



Heritage  
Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**August 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Liz Elizabeth Koehn, Karri Fisher, Christine Yancey  
**Staff:** Harrison March

Task Force Chair Elizabeth Koehn called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Elizabeth asked those present for comment on June 2020's meeting minutes. Don Kline noted they accurately reflect that meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes. Elizabeth second. Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Community/Member Updates**

Karri Fisher met with a representative from DHS regarding nutrition programs and food stamps. She learned that seniors in the program usually have \$15 on their cards, but during COVID that funding has increased. Elizabeth asked if enrollees need to apply for this extra funding. Karri said no, it is added automatically. She has some promotional materials she plans to distribute. Harrison March asked Karri to scan him a copy so he can share into with other Heritage AAA staff as well.

Karri said she put in a plug for Medicaid with the DHS worker. Karri would like more presence of people who can help older adults enroll. Without their help, Heritage AAA is the only organization she knows of that will help older adults apply for Medicaid. Elizabeth added that SHIP can also help, though in her volunteer role she is only offering help over the phone. She can walk people through applying.

Harrison reported Heritage AAA offices are still closed to the public, but some staff are working from the office. Heritage AAA management is extending some flexibility to staff regarding their ability to perform job duties from home and comfort with working in the office.

Harrison added that HAAA is adding derecho response efforts to normal service delivery. Staff and volunteers did wellness check calls with nearly every Heritage AAA consumer and in-person checks are covering the rest. Volunteers will soon be helping with wellness checks to non-consumer older adults as well.

### **Data Review**

Harrison gave an overview of the spreadsheet sent to Task Force members the week before. It breaks down FY2020 service data by unduplicated consumers in Washington County and the entire Heritage AAA region, as well as total services delivered in Washington County and the entire region. He noted that two categories with zeros in Washington County, chore service and congregate dining, do not have services affiliated with Heritage AAA programs/databases, thus no consumers.

Elizabeth asked Harrison about Caregiver Supplemental Services – what is that service and how would it work? Harrison referenced the IDA reporting manual, which defines it as “goods and services provided on a limited basis to complement the care provided by caregivers.” An example may be a pack of incontinence pads for someone with an immediate need and no other means of acquiring them.



Don noted he's happy to see that Adult Day (18.1%) and Out-of-Home Respite Care (34.4%) services provided were over the percentage of older adults Washington County accounts for in the Heritage AAA region (5.8%). Elizabeth asked Don if he knew the status of Adult Day programs in Washington given the COVID-19 pandemic. Don said some programs have reopened, but are screening participants for symptoms regularly. He also reported hearing McCreedy Home will be closing due to low enrollment. Many residents are expected to move to the United Presbyterian Home. Elizabeth asked if there have been COVID outbreak at any facilities in Washington. Don and Karri said there have been cases, but not enough to qualify as an "outbreak."

### **Goals for FY21**

Don sees adding a congregate dining program as a good opportunity to connect participants with other Heritage AAA services and do some outreach. Elizabeth asked if the Encore Express program is still possible in the future. Harrison said yes, Heritage AAA still wants to launch the program when it is safe again for large gatherings of older adults. The biggest question is when that will be possible given COVID trends.

Given that services related to caregivers had little-to-no activity per the FY2020 data, Harrison suggested that as an area of focus for the near future. He offered to prepare some advertisements and pitches regarding caregiver services that could be used in the coming months. Members agreed that would be a good place to start, so Harrison will work on preparing those for the next meeting.

### **Open Agenda**

Elizabeth suggested putting together an information packet for new members of the Task Force. Its purpose would be to get volunteers up to speed on several aspects of Heritage AAA: overview of the organization, organizational structure, services and programs, etc. Harrison said he can draft a packet for the next meeting for members to review.

Elizabeth asked if Task Force minutes could be posted on the Heritage AAA website so they can see what other groups are discussing and working on. Harrison said they are posted on each county's page after the Task Force approves the minutes.

