE package for the board to view the various food & cleaning supply items that were included in this food distribution. The total cost of the items for this delivery was \$215. The next delivery (slated for September) will include food items for the next cooking supply class as well with items designed to assist clients in the fall & winter.

Leadership staff is currently working on the 2023 Area Plan due August 31. All COVID funds must be spent by September 30th and area plans for 2020, 2021 & 2022 will close on that date as well.

➤ Megan Laha, Director Administration, reminded the board that volunteers are still needed for home delivered meals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pam Shernuk provided committee updates to the board. Committee assignments are as follows; New executive committee members include Cindy Green who will act as Vice-Chair and Carol Feaker. New members for the Outreach team include Carol Feaker as chair, Rob Givens, Andrea Leavitt and Robert Cantu. Carol stated she is excited to reach out to seniors in hopes of providing the resources they may not be aware of. Paula Hurt encouraged data collection within these committees to bring back to the board for disussion. Those joining John Smith on the legislative committee will include Jarrod Ousley, Chris Talarico, Dale Warman and Cindy Green. Revision of the legislative platform for 2023 is underway for a vote at the September COA meeting. Any changes or additions should be voiced to the committee. Pam reminded the board that item #4 on the 2022 Legislative Platform indicating a gradual reduction of sales tax on food in Kansas has been accomplished. The legislative breakfast will be held at the Sunset building October 12th. Pam stated that in previous election years, invitations were extended to the BOCC (Board of County Commissioners) and current sitting legislative members and opposing candidates. Assistant County Manager, Joe Conner raised the concern that the board breakfast event should not be considered a candidate forum. The COA's legislative platform will be presented earlier than the County for their's is not introduced until November. Pam stated the intent for the event will only be an opportunity for the COA board to present the 2022 Aging Report as well as to thank them for the increase in Senior Care Act (SCA) funding. The legislative liason, Jarrod Ousley may speak briefly to welcome legislatures. A vote was taken on whether or not candidates should be included at the breakfast. The vote passed unanimously to include candidates to this social gathering.
- Paula Hurt along with Mary Estrada will lead the Peg Deaton Leadership award which is scheduled for the November meeting.
- Live Well-Age Well will be held September 14th.

REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR

- Pam Shernuk, reminded the board to keep reaching out to the community. Since it is an election year, she also reminded everyone to not endorse candidates on behalf of the COA.

OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Katy Hoffman with the Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) communicated suggestions made at their leadership meeting on the main issues they well present at their State meeting which included medicaid expansion, support of public transportation, broadband expansion & training, use of medicinal cannabis and increased SCA funding and support the AAA's, request to equalize sales tax on items the AAA pays to support clients.
- Natalie Yoza, Assistant County Counselor with the Johnson County Legal department attended the meeting and offered her expertise in areas legitimate to the board. This included rules involving electronic communication and (KOMA) Kansas Open Meetings Act.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:15

Next COA meeting will be Wednesday, September 12, 2022 @ 9AM

11811 S. Sunset Drive, RM 1070/1075

COMMISSION ON AGING
ATTENDANCE
August 10, 2022
~HYBRID~

COA BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Shernuk, Chair	Carol Feaker	Dale Warman
Cindy Green, Vice Chair	Jarrood Ousley	Chris Talarico
Paula Hurt	Andrea Leavitt	Rob Givens
John P. Smith	Mary Estrada	

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

Absent

AGING & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Tim Wholf, Aging & Human Services Director
Jay Leak, Deputy Director
Megan Laha, Director, Outreach & Administration
Angela Pelger, Program Services Manager
Stephany Ikpe, Nutrition Manager
Carol Colnar, Operations Manager
Jill Zink, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Joe Conner, Johnson County, Assistant County Manager
Natalie Yoza, Johnson County Legal
Katy Hoffman, Silver Haired Legislature
Greg Scott, Silver Haired Legislature
Gerald Ireland, Silver Haired Legislature

ABSENT

Shirley Allenbrand, BOCC Liaison
Jennifer Butterfield, AAA Finance Coordinator