

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Aug 18, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Judi Hertle, Marcia Taylor, Pat Franzenburg, Joyce Brunssen, Nancy Good, Amanda Seiler
Guest: Melissa Abel-Croy (BCVP)
Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Marcia Taylor motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Nancy Good second. Motion passed, 5-0.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison March, Heritage AAA:

- In-home visits continue while the office is still closed to the public. With high COVID transmission rates in Linn County, staff are required to wear masks when interacting with consumers and volunteers. Monitoring of the transmission rates will continue.
- Home-delivered meals continue at the Belle Plaine dining site.
- Eugenia Kendall has left Heritage for a position at the Iowa Dept. on Aging.

Judi:

- Didn't make it to the July Advisory Council meeting, but hopes to attend the next one. Harrison will send the next meeting date to Judi and Nancy.

Caregiver Speaker

No caregiver speaker this month, but Harrison scheduled Karen Huber of Home Instead to join in September. Her company provides a variety of in-home care services and, therefore, provides respite for family caregivers as well.

Marcia suggested a speaker from Heritage's Caregiver Support Program as well. Harrison will ask the staff about availability. Marcia recent referred a community member to the program.

Task Force Forms

Members had not received their forms yet, so Harrison will check when he returns to the office and send them out if still needed. They will include a pre-paid return envelope to the Heritage office.

Community Events for Outreach

Past Events:

- Judi had Heritage brochures and promotional items distributed at the County Fair via the ISU Extension booth.
- Amanda Seiler had brochures available at Party in the Park's medical tent.
- Did not attend Watermelon Days, as it wasn't clear that informational booths were part of this year's event.

Upcoming Events:

- Atkins: Atkins Days and Sunday Farmers Markets are an option, though the markets tend to be very hot in the evenings.

- Blairstown: Judi will take brochures to the Legion Auxiliary members selling pies at Sauerkraut Days. She doesn't believe booths are part of the event, so this will be a good workaround to still have information available.
- VA Stand Down: Harrison's contact at the VA didn't have an update last month, but Judi heard through the Legion that details have since been planned. She will send Harrison contact information for Janet at the Legion so he can follow up.
- VGH Health Fair: No updates yet, so still tentatively planning for an October event.
- Lutheran Home Drive Thru: suggested by Nancy as a busy event that might be willing to help promote Heritage to older adults. Joyce Brunssen agreed, and will get materials to a contact there.
- Belle Plaine Farmers Market: Pat Franzenburg offered to attend a market this season, date TBD.
- Nancy also suggested a flea market event held near the cemetery in September and an event at the Rec Center in November as potential options.

September Meeting Location

All present agreed that returning to the old format of alternating between Belle Plaine and Vinton is best. Harrison will contact the Kirkwood center about room availability. If unavailable, State Bank was suggested as a possible alternative.

Open Agenda

Harrison asked about the Live Wire, which some members mentioned when discussing events. Marcia explained it's similar to the Penny Saver, containing a variety of ads, promotions and community announcements. Nancy noted its ad rates can be expensive.

Nancy will ask a friend about putting Heritage brochures/information in the busses.

Other speaker ideas included transportation providers and ISU Extension.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Sept. 15, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Marcia Taylor, Joyce Brunssen
Guest: Melissa Abel-Croy (BCVP)
Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Vice Chair Marcia Taylor called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

Speaker: Karen Huber, Home Instead

Karen Huber, Franchise Owner of Home Instead in Cedar Rapids, shared information about Home Instead's services, which are available in Benton County. Printed materials were also distributed, which Harrison will mail to those not able to attend. Information included:

- Home Instead helps clients for any period of time (short- or long-term) with in-home, non-medical care. Services are tailored to the consumer's needs. Shifts are a minimum of four hours.
- Staff updates: recently added a nurse who helps set up medications and can answer more in-depth medical questions with families. They are seeking to hire more Caregivers, especially in Benton County. New hires receive extensive practical training in the office before working in the home with consumers.
- Services are billed privately and may be available via some long-term care insurance policies. All shifts are cataloged in an in-home log that helps verify this insurance use and keeps families informed.
- Services geared toward maintaining the older adult's independence. A little relief goes a long way toward letting family just be family.
- Home Instead has some GrandPads available to help consumers stay engaged, entertained and connected with family at no extra charge. These have been very well received.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison March, Heritage AAA:

- Maureen Haisman resigned from the Task Force as a voting member, but wishes to stay in the loop on news and information in case an opportunity to help arises.
- No major changes to operations since last meeting
- Heritage will soon open applications for multiple jobs, though exact details aren't available yet. Harrison will share specifics when available.

Community Events for Outreach

Past Events:

- Information was distributed at an event in Blairstown
- The Lutheran Home postponed an event due to COVID-19, so Joyce delivered those materials to the Atkins City Hall and Library instead

Upcoming Events:

- Harrison asked if the group thought the VGH Health Fair and VA Stand Down would be worthwhile. Both received support, so Harrison will submit Heritage's vendor applications and send a message about volunteering at the events.

