



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
Sept. 10, 2020

Present: Chris Shimon, John North, Dora Lorenc, Barb Young, Judy Fries, Ruth Cox, Stephanie Humphries, Sallie Streib, Kay Fisk, Sofia Mehaffey, Sandy Bruns

Guests: Angela Harbour (ASAC)

Staff: Harrison March, Barbara Werning (Executive Director)

Stephanie Humphries, Task Force Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Stephanie asked for amendments or motion to approve minutes from: February, May and June 2020. John North motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Chris Shimon second. Motion passed unanimously.

Introduction – Barbara Werning, Executive Director

Barbara introduced herself to the Task Force. Though she's a couple months in, much of the job still feels new as Heritage AAA continues adapting to COVID-19 and derecho response efforts. Barbara grew up in Benton County and is a lifelong Iowan. Her entire professional career has been in non-profits and this is her third time serving as an Executive Director, previously holding the role at House of Hope in Waterloo and Ronald McDonald House Charities in Iowa City. Experience working with older adults includes 10 years at a long-term care facility and several years in senior apartments.

Stephanie asked if Barbara would like members to introduce themselves. Barbara said she's met a few members at other meetings, but introductions would be helpful. Members then introduced themselves.

Community Updates

Harrison March provided an update on Heritage AAA operations: in the month since the derecho hit the area, focus has been balancing derecho response and maintenance of services during the COVID pandemic. Wellness checks were carried out for all Heritage AAA consumers by staff and volunteers. Heritage AAA has distributed food supplies for consumers without access to food as a result of the storm. Though most people are back online and have power restored, many consumers face long-term recoveries. Heritage AAA's focus will be on getting them from 'derecho-COVID-normal' back to just 'COVID-normal.'

Pen Pals Program

With Sandy Bruns not yet on the meeting, Harrison asked Stephanie to share what she knows about the Pen Pals Program. Stephanie said Sandy has distributed packets and directions to help facilitate the program. They want it to be as easy as possible for the participants to get started. Sandy joined the meeting at this time and added that they are still ironing out quantities as volunteers get involved.

Sandy mentioned that Willow Gardens hadn't responded to her about the program yet. Chris Shimon works and Willow Gardens and Stephanie is having lunch with another employee there tomorrow, so both will put in a word to try to get them involved.

Sandy said the biggest need is for writers – ideally at least 4 more. COVID Recovery Iowa covers costs for supplies and postage. Anyone interested in writing should contact Sandy and she'll get them materials.



FY2020 Service Data

Harrison noted the two purposes of sharing FY2020 service data with the Task Force:

1. To be transparent with Task Force members, as they spend much time and effort trying to connect older adults with Heritage AAA services
2. To hopefully spark some ideas, concerns, opportunities for growth, etc. in the minds of the members based on service delivery. This may help formulate ideas for outreach/awareness

Sandy asked if there is enough funding to go around considering demand for services and the concurring COVID-19 and derecho emergencies. Barbara said Heritage AAA is not concerned about this in the present, as funding is sufficient. The only concern is the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and how it plays out in the long-term. Heritage AAA is countering the uncertainty by staying focused on various potential sources of funding and other support (emergency and non-emergency) in the event that COVID funding drops off but the pandemic persists.

Sandy asked how Horizons has fared with the need for volunteers. Sofia said the organization is doing well in that regard and they got back up and running to 'COVID-normal' fairly quickly.

Harrison asked members to keep thinking of focuses or interests the group could try to address in the coming months. He hopes the data will help guide some thinking. Members can always reach out to him outside of meetings as well.

Open Agenda

Harrison apologized for not including Open Agenda on the meeting agenda, as it's a standing agenda item for members to discuss any other topics or concerns. Those present agreed to have open agenda at this time.

Harrison asked if anyone was still in need of volunteers to help with derecho cleanup. Heritage AAA has contact information for some groups/organizations helping with this. Stephanie has some caregivers who still have a need, so Harrison will send her that information. Harrison added if anyone prefers to contact him outside the meeting for this, please do.

Sandy has flyers from COVID Recovery Iowa to distribute. They cover resources available through CRI and some ways to connect with others/combat social isolation during the pandemic. Dora Lorenc provided contact information for a contact in northeast Iowa that could use some of the flyers. Harrison will contact Sandy after the meeting to arrange distribution at Encore Cafés. Stephanie would also like some copies to send out for her clients.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.

