

Advisory Council meeting minutes

August 24, 2023

Present: Judi Hertle, Marianne Hanshaw, Don Kline, Kay Fisk, Evans Waller, Lisa Tallman, Larry Kudej

Staff: Harrison March

Evans Waller called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

Acceptance of Agenda

Judi Hertle motioned to accept the agenda, Kay Fisk second. Motion passed, 7-0.

Consideration of the meeting minutes for May 2023

Kay motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 2023 as presented, Judi second. Motion passed, 7-0.

Agency Report

Harrison March provided the agency report:

- Staff updates: Angie Wright started as an Options Counselor earlier this week. She replaces Kimi Hambright, who was promoted earlier this summer. Angie Guss, Elder Rights Specialist, has resigned her position effective next Friday. Heritage wishes her the best on her next chapter.
- Heritage will host a satellite site for the Older Iowans Legislature on 9/18, including light breakfast and box lunch. The room can hold up to 12 people so registration will be required – contact Harrison to do so. Kay suggested contacting the Southeast Linn Community Center about this opportunity. Larry Kudej noted that all who wish to participate and vote must still register to be OIL members.
- Look for more information about Caregiver Wellness Day in the next couple of weeks. Heritage hopes to open registration around Labor Day.

Program Report – Nutrition

Tim Getty, Regional Nutrition Coordinator, was unavailable due to a consumer crisis. Harrison will provide some updates later in the data report.

Annual Orientation

Harrison presented the Annual Orientation in place of Kellie Elliott-Kapparos. The presentation will be shared with members afterward. Discussion included:

- Evans would like to add more engagement with politicians to the Advisory Council's Roles. Harrison said this might be a consideration for when ByLaws are updated, as the official "Roles" are prescribed by Iowa State Code.
- Kay noted that when we refer to "the state," that now means Iowa Dept. of Health and Human Services. She served on the hiring committee for the Director who now oversees Aging and Disability Services and feels he will excel in the role.
- Evans recommended keeping paper forms available for the annual Advisory Council and Task Force forms to sign.

FY 2023 Program Data

Harrison reviewed FY 2023 Program Data for Congregate Dining, Elder Rights, Options Counseling and Case Management. If specific services are desired please let him know at least one week before the meeting. Discussion included:

- Trends of steady or increasing numbers of Unique Consumers served, as well as greatly increased service units (meals or hours spent with consumers) over the past five years.
- Kay asked the group's interpretation of why service units are increasing so much. Harrison suggested the complexity of cases is increasing and Judi wondered if many family caregivers returning to work after COVID created more need for services.

Election of Officers

Judi motioned to keep officers the same as last fiscal year: Evans as Chair, Kay as Vice-Chair. Don Kline second. Motion passed, 6-0.

County Task Force Updates

- Benton: Judi provided Heritage information at the county fair and a recent veterans Stand Down event.
- Cedar: Evans and other volunteers provided information on Heritage, senior dining and volunteer transportation at the county fair. Heritage staff also worked the Health Fair.
- Johnson: Harrison reported the Johnson County is encouraging members' active involvement in OIL and is considering goals for the coming year.
- Jones: Lisa Tallman deferred to Harrison, who shared that the Task Force and a group of service providers are considering starting a resource fair for seniors and caregivers. More to come.
- Linn: Kay shared positive reports about the Life Enrichment Center and its recent one year anniversary. They are currently planning fall activities.
- Washington: Don saw Harrison and Tim working at the farmers market earlier this summer. Encore is averaging 50-60 diners per meal.
- Iowa: Harrison is developing relationships with senior dining sites and hopes to meet with a local hospital soon, too.

Open Agenda

Evans asked if the group could do a brief roundtable and provided a prompt: What is something you think Heritage does well, and what is something you'd like to see expanded?

- Evans: more transportation available, perhaps having a regional van or bus
- Judi: Heritage has good relationships with local food banks
- Kay: feels comfortable and confident referring people to Heritage for accurate information
- Marianne: outreach is going well, but more radio interviews in Washington would help reach more seniors
- Lisa: appreciates Heritage's support for nutrition subcontractors
- Don: offering many services is great, but also means there are plenty that people could use more. Keep up the outreach.
- Judi suggested a generic brochure to post at churches and stores, with contact information for a local person to learn more. Kay echoed that Advisory Council members could serve as conduits for information on Heritage to their communities.
- Evans thanked members for their thoughts and suggested doing a roundtable type discussion again in the future.

Adjournment

Don motioned to adjourn the meeting, Marianne second. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.