Open Agenda

Joyce recommended a PBS documentary that followed a day in the life of a home health aide, which offered an interesting perspective. Harrison will try to locate this documentary online and send it to the group.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55 a.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes

Oct. 20, 2021

Present: Marcia Taylor, Joyce Brunssen, Judi Hertle

Guest: Melissa Abel-Croy (BCVP), Katherine Hines (United Way)

Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Marcia noted a typo to correct in August's minutes. Approval of minutes tabled due to lack of quorum.

Speaker: Katherine Hines, United Way

Katherine Hines, Volunteer Engagement Specialist at United Way, spoke about new efforts underway in Benton County. Presentation and discussion included:

- United Way is building out a volunteer center in Benton County and is supporting/working with programs already in place, including the Benton County Volunteer Program. There is no physical office yet, but they would like to establish one.
- Early work includes connecting with city mayors/administrators, employers, schools and volunteer groups to understand current needs.
- United Way uses an online platform to match opportunities with volunteers' interests.
- Ideas/volunteer needs noted by members included:
 - o Chore and lawn services
 - o Transportation
 - o Social isolation/wellness checks
 - o Assistance learning technology to stay in touch with family (phone, tablet, computer)
- United Way is beginning work with Benton County Disaster Coalition to help prepare for the next natural disaster. The goal is to have more people within the county to help lead recovery. Send interested volunteers their way to get involved.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison March, Heritage AAA:

- No major changes to operations since last meeting
- Heritage has posted three full-time job openings since the last meeting. There is one position each related to Options Counseling, Elder Abuse and Nutrition.

Community Events for Outreach

Previous: Harrison was at the VGH Health Fair in Vinton earlier this month and Marcia came by to help as well. They thought the event was well attended and offered a lot of good information.

Upcoming: the Benton County VA Stand Down is on Saturday (Oct 23) morning. Judi and Joyce have both offered to represent Heritage at the event, which is open to veterans of all ages.

Open Agenda

Judi noted Advisory Council meets next week on Thursday.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 17 2021, at 10 a.m. in Vinton.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes

Nov. 17, 2021

Present: Marcia Taylor, Joyce Brunssen, Judi Hertle, Nancy Good, Amanda Seiler

Guest: Madalyn Klobassa, Kimi Hambright and Shannon Youmans (Heritage AAA)

Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Speaker: Madalyn Klobassa, Heritage AAA

Madalyn Klobassa and Kimi Hambright presented on Heritage's Caregiver Support Program and the services available from staff and through referrals. Topics included emotional support, options counseling, case management and caregiver education.

Kimi explained the unique set up of her position, which includes working half-time within a 55+ independent living building. The Arbor funds her position for the time spent on-site and residents have the perk of Kimi's services at their fingertips.

Questions included:

- What are the most common things caregivers call about? In-home respite care and adult day care services to provide a break from caregiving and time to accomplish other things. COVID resulted in some hesitancy toward these services, but they are becoming more requested again.
- How is respite care paid for? Heritage staff talk with caregivers about the options, which might include private pay, Heritage assistance or waiver/grant programs.
- How do you talk to caregivers who are hesitant to let someone else care for their loved one? Emphasize that there are a lot of options. It's OK to request a different caregiver from the company if one is not a good fit, or to try another company altogether. Take time with the caregiver to make these decisions, validate their concerns and emphasize the value of self-care. Advocate for the caregiver when changes are needed.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes approved unanimously as presented.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison March, Heritage AAA:

- No major changes to operations since last meeting
- Shannon Youmans, Options Counselor, started on Monday, Nov. 15. Three jobs remain open.

Amanda Seiler, VGH

- Back to doing home health and maintaining vaccine clinics. COVID cases are up a bit over the last several weeks, so VGH continues to monitor the situation and adapt as needed.

Open Agenda

Harrison thanked members for their efforts representing the agency at various events the last few months. The Task Force attended 8 events and made almost 300 contacts with community members.

Judi reported her Auxiliary Legion is putting together care packs for some individuals who might need a friendly check-in during the holidays. The packs include info on local services, treats and more.

Marcia asked if the group could do some outreach with the Vinton meal site and deliveries, which members thought is a good idea. Judy added that she delivered materials to the food pantry recently.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Belle Plaine. Harrison encouraged members to stay in touch with needs and ideas over the winter break.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes

March 16, 2022

Present: Marcia Taylor, Amanda Seiler, Judi Hertle, Joyce Brunssen, Melissa Abel-Croy

Staff: Kellie Elliott-Kapparos

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Corrections noted to speaker name and a typo. Marcia motioned to approve minutes with corrections, Judi second. Motion passed.

Heritage & Community Reports

Heritage AAA:

- Staff working on annual updates to Area Plan and subcontractor Requests For Proposals. The Area Plan, which includes subcontractor funding and next Fiscal Year's budget is due to the Iowa Department on Aging by April 1, 2022.
- In-person caregiver sessions in each county are being scheduled for June. Heritage hopes that Task Force members will assist with spreading the word and attend. Once dates are finalized, they will be shared with the group.