Elizabeth asked if there could be a sort of one-stop-shop for ideas, links, articles, etc. that are relevant to older adulthood and may be of interest to Task Force members. These could help people stay informed and possibly spark ideas for Task Forces. Harrison will look into how this may be possible on the Heritage AAA website.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 23, 2020, at 1 p.m. on Zoom/conference call.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
June 25, 2020



Heritage  
Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Elizabeth Koehn, Tracy Laws, Kiersten Onanga  
**Staff:** Harrison March

Prior to the meeting, there was discussion about the status of adult day programs in the county. Don Kline said he's not aware of any more re-opening or opening any further. Tracy Laws reported Lending Hands is open and doing screening and temperature checks in cars every morning as consumers arrive. They also do temperature checks at noon and before consumers leave for the day. They are still not allowing visitors and to date have not had positive tests or any consumers presenting symptoms.

Task Force Chair Elizabeth Koehn called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Elizabeth asked for comment on August 2020's meeting minutes. Don motioned to approve the minutes Elizabeth second. Motion passed to approve the minutes as presented.

### **Community/Member Updates**

See notes from prior to meeting starting for update from Tracy Laws at Lending Hands.

Kiersten Onanga shared an update from Access2Independence. A2I is still in 'emergency mode' with food and hygiene products. Kiersten is now working 3 days per week at A2I and 2 days at Hospice of Iowa City. Elizabeth asked if A2I is still working on helping consumers register to vote. They recently helped with a forum on the topic that will be published soon. Kiersten will share the link when it's available. Elizabeth asked if A2I still has the resources to meet food and hygiene product demands. Kiersten said yes. They've also been able to still use CARES Act funding to help with some emergency rent assistance and getting phones to consumers who are otherwise socially isolated. A2I will soon be hiring a Transition Specialist as well.

Don shared that the long-term care facility his wife is at had someone who entered the facility later test positive for COVID-19. They have added twice weekly testing to monitor residents and thus far have no positive tests or symptoms as a result of this.

### **Heritage Update**

Harrison reported Heritage AAA offices are still closed to the public. A few staff are working from the office, often at least one person from management and any others who wish to work from the office. A lot of the leg work surrounding derecho recovery has been done: compiling resources, getting emergency food supplies to consumers, etc. Focus now is on maintaining those while individuals continue their recovery.

Elizabeth asked if there has been conversation around the reopening of congregate dining programs. Harrison said that while the state has given the green light for programs to begin reopening with certain safety protocols, the Heritage region has not done so. Conversations will continue until it's safe enough to do so, but in the meantime programs around the region have adapted to meet nutrition needs through delivery and grab-and-go services.

### **New Task Force Member Welcome Document**

Harrison shared the document created following conversation in the last meeting. The goal is to



make an informational packet that gets new members (and current members who need a refresher) up to speed on who Heritage AAA is, how it operates, services available, etc.

Don suggested adding a calendar of weeks and months that Heritage observes or raises awareness around. An example is the current week, which is Falls Prevention Awareness Week. Knowing these ahead of time may help volunteers prepare for those subjects or know to look for information about the topic.

No other changes were suggested at this time. Harrison will do some touch up work and share a final draft in the next meeting.

Don would like to share copies of this with the Chamber office in Washington, which often has volunteers sitting inside to give residents and visitors information on a variety of subjects. Another place to share may be KCII Radio, as they often have interviews and programming.

### **Caregiver Support Program Promotion**

Harrison shared some information he gathered for potential promotions of Heritage's Caregiver Support Program. He suggested that with the timeline we're on, a good time to target promotion could be November, which is Family Caregiver Awareness Month.

Advertising rates were gathered for billboards, The Washington Evening Journal newspaper and KCII Radio. Historically, Task Force members have cited WEJ and KCII as the best places to consider advertising due to their local support and audiences.

- Billboards: Inventory further north is limited due to low availability and damage from the derecho. The only openings would cost over \$2,000 each for production and rental, which is high relative to other options. At this time, Harrison does not recommend pursuing this option.
- WEJ: reasonably priced rates are available, especially considering target the four-week stretch of November. Harrison would like to pursue this option and present an ad to the Task Force at the next meeting, should HAAA management approve the ad buy.
- KCII: reasonably priced rates also available here, which Harrison would like to pursue. KCII also has sponsorship opportunities available for weather and community events segments, but Harrison would like member input before consider those. Are those segments relevant, helpful, etc.? Don believes yes, the sponsorships are good ideas to pursue. The segments air regularly and he notices them every morning when KCII goes off as his alarm. Harrison will contact KCII and inquire about the availability of sponsorships for November.

