



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging

Regular Meeting of the Heritage Board of Directors
Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 1:30 p.m.

Via Conference Call and Heritage Area Agency on Aging Location

MINUTES

Call to Order

Present: Sister Susan O'Connor, Chris Montross, David Thielen, Dusti Winkie, Jasmine Megowan, John Schlarmann, Karen Huber, Karri Fisher, Michelle Buhman (with Guest, Intern Natalie Rugger), Sarah Wagner, Scott Olson and Larry Kudej.

Also Present: Barb Werning, Jennifer Knudtson, Kellie Elliott-Kapparos, Jill Sindt, Shannon Youmans, and Denise Babcock-Assistant Secretary

Vice-Chair, Sister Susan O'Connor, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Barb reminded Members this is an abbreviated Board meeting today after which the Heritage 101 Training session will take place from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Mission Moment – Shannon Youmans

Options Counselor, Shannon Youmans, shared that in April 2023 while driving back from a home visit, she saw an older gentleman by the side of the road lying face down in the grass. He appeared to be pinned down by his heavy backpack. After stopping, getting him to his feet and asking several questions, she discovered he was waiting for a bus. He said he routinely falls as well is sometimes knocked unconscious. Upon talking further, he agreed to meet regarding services Heritage may be able to provide.

Since the meeting, she has helped him fill out a Linn County LIFTS application, which was approved. This provides him transportation on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to a local gym for exercise and socialization. She also met with family members who agreed to help with his increasing needs. Because going up and down basement stairs was an issue for him, they were able take over doing his laundry as one of the items. Recently, the family called saying his level of care should be re-assessed. They feel he is at a point where a new place to live that provides further daily assistance is needed. Shannon said she was in the "right place at the right time" in order to assist this Consumer. Members of the Board thanked her for the good job performed in meeting his needs.

Approve or Amend Agenda

Directors Olson and Montross moved and seconded to approve today's agenda. Motion carried, 11-0.

Approval of Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, Held January 11, 2024.

Directors Montross and Olson moved and seconded to approve Thursday, January 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried, 11-0.

Changes to Advisory or Task Force Rosters

- Nothing to report at this time.

REGULAR AGENDA

Finance Report

- A draft of the annual Audit was received last week and will be completed by the end of March.
- \$5,000 grant award from United Fire Group was received for operational support and will go into the recently established ARPA Transition Account.
- As approved at the September 2023 Board meeting, a distribution of the interest from the KCC Older Iowans Endowment was received for ~ \$38,000. This was deposited into the ARPA Transition Account, bringing the balance to over \$81,000.

As a reminder, based on the Board's previous approval, the ARPA Transition account was opened in October 2023. Funds will be used to alleviate the fiscal cliff after the current ARPA funds are spent by 9/30/2024. Any unrestricted funds (contributions, grants, etc.) are added to this account as received.

- ADS Disbursement received as expected.
- IAFRS Q2 Report has been submitted.
- VOCA 1Q report has been submitted.
- The Area Plan budget is in the process of being developed and will be presented at the March Board meeting.
- Fiscal Dashboard will be sent out after today's meeting.

Approval of the Finance Report

After several questions were discussed, Directors Olson and Huber moved and seconded to approve the finance report. Motion carried, 11-0.

Fundraising Committee Report

- Nothing to report at this time. Committee will meet next on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Operations/Executive Director Report

- Iowa Workforce Development notified Heritage that the Older Workers Employment Program will end no later than September 30, 2024. Transition activities, including attrition, are currently underway. It is anticipated a Disability Specialist position will be added in each Vocational Rehabilitation office in the state. OWEPE employees have been encouraged to apply as positions open.
- The Heritage Area Plan Update, FY 2025, is in progress. In addition, the full next four-year Area Plan (FY26-29) will soon be underway.
- A legislative bill was introduced, and will be discussed at the Capitol next week, proposing redistricting the current thirteen Mental Health and Disability Service Regions to seven. The proposal includes moving gambling and substance use to the new Behavioral Health Regions and moving Disability Services to Aging Services. This will create a division of Aging and Disability Services. Administrative Service Organizations (ASO) would be established to manage the Behavioral health regions. There is a proposal to establish ASOs to also manage new ADRC regions (Aging and Disability Resource Center). Processes have not yet been determined and it is not known how the supports AAAs provide to people with disabilities will change with this redesign. Iowa AAA leadership will be meeting with Zach Rhein soon to discuss potential impacts. If you would like to receive a link to the bill, please let Barb know.

Action Items and Assignments

- Vice Chair, Sister Susan, asked if there were any items to address. Nothing was brought forward by Board Members at this time.

Open Agenda

- No items brought forward at this time.

Public Comment

- No comments were brought to the Board's attention.

Motion to Adjourn

Directors Montross and Olson moved and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried, 11-0.

There being no further business coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Babcock

Denise Babcock, Assistant Secretary

Approval by Board:

Keith Stamp

Keith Stamp, Chair