Adjournment

Barb Young motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie second. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
October 8, 2020

Present: Sandy Bruns, Art Staed, Barb Young, John North, Dora Lorenc

Excused: Kay Fisk, Ruth Cox, Chris Shimon, Stephanie Humphries

Staff: Harrison March

Harrison March called the Task Force meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Without a quorum present, review of meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Community & Heritage Updates

Harrison offered a Heritage report:

- Most staff are still working from home, though a few are working in the office regularly or intermittently.
- Heritage still has information for consumers on connecting with derecho recovery resources. Consumers with questions are encouraged to call Heritage to speak with an IR&A Specialist.
- Falls Prevention Awareness Week was in late September. Heritage promoted resources and tips through food distributions, a TV interview and online. Resources remain available on the Heritage website.
- The next Caregiver Wellness Series webinar is Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. Participants can attend via Zoom, watch on Facebook Live or call in. Directions for doing so are on the Heritage website. Members can also contact Harrison for information on accessing the webinar.

Sandy Bruns reported the COVID Recovery Iowa pen pals program is doing well and she thanked the Task Force members who are writing or have helped find writers. The program recently grew from writing to 2 care centers up to 5, so more writers are welcome. Participants are enjoying the engagement and sharing photos. The COVID Recovery Iowa grant runs through June 2021, so she is hoping the program has enough success and popularity that people will want to continue it beyond the grant timeline.

November: Family Caregiver Month

Harrison shared Heritage's current plans for promoting Family Caregiver Month in November: radio/newspaper ads in Washington County, fliers to all nutrition program participants in the region, some Facebook promotion and media outreach. Harrison asked if members could think of other opportunities they'd like to pursue.

There being none at this time, Harrison encouraged members to reach out to him if any ideas should arise.

Heritage AAA Area Plan

Harrison shared an update on Heritage's Area Plan on Aging:

- As a background: The Area Plan is sort of like a contract with the Iowa Department on Aging. It outlines how the agency will work to fulfill its mission. The current Area Plan expires at the end of this fiscal year, so Heritage's Eugenia Kendall has begun work on the next version.
- In the early stages of writing the plan, Heritage needs to gather feedback from key parties like volunteers, providers and more. Because of this, Heritage sent via mail & email a form for volunteers to complete. It asks them to rank services mandated and made optional by the Older Americans Act in



terms of the volunteers' perceived need for those services. The forms will help create data that contributes to the plan.

- Eugenia will also join the Task Force meeting in November and invite providers and other key parties to participate in a discussion about service needs. That will be the main agenda item for November.

Art Staed asked if the Plan has considerations for the long-term issues related to COVID-19, such as older adults who cannot afford rent/mortgages or bills. Harrison is not sure at this time, as that decision will have to be made during the process of writing the next Plan. As for now, most of the COVID response from Heritage has been related to filling emergency needs and making referrals to assistance programs when possible. Harrison said he'll be including COVID response as one of his free response answers on the survey, as those long-term effects are still possibly unknown.

Sandy asked if the eviction moratorium is still in effect. Dora Lorenc said she's a landlord and as far as she knows, yes it is.

Open Agenda

Sandy brought up the challenge her friend has had in getting a tree removed from her yard after it fell in the derecho. The friend is a senior with limited income and has been unable to get a contractor to come out to the home. The tree is fairly large, but needs to be moved to the curb before her neighborhood is cleared or else may have to stay there through the winter and beyond. Harrison suggested contact Heritage to ask about volunteer groups that may be able to help. Dora also offered the name of a church group she has worked.

Adjournment

Barb Young motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sandy second. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 12 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
Nov. 12, 2020

Present: Chris Shimon, Barb Young, Dora Lorenc, John North, Kay Fisk, Judy Fries, Sofia Mehaffey, Stephanie Humphries, Sandy Bruns

Guests: Angie Harbour (ASAC), Scott Olson (Board of Directors), Sister Susan O'Connor (Board of Directors)

Excused: Sallie Streib, Ashley Balius

Staff: Harrison March, Eugenia Kendall, Barbara Werning, Madalyn Klobassa, Ashley Turner

With Task Force Chair Stephanie Humphries' prior meeting running long, vice-chair Chris Shimon asked for a motion to open the meeting. Barb Young motioned, all approved. Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Chris asked for comments on meeting minutes up for review or a motion to accept as presented. Barb Young motioned to accept the minutes, Dora Lorenc second. Motion passed unanimously.