Harrison also wants to distribute one or two press releases during the month in an effort to earn media placements and raise awareness for the topic.

For community opportunities, Don suggested contacting the Washington farmers market, which is ongoing. Elizabeth asked about attendance at those events. Don said it's purely an observation on his part, but attendance has been growing over recent weeks. Mask use and social distancing are not commonly followed, though there are some.

Don also recommended contact the city office in Kalona. He heard they have a new market started, but he doesn't know the details.

**Open Agenda**

Elizabeth requested information in the next meeting on LifeLong Links. How can this resource be used by Task Force members and consumers? How does it work in relation to Heritage AAA? Harrison will add this to the agenda.

Kiersten asked if anyone had heard an update regarding Legal Aid for Older Iowans. She was recently referred to them for a consumer, but hadn't heard back and couldn't find any updates on them. Harrison offered to ask around and report back what he learns, if anything.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 28, 2020, at 1 p.m. on Zoom/conference call.

**Submitted By**

Harrison March  
Sept. 24, 2020



Heritage  
Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**October 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Elizabeth Koehn

**Staff:** Harrison March, Barbara Werning

### **Welcome & Attendance**

Barbara Werning, Executive Director at Heritage AAA, joined today's meeting to meet some Task Force members.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Don Kline moved to accept the minutes as presented. Elizabeth Koehn second. Motion passed.

### **Community/Member Updates**

Elizabeth asked Don how the community of Washington is doing. Don shared most older adults are still pretty cautious regarding COVID-19 concerns. There have been some small, socially distanced gathers with a few friends that help with socialization and keeping people in good spirits. Some Washington nursing homes are allowing short, scheduled visits for family who pass screenings. Overall, he thinks about half of people around town are wearing masks as recommended. Elizabeth shared that mask usage is also inconsistent in Wellman.

Barbara asked about members' impression of PPE stock: has the supply of gloves, masks, etc. met demand? Don said he believe is has.

### **Heritage Update**

Harrison has no big changes to report: most staff are still working remotely and offices remain closed to the public. As winter approaches, there is some focus on derecho-damaged homes being safe for inclement weather and on social isolation. Barbara added that staff have been working on making more calls to consumers to check in and try to help combat isolation.

Elizabeth asked if there is any update on congregate dining programs. Harrison said there is not: the state-level guidelines allow for a return to congregate dining, but the AAAs in Iowa do not yet think it's safe.

### **November Meeting Date**

The normal November meeting date would be the day before Thanksgiving, on which there is often scheduling conflicts and Heritage is closed for the holiday. Elizabeth suggested moving the meeting to the following week. Harrison asked if exactly one week later would work. Don and Elizabeth both said it would. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 1 p.m.

### **Caregiver Program Outreach Review**

Harrison reviewed November advertising plans for the caregiver program now that those purchases have been made:

- KCII: 30-second radio ads, sponsorship of community calendar and website ads
- WEJ: ads in the weekly print edition and website ads

Don asked about the content of the ads. Harrison is waiting on final drafts and will provide them by the end of the week. They cover what makes someone a caregiver, Heritage AAA's Caregiver Wellness Series and the services in the Caregiver Support Program. Heritage AAA's phone number and/or website are included in all versions.



### **LifeLong Links Overview**

Harrison gave an overview of the LifeLong Links service, including how to access it online, via phone and how to search for services on the website.

Don suggested United Presbyterian Home in Washington should be included in the search results for long-term care facilities. Harrison is unsure the process of adding a new service and noted it might be classified differently than the services he searched for as an example. Harrison will look further into this.

Don added that it's a great resource that more people should know about. Elizabeth asked what's done to promote the service. Harrison is unsure about other AAAs, but at Heritage it's promoted through the website and directly to consumers when case workers think it may be helpful for their consumers.

