

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Sept 16, 2020
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Joyce Brunssen, Maureen Haisman, Judi Hertle, Marcia Taylor, Amanda Seiler, Colleen Gibbins
Staff: Harrison March, Barbara Werning

Before the meeting began, members discussed the status of derecho recovery at their homes, farms and neighborhoods. Everyone was and is safe physically, but there is considerable damage to some properties that will take a while to clean up and recover from.

Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Marcia Taylor, Task Force Chair, asked for amendments to the meeting minutes under review or a motion to approve as presented. Amanda Seiler motioned to approve the minutes, Joyce Brunssen second. The motion passed unanimously.

Introduction – Barbara Werning, Executive Director

Barbara Werning, Executive Director of Heritage Area Agency on Aging, introduced herself to the group. She is a Benton County native, having grown up on a farm between Newhall and Van Horne. She has been in the Executive Director role at two organizations previously. She started at Heritage AAA on July 1. It's her third month now, but due to the unusual demands of COVID-19 and derecho emergencies, she's still getting up to speed in some ways. She has been impressed by both the staff and community support for the organization.

Members of the Task Force introduced themselves to Barbara, noting the communities they represent, time volunteered for Heritage AAA and work experiences.

Heritage AAA Updates

Harrison shared updates for the agency, which largely centered around derecho response efforts: wellness checks; emergency food supplies; and referrals to emergency supports, volunteers and assistance programs. The derecho added a new layer to 'COVID-normal' operations, so efforts are focused on returning to that status.

If members or anyone in Benton County needs help understanding or connecting with FEMA individual assistance or the Benton County Disaster Response Coalition, they're encouraged to call Heritage AAA.

Member/Local Updates

Marcia reported the last Advisory Council meeting included annual training and officer elections.

Judi Hertle said she'll be at the ISU Extension & Outreach Resource Fair on the 22nd. The event is at the county fairgrounds and will have resources and informational speakers to help people with derecho recovery. She offered to include Heritage AAA info if Harrison is able to get brochures to her in time. Harrison will be at the office in the afternoon and will mail some out.

Marcia said she is unsure about the status of the Benton County Community Health Fair, which Heritage AAA has participated in before. Harrison said the fair is moving to a drive-thru format and will be held in

different towns during the second week of October. To avoid confusion about times and locations, he will follow up with a schedule for the event.

FY2020 Service Data

Service data for FY2020 was shared with the group. Data included unduplicated consumers in Benton County, unduplicated consumers in the Heritage AAA region, total services in Benton County, total services in the Heritage AAA region and the percentage Benton accounted for in both categories.

Discussion included:

- Harrison shares this for three reasons:
 1. It has been done in past years, so he wants to maintain the practice
 2. For the sake of transparency and showing the members some of the outcomes of their efforts
 3. To show what areas are excelling and which may have opportunities to grow
- Service categorized as “CG” are for Caregivers and “EAPA” are for Elder Abuse Protection and Awareness.
- Difference between how Heritage AAA counts unduplicated consumers and total services. Example: congregate nutrition served 113 unduplicated consumers, or 113 unique people. It had 749 total services, meaning those 113 people combined to have 749 meals.
- With the demands of derecho recovery, it’s best at this time to sit on this information and think about it long-term. It may lead to some outreach ideas down the road, but focus now should remain on recovery.
- Barbara noted the importance of reviewing this data, but also to remember that needs can vary by county and community. This data can help us figure out some of those needs, but so will continuing to be strong, local advocates for older adults. Keeping an eye out and supporting each other is as important as ever.

Open Agenda

No items were presented during open agenda.

Harrison noted the next meeting will be Oct. 21, 2020, at 10 a.m. on Zoom/conference call.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Oct 21, 2020
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Marcia Taylor, Amanda Seiler, Maureen Haisman, Joyce Brunssen
Staff: Harrison March

Review of Meeting Minutes

Marcia Taylor, Task Force Chair, asked for amendments to the meeting minutes under review or a motion to approve as presented. Maureen Haisman motioned to approve the minutes, Joyce Brunssen second. Motion passed unanimously.

Heritage AAA Updates

Harrison March provided a Heritage AAA report:

- Operations are largely the same since the last meeting, with a small number of staff working from the office while the rest work remotely.
- Derecho recovery is ongoing in many Heritage communities and with winter coming up, there is some concern about older adults having homes prepared for the inclement weather. If anyone knows an older adult struggling to get their home repaired for winter, please contact Heritage to see if help is available in the form of volunteers, assistance programs or other arrangements.
- Family Caregiver Awareness Month is coming up in November. Keep an eye out for Heritage's promotion of the topic online, through the nutrition program and more.