Presentation: Elder Rights Program

Kellie presented on the Heritage Elder Rights Program. Contact Harrison March for a copy of the presentation.

Coming Up Soon

Annual Elections

- Elections for Task Force officers and Advisory Council will take place in May. Harrison will provide a voting 'cheat sheet' about eligibility at the April meeting.

Community Events

- Kellie reminded members of the success they had last summer during events season, and Heritage hopes to have information available at more community events this year.
- Judi said the Task Force is willing to help with this again and she will start by reaching out to the Extension office about sharing a table again. Judi also thanked Sjonna Brunt at Heritage for sending over caregiver materials, and added she is willing to help promote the next event, too.

Harrison's Parental Leave

- Harrison will likely be out on parental leave sometime in the coming month. Meetings will be covered by Heritage staff as needed, so keep an eye out for communications from other staff.

Open Agenda

No items presented.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m. Next scheduled meeting is April 20, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Belle Plaine.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Elliott-Kapparos, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes

April 20, 2022

Present: Judi Hertle, Melissa Abel, Amanda Seiler, Nancy Good, Sarah Wagner

Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

No corrections proposed. Meeting minutes approved as presented.

Heritage & Community Reports

Harrison, Heritage AAA:

- Heritage office is now open to the public by appointment. Call or email to schedule a time.
- Operations and programs are pretty much back to pre-COVID, save for a couple of dining sites. Melissa noted the Belle Plaine site reopened this week to congregate dining.
- Denise Babcock started at Heritage providing support for the nutrition and elder rights program.
- Nancy asked if the Vinton dining site is open, but Harrison is not sure since it's not a Heritage program. He will find out and follow up.

Melissa, Benton County Volunteer Program:

- March was a quiet month, but April has seen a big increase in need for volunteers. Averaging 3-4 drives a day and seeing lots of need in Newhall.
- Expanding back into Vinton local drives using VGH funds.

Speakers Update

Harrison scheduled Benton County Access Hub to present in May on their services related to mental health. Melissa noted mental health resources seem especially important at this time due to the stress of the pandemic and the prolonged end of winter. Judi recommended NAMI in Van Horne as another potential speaker on mental health resources.

Outreach

Judi said the County Fair is a go this year, sharing a booth with ISU Extension. She will check on any items left over from previous events and let Harrison know what's needed for this year's Fair. Other discussion included:

- Judi will look into any farmers' markets Extension might be attending.
- Melissa hasn't seen much about Belle Plaine markets this year, but will keep her eyes open.
- Amanda said there hasn't been any news yet regarding the VGH Health Fair, but all agreed it's been a great event in the past and they'd like to attend again.

Elections in May

Harrison previewed the Task Force and Advisory Council elections that will take place in May, including roles and eligibility. No questions or further discussion at this time.

Open Agenda

Harrison hopes to have details available soon for a caregivers' event in June. Heritage will host one in each county, with Benton's likely to be in Vinton. More to come.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m. Next scheduled meeting is May 18 at 10 a.m. in Vinton.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes

May 18, 2022

Present: Judi Hertle, Marcia Taylor, Amanda Seiler, Lindsay Upah (Access Hub), Sarah Wagner (General Assistance Office)

Staff: Harrison March

Task Force Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

No corrections proposed. Meeting minutes approved as presented.

Heritage & Community Reports

Harrison, Heritage AAA:

- Heritage is adding the Iowa Return to Community program to its services this July, pending the hire of a Health Coach to provide the program. It provides support to older adults transitioning home from a hospital/skilled nursing stay for up to 90 days. The goal is to prevent readmission and keep the consumer happy and healthy at home.

Presentation: Benton County Access Hub

Lindsay provided brochures and other printed material resources to members. Information included:

- The Access Hub started as a kind of urgent care for mental health in Benton and other nearby counties. Previously named the Access Center, so some materials may have that name.
- Currently going through staffing changes but doing best to meet needs ASAP, including phone screenings that roll through to cell phones when nobody is in the office.
- Office is designed with the "living room model" which makes for a more comfortable, welcoming space. Couches, table, chairs and a kitchen area are available.
- Services are available county-wide.
- Some of the biggest help comes from their 1:1 calls/interventions and the crisis response with police department. The PD crisis service can be life-changing by diverting would-be incarcerations to mental health services at the hospital.

Annual Elections

Motion made by Marcia Taylor to continue with current officers and Advisory Council Representatives, as all are eligible to return: Judi for Chair, Marcia for Vice-Chair; Judi and Nancy for Advisory Council.

Harrison will conduct voting via email (note: nominations approved, 4-0).

Caregiver Event June 15

Harrison asked the group about places to promote Heritage's caregiver seminar on June 15. Some members will post flyers around the community, and Sarah Wagner suggested contacting churches as well. Harrison will check about his contact list for the churches.

Because the meeting is the same day as the caregiver event, members are OK with touching base before the event in place of meeting twice in one day.

Open Agenda

Judi will help get Heritage materials to the county fair for distribution at the ISU Extension table June 21-25.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at about 10:50 a.m. Next meeting is replaced by the caregiver event June 15.