### **Open Agenda**

Elizabeth asked if Heritage AAA is involved with Fill The Plate. Harrison and Barbara are not familiar with this program, so not at this time. Elizabeth added she hasn't been involved personally, but believes it's a program to combat food insecurity. Harrison offered that any food-insecure older adults in the county can call or be referred to Heritage AAA's Regional Nutrition Program. That program can help with emergency food supplies and implementing a sustainable plan for food/nutrition access for the consumer.

Elizabeth asked how Heritage AAA Board of Directors members keep tabs on the various older adult issues. Harrison said beyond the regular Board meetings, each member has their own methods and talents brought to the table from the local perspective. Barbara added that Richard Young, the Washington County Board of Supervisors designee to Heritage's Board, is an accessible and well-informed leader. He keeps in touch regarding older adult concerns and even had a meeting with Barbara about this the day before. He'll also attend the next meeting to participate in the Area Plan discussion.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 1 p.m.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
Oct. 29, 2020



Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Karri Fisher

**Staff:** Harrison March, Barbara Werning, Eugenia Kendall, Tim Getty, Bryan Bruner

### **Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began at approximately 1 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

A quorum was not present, so no motion to approve or amend the minutes was made. No suggested edits were presented. Review tabled until the January meeting.

### **Heritage AAA Area Plan Discussion**

Barbara Werning provided an overview of Heritage as an organization and the purpose of the Area Plan. Eugenia Kendall reviewed the process of creating the plan and shared about another upcoming public hearing that'll be part of the writing process.

Eugenia shared results of the ranking form surveys sent in October and results broken down by urban and rural counties. Home-Delivered Meals, Case Management and Information Assistance were in the top-five of urban and rural responses for mandatory AAA services. Optional services also had the same results in the top six, but with differing order.

Barbara asked for thoughts, stories, etc. that may explain these results:

- Don Kline: to Don, the biggest service is Information, Referral & Assistance. He sees it as a 'front door' that opens consumers up to other programs and services. Nutrition concerns are a big talking point within the community, but COVID unfortunately delayed plans for a new program in town. He hopes that plan can continue again someday.
- Barbara: are nutrition concerns are regarding options, services, demand or something else?
  - o Don: not sure of many local options, so those could potentially be improved
  - o Karri Fisher: Washington has some home-delivered meals options, but offer in-town delivery only. That program can also be cost prohibitive for consumers.
- Eugenia clarified the difference between Options Counseling and Case Management
- Don: he's participated in a caregiver support group through a Powerful Tools class and had a good experience. He sees an opportunity to add more classes now with Zoom, but prefers the in-person setting when that's safe. Harrison noted that Heritage will start a Zoom Powerful Tools course in January with specific details TBD.

Eugenia reviewed the Top-of-Mind issues listed in the surveys. Barbara asked for similar input:

- Don: glad to see the issues he perceives as top-of-mind in the county match up with the results from more survey-takers. Elder Abuse Protection & Awareness is a big concern, but it's difficult to gauge how prolific the problem is in the community. Isolation has increased this difficulty.

Barbara asked if there are other issues cropping up due to the COVID-19 pandemic that may be related to Heritage services:





- Don: appreciates the adaptations to services so they're still available, but access to virtual resources like Zoom isn't equal for all. He's concerned that social isolation was bad before the pandemic and a lack of technological access and/or savvy could worsen it for some.
- Regarding PPE for older adults, Don asked about the supply within the county. Is there enough? Barbara reported Heritage AAA has received some donations and shared them with local providers. If there are other places serving older adults that need PPE, Heritage is willing to help.
- Eugenia asked Karri if Public Health would be able to use some of Heritage's PPE supply. Karri said yes, PPE supply has sometimes been a problem. She'd like to develop a community stock in addition to what's used for staff and patients. Tim Getty will be near Washington for a delivery in the coming days, so he'll arrange a PPE drop-off with Karri.