Heritage AAA Area Plan Discussion

Barbara Werning, Executive Director, began with an overview of Heritage AAA, the Area Plan and the purpose of today's discussion. Eugenia Kendall, Quality & Outcomes Senior Manager, reviewed data gathered through the Service Needs Ranking Form sent to all members. Barbara Werning then asked for examples, stories or insights as to why certain services were ranked where they were. Feedback included:

- Kay Fisk: Home-delivered meals ranking highest makes sense, as Horizons' meal and non-food supply deliveries are up dramatically from pre-COVID months. Also encouraged to see concern for elder rights, which is a priority issue for the Older Iowans Legislature in the upcoming year.
- Sandy Bruns: sees a big need around getting supplies to people who are isolating for their own safety. Shared an example of someone who is very high risk regarding COVID and therefore stays home all the time, but still needs reliable access to supplies.
- Sofia Mehaffey: Horizons has seen these needs distributed consistently between rural and urban parts of Linn County. One of the biggest challenges is helping all of the new consumers understand that their services are appropriate for them – many haven't received help like this before.
- John North: suggested there would also be good insights from other professionals in the aging network if they were to complete the form.
- Dora Lorenc: regarding getting supplies safely, Dora said she's used Hy-Vee Aisles Online with good results, but worries other older adults aren't familiar enough with the technology and is unsure if those using EBT can use the platform. Ashley Turner, Family Caregiver Specialist/Options Counselor, said EBT can be used online for Hy-Vee, Walmart and Amazon.

Eugenia reviewed results of the open-response "Top of Mind Issues" questions. Feedback included:

- Chris: agrees with the issues as listed
- Ashley: as someone who does a lot of caregiver counseling for the agency, she's surprised it's ranked as low as it is. Wonders if it's related to caregivers not self-identifying as such or lack of awareness around the service.
- Sandy: echoing Ashley's thoughts, thinks caregiver counseling should be a top issue
- Ashley: would have thought homemaker services would be higher since she fields a lot of consumer questions about them



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- Sister Susan O'Connor: asked if anyone has noticed changes to these services or needs due to being displaced by the derecho. Ashley reported not having consumers entirely displaced as much as needing repairs, which Sofia agreed with from a Horizons perspective.

Barbara Werning asked if there are other issues or topics that were not covered in the survey results that members felt important to discuss.

- Ashley: grief counseling is an area of concern right now as consumers' families are impacted by COVID. The pandemic has introduced a new kind of anxiety and the loss (and fear of loss) of loved ones is challenging.
- Sandy: she and her coworkers at COVID Recovery Iowa offer counseling as one of the many services, but there still needs to be more normalizing of needing help. Many people simply aren't used to seeking help like this.

Eugenia Kendall covered how the Area Plan will progress from here and informed members of the Area Plan Focus Groups they can join if they want to address any of those core topics.

Community Updates

Harrison March shared two updates:

- Task Force member Ruth Cox has moved to Clinton, Iowa, and will no longer be on the Task Force.
- Heritage AAA will start another online series of Tai Chi lessons on Tuesday afternoons beginning Nov. 17.

Stephanie asked if other programming could be held virtually, such as caregiver classes. Harrison said there has been some talk of this, but no plans are set yet. He will share an update if any are planned.

Sandy's pen pals program is still looking for more writers. At this time there are four writers doing about 25 cards a month total. Recipients are enjoying the program. Contact Sandy if interested in participating.

Open Agenda

Sister Susan asked for an introduction to those on the meeting she hadn't met before, so members introduced themselves.

Adjournment

Barb Young motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dora second. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting

January 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
Jan. 14, 2021

Present: Chris Shimon, Ashley Balias, Barb Young, Sallie Streib, Dora Lorenc, John North, Stephanie Humphries, Judy Fries

Excused: Kay Fisk, Sofia Mehaffey

Staff: Harrison March, Madalyn Klobassa

Stephanie Humphries, Task Force Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Stephanie asked for comment on Nov. 2020 meeting minutes or a motion to approve as presented. Barb Young motioned, Sallie Streib second. Motion passed unanimously.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March reported no major changes to agency operations. One local change worth noting is Encore Café's transition to monthly distribution events instead of weekly. Participants can receive vouchers to redeem for HyVee meals throughout the month in place of weekly meal pickup. More details are available on the Heritage AAA website.

