

## Johnson County Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

Present: Lindsay Glynn, Bob Welsh, Jeff Kellbach, Larry Kudej, Pat Heiden  
Guests: Rebecca Nielsen, Lisa Parlato, Wendy Nolan, Jill Weetman, Len Sandler  
Heritage AAA Staff: Harrison March

Jeff Kellbach called the meeting to order shortly after 2:00 p.m.

### Review of Meeting Minutes

No changes proposed. Vote tabled due to lack of quorum at the time.

### Community Updates Related to Older Adults

Harrison March, Heritage AAA

- Powerful Tools for Caregivers registration is open until Sept. 7. This session will be taught together by Heritage and Johnson County Livable Community.
- Annual Task Force forms were distributed before the meeting. Forms will also be mailed out as necessary.
- Harrison will forward information about helping improve internet access across Iowa. This can be helpful to older adults by accessing telehealth, connecting with loved ones via Zoom and more.

Lindsay Glynn, Aging Services

- Participation at adult daycare service has “skyrocketed” since the community reopened, including a wait list now in place in Cedar Rapids. Locations are fully staffed at this time.

Bob Welsh, Older Iowans Legislature

- OIL has invited speakers to the annual meeting in September, including Gov. Reynolds and her challenger.

### Review Task Force Action Steps

After the last meeting Lindsay spent time reviewing notes and considering overlapping goals to combine, as well as concrete action steps that could be taken. See handout attached at bottom of minutes.

Bob asked where the anti-ageism campaign would come in with the three goals outlined. Lindsay said that as much as she'd like to pursue this goal, she wanted to prioritize the Task Force's history of advocacy for older adults' issues as well. Jeff Kellbach agreed and suggested considering the anti-ageism effort as next-in-line after these items.

Pat Heiden noted that some of these steps will need to be broken down further, though they are great starting points. For example, Access to Information might include identifying who still needs to learn about services, then building out capacity to reach them, then determining how to do so.

For the advocacy efforts, Lisa Parlato asked for a quick background on OIL. Lindsay explained its purpose and that Bob Welsh and Larry Kudej are active members. Harrison noted that past forums were planned by a dedicated forums subcommittee, which is OK to continue but does not currently exist. The need for a committee is TBD. Bob also encouraged the Task Force to consider forum time, accessibility and potential partner groups like League of Women Voters and United Way.

### Older Iowans Legislature (OIL) Priorities Discussion

Larry, who is OIL Chair this year, provided an overview of the group and its purpose to advocate for legislation that improves the lives of older Iowans. A recent example is the passage of the elder abuse law, which adds criminal penalties for those convicted.

This year's OIL Annual Meeting is on Sept. 26 from 9am – 1pm. It will be offered as a hybrid meeting via Zoom or in-person in Des Moines. Larry apologized on behalf of OIL for the conflict with Rosh Hashanah, which was not known until

after planning was finished and announcements made. If anyone is unable to attend the meeting on Sept. 26 they are still encouraged to submit priority issues for consideration in writing to OIL.

OIL is waiving membership fees for this year to encourage attendance/participation. Harrison will send the invitation to all members of the Johnson County group as well as other Heritage counties. This area has traditionally been well-represented.

Pat motioned to forgo the regularly scheduled Sept. 12 Task Force meeting to encourage OIL attendance. Bob Welsh second. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff added to contact him or Lindsay if planning to attend OIL in-person and if interested in carpooling.

#### Open Agenda

Harrison thanked Rebecca Nielsen for her time in the COVID-19 Older Adult group dating back a couple years and her recently months with the Task Force. Rebecca will still be around Johnson County with PrepWise, blood pressure clinics, etc., which Jeff said may be good to keep in mind for rural outreach.

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Harrison March, Heritage AAA


# Identified Priorities


Rural senior support (11) 

Gap initiative – identify and address gap in services and resources (7) 


Anti-ageism campaign (7) 

Identify/target older adults with no voice (6) 

Education legislature/government on older adult needs and concerns (5) 

Pilot collaborative grant project (4) 

Reduce/Eliminate Overlap (4) 

Create opportunities to educate public on issues (4) 

Identify terminology (3) 

Create database for information and resources (2) 

Grow older adult perspective on task force (1) 

Create one-stop-shop (1) 

Create internal information system (1) 