### **Community & Heritage AAA Updates**

Harrison reported Heritage AAA operations remain the same. Tai Chi for Older Adults has started again, now streaming live on Tuesday afternoons on Facebook. The video also has a survey in the comment section for viewers to suggest other virtual class ideas.

### **Open Agenda**

Don shared a recent positive experience working with Heritage AAA. An IR&A Specialist connected Don to SHIIP, who helped move him to a new plan he prefers over his old one.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 1 p.m.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
Dec. 7, 2020



**Washington County Task Force  
January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Elizabeth Koehn, Kiersten Onanga

**Guest:** Payton (A2I intern)

**Staff:** Harrison March, Madalyn Klobassa

**Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began at approximately 1 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

**Review of Meeting Minutes**

Don Kline motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Kiersten Onanga second. Motion passed unanimously.

**Member/Community Updates**

Elizabeth Koehn asked for any updates on local COVID-19 vaccine situations:

- Harrison March reported that Washington County Public Health has been updating its Facebook page and website, recently saying phase 1B (including adults ages 65+) is scheduled to begin Feb. 1 and that a method for scheduling a vaccination appointment will be announced soon.
- Kiersten added that it's possible vaccines will be given at pharmacies and/or physicians' clinics instead of hospitals.
- Kiersten shared that individuals with disabilities and their caregivers have been included in phase 1B, though language has changed some so specifics are unclear.

Kiersten shared an updated from Access2Independence:

- Still trying to connect consumers with technology that reduces isolation during the pandemic. A handful of Washington County consumers have been part of this so far.
- They are assisting 7-8 consumers in the county per week with food.
- CARES Act funding will support the technology and food efforts through Sept. 2021
- Members encouraged to make referrals to A2I, as the organization wants to continue spending down CARES Act funds and utilize them fully

**Heritage AAA Updates**

Harrison reported only minor changes to nutrition operations due to winter. Weekly distribution events for Encore Café are now monthly, but consumers have a new voucher option to still get their meals in between events.

Madalynn Klobassa shared about the agency's Seasons of Caregiving classes, which are seasonal sessions of Powerful Tools for Caregivers. The next course (Spring 2021) is open for registration on the Heritage AAA website and by calling the office. It will be held via Zoom. Anyone with questions is encouraged to check the Heritage website or call Madalynn.

**A2I Transitions Program**

Kiersten presented to the group about her new 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

### **Smaller Community Presentations**

Due to time, this topic was held for the next meeting's agenda.

### **Open Agenda**

Don has noticed more organizations hosting drive-through meals for fundraisers in place of their normal events.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 at 1 p.m.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
January 28, 2021



Heritage  
Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**February 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Don Kline, Elizabeth Koehn

**Staff:** Harrison March

### **Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began at approximately 1 p.m.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Review of January 2021 minutes tabled for the next meeting.

### **Member/Community Updates**

Conversation around COVID-19 vaccines included:

- Don Kline talked about current efforts in Washington County to hold mass vaccine clinics for the public and smaller events for targeted workforces
- Washington County was one to not meet the 80% 'burn rate' for vaccine stock one week, but has since received its full allotment
- Clinics are announced on the public health website and Facebook page, so Harrison March will keep an eye out and pass along any news he sees

Elizabeth Koehn asked about the HACAP Mobile Food Pantry's dates in the county. Harrison was not entirely sure, though thought some dates were canceled due to winter weather. Harrison will send the schedule after the meeting.

### **Heritage AAA Updates**

Harrison reported agency updates:

- A job has been posted for the Data Project Specialist position. This person will replace Mike Chapman, who plans to retire this summer.
- The transition from Kirkwood Community College is continuing as the Board of Directors approved items related to employee benefits. Potential start date with a new, independent insurance package is the new Fiscal Year on July 1.
- Clarified the agency's role in helping older adults locate vaccine providers and transportation options.
- Picking back up on the nutrition program for Washington that was in the works pre-pandemic. There are still details to iron out before formal announcements can be made. Heritage's Nutrition Director hopes to join next month's meeting to share details.
  - o Don noted the recent success of the Fire Department's drive-through pancake breakfast, which could be a model for a similar event to promote the program.

