

Commission on Aging Disability Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2021

The Commission on Aging and Disability met via ZOOM.

Members present: Sandra Kramer, Carolyn Denman, David Scribbins, Van Nelson, Linda Symons and Cindy Riley
Members absent: Patrick Manning, Virginia Wiedenfeld and Gary Peters
HHS Staff present: Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber, Stephanie Ronnfeldt, Debbie Hanzel and Linda Batten
Others present:

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by David Scribbins
- 2. Posting and Agenda:** Linda Batten verified the agenda was posted properly. Sandra Kramer made a motion to approve the agenda; Van Nelson and Linda Symons seconded. Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of August 11, 2021 Commission on Aging and Disability Meeting Minutes:**
 - Linda Symons made a motion to approve the August 11, 2021 Commission on Aging and Disability meeting minutes; Sandra Kramer seconded. Motion carried.
- 4. Board Education: Energy Assistance/Weatherization**
 - Stephanie Ronnfeldt told the board that the time for people to apply for Energy Assistance is 10/1/2021 to 5/5/2022. She said September 1st people could send in early applications. However, it will be awhile before they are processed because the person that does the processing is at the fair. Additionally, she said that the State has to release the funds. The State gets the funds from the Federal Government.
 - Stephanie explained that they would cut a check to the vendor except for wood. (Energy Assistance will pay a portion of the bill.)
 - Stephanie said that there has been a change from the past. Consumers now only have to provide paperwork showing one month of income.
 - Stephanie told the board that Energy Assistance has a separate pot of money (Emergency/Crisis funds) Example: this money can be used for people who are have no heat because they are out of fuel. Should someone need assistance over the weekend, people need to call the Sheriffs' department and they will get ahold of Northwest Connections.
 - Stephanie also told us about assistance with a furnace. A renter can apply for this. However, the check would go to the owner of the property.
 - Stephanie said that SWCAP will help with weatherization, new appliance and that they have more energy assistance. People can apply over the phone or online.
- 5. 2022-2024 Aging Plan:**
 - Roxanne went through the 2022-2024 Aging Plan for everyone and explained each line items.
 - She asked if there were any questions or suggestions for things that need to be added or changed. There was none.
 - Roxanne asked if the board would approve the 2022-2024 Aging Plan.
 - Linda Symons made a motion to approve the 2022-2024 Aging Plan; Sandra Kramer seconded. Motion carried.
- 6. ADRC Update:**
 - Roxanne said that each county will be allocated \$40,000 in the ADRC contract so they can get their own Dementia Care Specialist. Still not sure how this will work it may go through the region.
 - Roxanne also told the board that a Vaccine grant has been issued through GWAAR funding. She is working with Lamar to find out how much it would cost for billboards.
 - Roxanne reported that the 85.21 Transportation grant came out yesterday so she will be working on this.
 - Roxanne reported that there is \$30,000 in the Transportation trust fund. She is checking with the State to see if this money can be used for billboards to get volunteer drivers.
 - Roxanne told the board that tomorrow is Transportation Bingo and Pizza at the Phoenix Center. This event is being held with SWCAP, to attract volunteer drivers for both.
 - Roxanne reported that we received the tee shirts that SWCAP paid for to give to all the volunteer drivers. We purchased an extra 10 as well to ensure we have enough for new drivers as well.

- Roxanne reported because of COVID the Alive and Kicking event was cancelled the region is looking at dates for 2022 to reschedule the event.
- Roxanne reminded the board that Open enrollment for Medicare Part D is 10/15 to 12/7.

7. ADRC Budget Review:

- Roxanne reported that both the Aging and ADRC are under budget. ADRC is at 59% usage while Aging is at 51% usage.

8. Discuss possible Board member position opening:

- Roxanne stated that one board member has not attended three consecutive board meetings. According to the COAD by-laws, this person could be removed from the board. She said she would send this person another letter.
- Roxanne also reported that the board is still looking for someone for the Youth in Transition position on the board. She asked that if anyone knew of someone to have him or her get ahold of her.
- Roxanne said that she was waiting on the Committee on Committee to approve Joe Scribbins.

9. Regional ADRC Updates:

- Roxanne said that they would start working on the Regional budget for 2022.
- Roxanne reported that nursing home relocation funding will be rolled into the regional funding.
- Additionally, Roxanne said that there would be discussions about Dementia Care Specialist positions and how to utilize the increased funding to ensure there is a DCS for each county.
- Roxanne also said that the Region would be discussing when to reschedule Alive and Kicking.

10. Reports from Aging and Disability Organizations:

- Cindy Riley reported that the last few days have been slower at the hospital.
- Cindy further said that COVID continues to rise and they cannot get home health in for the people who are discharged who have had COVID. Many COVID patients are discharged to home without help.
- Cindy told the board that the medical floor is low on staff.
- Cindy said she has heard that Allen Bradley is offering \$1,000 to vaccinated employees.
- Cindy and Roxanne are working with Metastar to restart a Care Coalition. There is a variety of initiatives the group could work on, including the caregiver shortage.
- Debbie from ARC said part of the problem is the reduced rates for Adult Assisted Living facilities. Facilities can't afford to pay caregivers what they should.
- Debbie felt that pooling resources needs to be done and that the money should be directed to caregivers.
- Additionally, Debbie said that there should be free training for caregivers.

11. Citizen Comments:

- Sandra Kramer said she would be making homemade cheese curds.
- David Scribbins asked everyone to slow down and be careful when driving. There have been accidents near his home and he knows that speed has been the issue in some. He said he has reported the problem to 27 news to try to get some exposure for this issue.

12. Schedule Next Meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

13. Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn until Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. was made by Carolyn Denman; Sandra Kramer seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,