Member/Local Updates

Marcia Taylor provided an update from Advisory Council:

- Advisory Council has new officers: Stephanie Humphries is Chair and Lindsay Glynn is Vice-Chair
- AAAs across the state remain closed due to COVID-19
- Big concerns around social isolation among older adults, especially with winter approaching and there being fewer opportunities to leave the home. More will be discussed in the Oct. 22 meeting.
- Heritage AAA's Board of Directors will rotate its meeting locations when they return to in-person meetings. Marcia suggested having representation from the Benton County Task Force at the meeting in Benton County. Details will be determined at a later date.
- Service Needs Ranking Forms to help with the Heritage AAA Area Plan are due at the end of the month.

Regarding the Ranking Form, Marcia and Joyce said theirs are complete and returned. Maureen would like another copy mailed to her, so Harrison will coordinate that with someone working in the Heritage AAA office.

Heritage Area Plan

Harrison asked if there are any questions about the Ranking Form. There were no questions at this time.

Harrison added that the November meeting will largely focus on discussion/verbal feedback for the Area Plan. Eugenia Kendall from Heritage AAA will lead a discussion among Task Force members, Board of Directors representatives, service providers and others. Feedback on the Ranking Forms will be covered among other topics related to the Area Plan.

Open Agenda

No items were presented during open agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Nov. 18, 2020
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Amanda Seiler, Maureen Haisman, Pat Franzenburg, Marcia Taylor, Judi Hertle
Excused: Joyce Brunssen
Guests: Dusti Winkie (HAAA Board of Directors)
Staff: Harrison March, Eugenia Kendall, Barbara Werning, Mike Chapman, Kimi Hambright

Welcome & Attendance

Task Force Chair Marcia Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Guests and Heritage staff introduced themselves to the Task Force.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Amanda Seiler motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Maureen Haisman second. Motion approved, 4-0.

Heritage Area Plan Discussion

A few days before the meeting, Harrison shared the slides used to guide this discussion.

Barbara Werning provided an overview of the agency and the Area Plan. She thanked members for working on the Service Ranking Form, noting that today's discussion was about following up to learn the stories and reasons behind the results. Eugenia Kendall reviewed the survey results broken down by urban and rural counties. Discussion included:

- Marcia: transportation ranking highly is no surprise. There are general services available for this, but less so for assisted transportation and consumers who need help door-to-door. Also unsurprised that Caregiver Counseling is high on the list, as there is concern around caregiver burnout. Eligibility and COVID concerns around in-home and out-of-home respite are key factors.
- Barbara and Eugenia noted that Benton County is in some ways a model community for the volunteer transportation offered.

Eugenia reviewed results of the top-of-mind issues reported in the survey. Discussion included:

- Marcia: food is always an issue, both in terms of access and quality of nutrition. There are some services and options that aren't available due to the pandemic, such as free meals at the church and community gardening.
- Pat Franzenburg: the grocery store in Belle Plaine has done well supporting the community during the pandemic. They deliver groceries in-town and to Keystone. Regarding transportation to doctor's appointments, Pat added that Health Education/Advocacy is an important topic to address. Whether its discomfort or lack of knowledge, too many older adults don't ask or talk to their doctors about important health concerns. This eventually leads to problems that could've been avoided or lessened with earlier treatment/intervention.

Barbara opened the floor to other thoughts on the county and service needs. Observations included:

- Marcia: still plenty of work to do regarding education on services and consumers' comfort with asking for help. There are also some community members who can't or won't pay for certain services that would be of benefit.

Eugenia reviewed the next steps for the Area Plan, the Focus Groups that members can join if interested and contact information for any follow up thoughts.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison reported no noteworthy changes to agency operations. There is a new Tai Chi for Older Adults series on the Heritage Facebook page. Classes are broadcast live on Tuesday afternoons. You do not need a Facebook account to view the videos.

Marcia asked Harrison to talk about the pen pals program he emailed about that morning. Linn County Task Force member Sandy Bruns works with COVID Recovery Iowa and is leading a pen pals program in eastern Iowa. It connects volunteer writers with residents of long-term care facilities. Anyone interested can contact Sandy with the information provided in the email or can reach out to Harrison to make a connection. Pat shared a story about the significance of a small gesture like that to someone who's socially isolated – she delivered flowers near the start of the pandemic and saw the effect first-hand.