### **Smaller Community Presentations**

Elizabeth proposed the idea of planning presentations that could be delivered to smaller communities and groups in the county as a grassroots awareness effort. All present agreed that now is not the time to plan gatherings like this, but planning ahead for a safer time is a good idea. Potential audiences included:

- Farmers markets in Washington and Kalona
- Independent Living residents at long-term care facilities
- Lions Club



- Optimists group
- Kiwanis
- Churches
- Eventual nutrition program site

Elizabeth suggested a short presentation on the agency that doesn't get too in-the-weeds, as well as a potential live call to the agency. This way the audience could hear exactly what it's like to work with Heritage.

Harrison will work on planning this out – the presentation, contact lists for the groups, etc. – in the coming weeks.

### **Open Agenda**

Elizabeth asked if the Advisory Council would be a good audience for Kiersten Onanga's Transitions & Diversions presentation given at the last Task Force meeting. Harrison said Kiersten and/or another representative of Access 2 Independence had delivered this presentation at recent meetings for all Task Forces, so Advisory Council representatives have heard it as well.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 1 p.m.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
February 25, 2021



Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Elizabeth Koehn, Don Kline, Kiersten Onanga, Christine Yancey, Kim (Lending Hands), Payton (Access2Independence)

**Staff:** Harrison March, Tim Getty

**Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began at approximately 1 p.m.

**Review of Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes for January and February 2021 approved unanimously.

**Nutrition Update – Tim Getty, Regional Nutrition Coordinator at Heritage AAA**

Tim provided an update on the Encore Express nutrition program that was in the works before the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The program will combine a voucher system with a congregate dining event. The events will be once or twice per month – this is still to be determined.
- Tim is hopeful the events will occur at Immanuel Lutheran Church, as was the original plan. The start of this aspect of Encore Express will depend on the statewide reopening of senior dining sites.
- New and innovative programming that has made the Marion and Cedar Rapids programs successful will be incorporated here as well, such as wellness classes, presentations and fun group activities to foster socialization.
- Heritage will ask for help from the Task Force to get the word out about this program. More info and resources are still to come.
- There is no cost to participate. Voluntary contributions are accepted to support the program, but nobody will be denied service for not doing so.

Questions included:

- Kiersten: Will the program be open to homebound seniors? Could a caregiver redeem vouchers on the seniors' behalf?
  - o Yes, caregivers or family members can redeem the voucher for the participant
- Don: What is the age cutoff to participate?
  - o Adults ages 60+ and their caregiver or spouse (caregiver/spouse can be younger than 60 and still participate)
- Kim: Can the forms to enroll/receive vouchers be mailed out and then returned to Immanuel Lutheran Church?
  - o This isn't currently in place, but is a good idea. Tim will work with ILC to establish this option.

**Member/Community Updates**

- Don received his second vaccine dose and has seen that most school staff and healthcare workers have as well.
- Kiersten and A2I staff worked with Washington Co Public Health to receive vaccines, which will help them get back to serving consumers in-person in Washington and beyond.



- Kim reported Lending Hands is back to open for consumers.

### **Heritage AAA Updates**

Harrison reported no operational updates. There are two jobs posted on the Heritage website: Data Project Specialist and Fiscal Director. Visit the website for most details and application instructions.

### **Community Presentations**

Continuing from the list of initial ideas in the last meeting, more clubs, organizations and groups were suggested for potential Heritage outreach:

- Contact Kiwanis leadership about other local clubs
- Washington Chamber
- Rotary Clubs
- Senior Centers
- Churches
- Riverside newsletter

Harrison will organize a list of these groups and identify contacts we could reach out to. Will need to learn if they are currently meeting, how many members they have and if certain information will be more relevant to those members (e.g. caregiver services).

Suggested presentation content included: brief, general Heritage information; A2I transitions program; Encore Express; and any other special interests the group might have. Don suggested offering a recorded presentation as well for members who cannot attend or wish to have it available later.

Elizabeth encouraged members to brainstorm before the next meeting an order of priorities: Which services are most important to spread the word about? A list or outline will be worked on at the April meeting.

### **Open Agenda**

No items presented during open agenda.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 1 p.m.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
March 25, 2021



Heritage  
Area Agency on Aging  
**Washington County Task Force**  
**April 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Elizabeth Koehn, Don Kline, Payton (Access2Independence)

**Staff:** Harrison March

### **Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began at approximately 1 p.m.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes for January and February 2021 approved unanimously.

### **Member/Community Updates**

Elizabeth Koehn noted COVID-19 vaccines seem to be in greater supply as of late. Now there seem to be more appointments than people interested.

- Harrison talked about programs in other Heritage counties to reach homebound people. They aren't available in all counties, but perhaps this is a future step toward more vaccinations in Washington County. He will ask Karri Fisher about an update for the next meeting.

### **Heritage AAA Updates**

Harrison reported the agency updates:

- Initial plans for a return to in-person services are in place: home visits beginning in June, partial opening in July and fully open in August. The timeline will remain flexible based on pandemic trends.
- Encore Express remains a priority for the nutrition program. Harrison will continue passing along updates as they're available.
- Heritage has a few job openings posted on the website dealing with various aspects of the organization. Anyone interested and qualified is encouraged to apply.

### **Community Presentations**

Don Kline recently contacted the Washington Chamber of Commerce to gather more contacts for the list of potential groups to connect with for outreach. The list is in good shape with nearly 15 groups already listed and leads on more.

Elizabeth asked about potential for farmer's markets and Don wondered about the market nutrition program. Harrison said markets are definitely a possibility, though he'll have to call to get more info and start applications if needed. The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program hasn't been announced yet for 2021, but seems likely to be available again.

Elizabeth suggested the next step should be considering presentation/outreach content before reaching out to groups. She has a rough outline of a presentation, but would like to refine it a bit before sending to the group for their input. Don recommended being general in agency info and focusing in on programs the groups indicate interest in.

Elizabeth asked about including Access2Independence info as well. Harrison and Don agreed promoting the Transitions Program is a good idea. Payton will work with Kiersten Onanga to get the needed info, brochures, etc. to the group.



**Open Agenda**

Don attended a recent Board meeting at Lending Hands. Lending Hands may be closing in the near future due to unsustainable low participation numbers during the pandemic. The closing process could take some time as they help current consumers connect with other support services.

Harrison noted that Advisory Council elections are coming up in June. No immediate action is needed, but members are encouraged to start thinking about who they would like to represent Washington County on that group.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26.

**Submitted By**

Harrison March  
April 28, 2021



**Washington County Task Force**  
**May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Christine Yancey, Kiersten Onanga, Don Kline, Karri Fisher

**Staff:** Harrison March, Tim Getty

**Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began shortly after 1 p.m.

**Review of Meeting Minutes**

Tabled due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

**Member/Community Updates**

Christine Yancey, City of Riverside

- Continues sharing Heritage AAA and other older adult information in her newsletter and online.
- Riverside remains interested in adding a senior dining or activity/socialization space within the community center that is being planned.
- There may be chances to present at this center or promote Encore Express.

Kiersten Onanga, Access2Independence

- A2I was not awarded grant funding for her position beyond September, but extension of CARES Act funding will allow the position to remain past that deadline.
- Kiersten asked if anyone has information on the Washington County Fair. Harrison will forward her the details he recently received.

**Heritage AAA Updates**

Tim Getty reported updates on Encore Express:

- The program launched about one week ago with Hy-Vee vouchers now available to participants. Pickup can be coordinated by calling or visiting Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington from 9am – 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hours will expand when the church's office hours do.
- Advertising for the program starts on KCII Radio and in the Washington Evening Journal next week and will run for four weeks initially. Heritage will also attend the Washington Farmers Market on June 10 to promote the program.
- Targeting late July/early August to add the congregate dining portion of the program.
- Christine asked how those at the senior village should sign up if they can coordinate a carpool to pick up/redeem vouchers. Tim said they can call to begin setup, but in-person is easier and quicker for completing the paperwork.
- Tim said if more ideas arise for promoting the program, please tell Heritage so Harrison March can coordinate it.