Open Agenda

No items were presented during open agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
Feb. 17, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Maureen Haisman, Pat Franzenburg, Marcia Taylor, Judi Hertle
Guests: Kiersten Onanga (Access 2 Independence)
Staff: Harrison March

Welcome & Attendance

Task Force Chair Marcia Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Harrison apologizes for any headache caused by the password setting being enabled for the meeting – it should not have been.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Pat Franzenburg motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Maureen Haisman second. Motion passed, 3-0.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison reported Heritage AAA updates:

- No major changes to operations
- Lots of work the last two weeks helping seniors identify vaccine options and transportation services in their area. Heritage can help with this just like other Info., Referral & Assistance services.
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers class registration is open through Friday

Marcia provided an Advisory Council update:

- Continuing to work on the Area Plan
- Benton County identified as an underserved county based on population and overall proportion of seniors served. Referrals to the agency are encouraged to help serve more Benton County residents.

Transitions & Diversions

Kiersten Onanga presented to the group about her transitions program at A2I, helping people living in care facilities transition back into their home setting. Information included:

- Comparing the Medical Model and Social Model philosophies for assessing a person and their living environment
- Some ways people come to live in long-term care but later are ready to move out
- The funding process for resources and services upon exiting long-term care
- Services A2I provides that help with the transition
- Qualifications for A2I services

Questions included:

- Marcia: What will happen if funding is not secured past September and how is it funded now?
 - o There would still be no fee for services, but A2I would need to rely more on working with other community resources and organizations. It is currently funded through federal funds distributed to states and then organizations like A2I. Much of this is from the CARES Act.
- Pat: Are there age requirements for the program?
 - o There are not. Individuals with disabilities of any age are eligible.

- Marcia: Where is A2I located? How big is the staff?
 - o Main office is in Iowa City and an extension office is in Cedar Rapids. Staff travel to visit consumers, however less so now due to the pandemic. Staff is the biggest it's ever been right now with 4 full-time staff and 2 part-time.
- Pat: How would someone refer a consumer?
 - o Can work through Heritage AAA or refer directly to A2I. Referrals can be made via phone or email by the consumer or another person connected with them.
- Judi Hertle would like to include this information in her church's bulletin. Is there a flyer that could be shared?
 - o Harrison will send a copy of the presentation and the program flyer after the meeting.

Open Agenda

No items were presented during open agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
April 21, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Judi Hertle, Marcia Taylor, Joyce Brunssen, Maureen Haisman
Staff: Harrison March

Welcome & Attendance

Task Force Chair Marcia Taylor called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Judi Hertle motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Maureen Haisman second. Motion passed, 4-0.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison reported Heritage AAA updates:

- Heritage AAA is hiring for multiple positions. Details can be found on the website or by contacting Harrison.
- Discussion is ongoing about reopening the office and in-person services. Current plans are to ease back into this in a few phases, with a goal for being fully open in late summer. This timeline is subject to change based on the pandemic's trends.
 - o In person meetings may be possible soon, but members decided it's best to wait

Marcia Taylor heard the Benton County Fair will take place this June. Judi noted booths are \$50-\$60, though Marcia has reached out to a contact about potentially splitting booths. ISU Extension & Outreach was noted as a potential partner for sharing a space due to overlap in Powerful Tools for Caregivers programming and their work on seniors' issues.

Task Force Areas of Interest

Marcia noted that along with County Fair opportunities, she thinks upcoming events are good chances to do outreach and introduce themselves to more community members as connections to Heritage. Potential events/outreach opportunities this summer included: Atkins Watermelon Days (August), Garrison Fun on Main St (July), Vinton's Party in the Park, VGH Health Fair, Belle Plaine VA Stand Down, and Farmer's Markets. Harrison will make a list to track down the status of these events, contact info, etc. for reference as plans take shape.

In addition to events, Marcia suggested contacting social workers at VGH and Benton County.

Open Agenda

Harrison noted 2-1-1 is still available to help schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

There is no Advisory Council meeting this month (next meeting is in June). AC Chair Stephanie Humphries resigned from the position, so Vice-Chair Lindsay Glynn will assume the Chair role.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
May 19, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

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

Welcome & Attendance

Task Force Chair Marcia Taylor called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m. Members introduced themselves and Marcia welcomed Melissa Abel-Croy of the Benton County Volunteer Program. Melissa has been at BCVP since March and is enjoying her start in a new industry.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Judi Hertle motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Marcia second. Motion passed, 4-0.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison reported Heritage AAA updates:

- Return to in-person services plans have been shared with staff: June for limited services/home visits, July for partially open office and August for close-to-normal operations. This is subject to pandemic trends.
- Nutrition programs have been given guidelines for reopening, which include a two-week notice period for Heritage. So far Harrison hasn't heard of plans in Benton County, but will pass them along if he does hear more.

Community Events for Outreach

Judi reported Iowa State Extension & Outreach will share a booth at the County Fair and allow Heritage materials to be distributed from their table. Judi is likely to work the booth some days of the fair since she helps E&O as well. She is still waiting to hear back about local farmers' markets, but E&O usually does at least one event per season.