Harrison reiterated Heritage's plans for returning to in-person services: home visits beginning in June, partial opening in July and potentially fully open in August. The timeline will remain flexible based on pandemic trends.



### **Community Presentations Draft/Outline**

Elizabeth Koehn, Task Force Chair, is drafting an outline for the presentations project, but is out of town during today's meeting. Harrison asked if anyone has input or comments for the project that could be incorporated into Elizabeth's draft.

No ideas presented at this time, but Kiersten did offer her assistance in pulling it all together. If her help is needed, just send her the task(s) requested.

### **FY22 Elections Next Meeting**

Harrison reminded members about Advisory Council and Task Force Officer elections scheduled for the June meeting:

- Advisory Council: Washington County will have two open spots, as Elizabeth has reached the three-consecutive-term maximum. Representatives serve one-year terms and meetings are held later in the month.
- Task Force Officers: Elizabeth is eligible to return at Task Force Chair if desired. Vice-Chair and Secretary are currently vacant, so any member is eligible.

### **Open Agenda**

No items presented during open agenda.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
May 27, 2021



**Washington County Task Force**  
**June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kiersten Onanga, Karri Fisher, Elizabeth Koehn, Grace (Access2Independence)  
**Staff:** Harrison March

### **Welcome & Attendance**

Meeting began shortly after 1 p.m.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from April and May 2021 approved unanimously.

### **Community Presentations Draft/Outline**

Elizabeth Koehn presented her outline draft for a presentation to deliver to community groups. Discussion ensued regarding which components to keep, remove and reshape:

- Which elements of the agency are essential to share, and which are less critical for general public? Kiersten Onanga and Grace noted that parts like funding and organizational structure are important to the agency, but not for a potential consumer needing to simply understand how Heritage can help.
- Elizabeth suggested a portion that helps the audience understand what happens when they call in to Heritage. Kiersten thinks this is a great idea to incorporate and will help them feel more comfortable calling the first time. Harrison March will ask Heritage staff about the potential to call live, or if something recorded might work better.
- Other services relevant to older adults that could be included: Access2Independence, LifeLong Links, Palliative Care and Hospice. If these providers approve being included, Harrison could incorporate them onto a handout that includes Heritage info from the presentation.

### **FY22 Elections**

Harrison refreshed members on the status of FY22 Elections and who is eligible for what. Elections followed:

- Task Force: Kiersten thinks Elizabeth has done a great job Chairing the group during an unusual year and has done well with her community presentations concept. Kiersten nominated Elizabeth to return as Chair, Karri Fisher second. Elizabeth is reelected as Chair for FY22.
- Advisory Council: all present think Don Kline would be a good representative for Washington County and voted unanimously to approve him should he accept the nomination. Harrison will contact Don about his interest in accepting.

### **Open Agenda**

All present agreed to maintain the meeting schedule for FY22: fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. Meetings will be planned for every month with the possibility of using Zoom during winter months if needed/preferred. Harrison will contact Dodici's Café about returning to their meeting room, while Karri offered the conference room at the public health office if needed.

Karri provided a COVID-19 update: vaccine clinics are nearing a standstill in terms of attendees. The overall percentage of vaccinated individuals is not as high as public health would like to develop wider immunity and a surge is predicted for the fall. Generally speaking, seniors are a



highly-vaccinated population while adults in their 20s–40s are not at the numbers WCPH would like to see. To reach homebound residents, they partnered with a mobile pharmacy to deliver vaccines. Discussion included:

- Elizabeth: how effective are vaccines against variants that have developed? Karri: all indications are that they are still highly effective, but remember that no vaccine is 100% effective against infection or developing symptoms.
- Grace: in Decorah, vaccine providers used incentives to help get more Luther students vaccinated. Incentives included promotions with local businesses or vouchers for a free coffee. Karri: WCPH hasn't tried this yet, but may look into it.
- Elizabeth: what are nursing home policies for visitors? Karri: policies vary by location, but generally speaking the residents are mostly vaccinated.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28 at 1 p.m. Harrison will send a master schedule for FY22 in the coming days.

### **Submitted By**

Harrison March  
June 24, 2021