Discussion around contacts for other outreach opportunities included:

- Pat Franzenburg asked about the VA Stand Down in Belle Plaine: Harrison will check to see if he's already contacted Toni Parizek about this event.
- Watermelon Days: Marcia noted a few people from Atkins are on the Task Force, which may be helpful in getting a booth. Judi suggested trying to get a spot near the free watermelon to increase foot traffic.
- Fun on Main Street: Amanda Seiler will reach out to a contact in Garrison about event information.
- Party in the Park: Judi noted this event is typically more about fun and games for younger adults and kids, so maybe isn't a good fit for Heritage.

FY22 Elections in June

Harrison covered the bylaws regarding Task Force officers and Advisory Council representatives. Elections will be held for both in June. Marcia has reached the term limit (3 years) as Task Force Chair and Advisory Council representative, so she is ineligible for a year. Marcia will ask Joyce Brunssen about her plans regarding continuing on Advisory Council.

Harrison encouraged members to think of who they'd like to nominate for any open roles, including if they'd like to be nominated.

Open Agenda

Pat asked how other Task Forces are handling future meetings: in-person, virtual, or both? Harrison said there's a range across different groups, but nothing is really off the table. If members are not comfortable having an in-person meeting, virtual will always be an option. Harrison will add FY22 meeting schedule and plans to the June agenda. Melissa noted the Belle Plaine Community Center is open again and may be able to host a meeting.

Marcia informed Melissa of the application to be a voting member of the Task Force, which Melissa requested. Harrison will email it to Melissa and to Judi for a contact of hers, too.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff

Benton County Task Force meeting minutes
June 16, 2021
Zoom/Conference Call

Present: Judi Hertle, Marcia Taylor, Pat Franzenburg, Joyce Brunssen
Guest: Nancy Good
Staff: Harrison March

Welcome & Attendance

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

Review of Meeting Minutes

Pat Franzenburg motioned to approve the May 2021 minutes as presented, Judi Hertle second. Motion passed unanimously.

Heritage & Community Updates

Harrison March reported Heritage AAA updates:

- In-person services like home visits are back open, while more like congregate dining are on the horizon. Harrison can provide updates on particularly services and programs any time members would like – just reach out.
- Heritage has hired three new staff members: Jenn Knudtson, Fiscal Director, and Miranda Kasemeier, Options Counselor, have started their positions. A Data Project Specialist will start later this month.

Community Events for Outreach

Marcia Taylor covered the list of potential outreach events this summer as members provided updates:

- Belle Plaine Farmers Markets: Melissa Abel-Croy informed Harrison that the market is open on Fridays into the fall. She may be able to attend one of these, but is not certain yet.
- Benton County Fair: Judi will work with ISU Extension to get materials onto their table. Harrison will call Judi after the meeting to coordinate material drop-off.
- VA Stand Down: Heritage can attend, but should check back later this summer when more details may be known.
- Watermelon Days: August 7 is the big day to attend in Atkins. Harrison may be able to be at this one, as might Joyce Brunssen.
- Fun on Main Street: Amanda Seiler previously offered trying to reach a contact in Garrison. Updates to come.
- Party in the Park: determined not to be the target audience and typically there aren't vendors here, but Nancy Good suggested seeing if materials could be available at the medical tent. Marcia will call Amanda to ask about this possibility.
- VGH Health Fair: Heritage is on the contact list to receive information when plans are announced.

FY22 Elections

Discussion included:

- Nancy asked about the difference between the Task Force and Advisory Council, which Marcia provided.
- Joyce has resigned from Advisory, but wishes to remain with the Task Force.

- Vice-Chair Pat Franzenburg doesn't wish to be Chair, but would remain Vice. Harrison first thought this was OK, but checked the Bylaws and determined the three-term limit applies to all Officers.
- Judi could Chair the Task Force and would consider joining Advisory Council alongside Nancy.

Marcia motioned to nominate Judi and Nancy to Advisory Council, as well as Judi to Chair and herself to Vice-Chair. Harrison would continue writing meeting minutes. Joyce second. Motion passed unanimously.

FY22 Meeting Schedule

All present agreed to repeat the FY21 meeting schedule: meetings the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. No meetings will be held in July, December or January.

August's meeting will be held at the Belle Plaine Community Center with following meeting locations to-be-determined.

Open Agenda

Discussion included some community members who may be good additions to the Task Force.

For the August meeting, Harrison will try to secure a speaker on Caregiver programs and services. He will also send members information on current caregiver programming at Heritage.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m. Next meeting scheduled for August 18 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison March, Heritage AAA Staff