Madalyn Klobassa, Caregiver Specialist at Heritage AAA, reported that registration is open for the agency's next Powerful Tools for Caregiver class, which begins in March. There is no cost to attend. The course teaches family caregivers tips and strategies for managing stress, finding local resources to support them and more. Caregivers can sign up on the Heritage AAA website or by calling in.

Harrison shared an update on COVID-19 vaccines for Linn County based on information from Linn County Public Health and The Cedar Rapids Gazette:

- Still in phase 1a of long-term care residents/workers and health care workers
- Phase 1b could start by Feb. 1 and will include seniors age 75+ among other target populations/workforces. That group may expand to ages 65+ if more supply of the vaccine becomes available.
- Sallie Streib asked if a signup system has been announced yet. Harrison said as of today, those details are to-be-announced. Updates will come from Linn County Public Health in the coming weeks.

Ashley Balias shared about Linn County's PATCH program, which is ongoing through the winter as derecho recovery continues. The program connects eligible homeowners with financial support to address derecho repairs. There is a process to follow in applying, so Ashley will send information to Harrison for inclusion in a follow-up message to the Task Force.

Upcoming Task Force Focus

Harrison asked the Task Force for thoughts on the status of the group and its meetings as the pandemic carries on. COVID-19 has halted opportunities to do in-person outreach events, attend small group meetings, etc., and though vaccine distribution shows light at the end of the tunnel, it could still be a while. Do members



feel like their time and energy are respected even though meetings are shorter and less in-depth these days? If not, what concerns can we work to address? Conversation included:

- Sallie thinks it's good to continue meeting, but the question may be how often.
- Stephanie said that staying on the routine of a monthly meeting is helpful for keeping the group together and having frequent opportunities to discuss older adult issues and find solutions.
- Chris Shimon noted even after vaccinations are more common, we'll still need to wear masks and practice social distancing to mitigate spread among unvaccinated people.
- Sallie added that monthly meetings work well to keep tabs on current situations with COVID-19 and the derecho, as well as check in with other members.

Monthly meetings will continue as normal, providing updates on COVID-19 and community programs with an eye toward returning to outreach events in the future.

Open Agenda

No items presented during Open Agenda.

Adjournment

Barb motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dora second. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Next Meeting

Feb 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
Feb. 11, 2021

Present: Barb Young, Judy Fries, John North, Sandy Bruns, Dora Lorenc, Sallie Streib

Excused: Chris Shimon

Guests: Angela Harbour (ASAC); Sarah Martinez, Payton and Cameron (Access2Independence)

Staff: Harrison March

Harrison March called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so review of the meeting minutes was tabled for next month.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March share the Heritage AAA update:

- No changes to operations
- A major focus of the last week has been vaccine information. Heritage is helping by:
 - o Staying in contact with public health offices and relaying their information via website, Facebook, media outreach and to consumers
 - o Helping adults ages 65+ identify their potential vaccine providers
 - o Helping adults ages 65+ identify transportation options to their vaccine appointments

Dora Lorenc reported the Iowa City VA is sending out letters and vaccine information to eligible veterans.

Sandy Bruns and COVID Recovery Iowa worked with girl scouts to send 400 valentines to care facility residents.

Transitions & Diversions – Access2Independence

Sarah Martinez, Executive Director at A2I and Board member at Heritage AAA, presented to the group about the transitions program at A2I. It helps 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

Harrison will send a copy of the presentation and a flyer for her program to all members after the meeting.

Harrison asked Sarah to cover the duty of the facility when a resident wants to transition out. Sarah said facilities are obligated to honor consumers' wishes when they decide to transfer out, but it can be difficult sometimes. Typically, a very limited number of staff at a facility are trained social workers, so they don't always know where to start or how to best support the consumer.



Open Agenda

No items presented during Open Agenda.

Adjournment

Barb motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dora second. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Next Meeting

March 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
March 11, 2021

Present: Chris Shimon, Sallie Streib, John North, Kay Fisk, Barb Young

Excused: Dora Lorenc, Art Staed, Stephanie Humphries

Staff: Harrison March

Chris Shimon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so review of the meeting minutes was tabled for next month.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March shared the Heritage AAA update:

- Heritage is hiring a Data Project Specialist. This position is on the 'office job' side of operations. The hired person will replace Mike Chapman, who plans to retire this summer. Details and application instructions can be found on the Heritage website.
- Vaccine calls from older adults have leveled off. The 211 Vaccine Navigation service launched this week and was able to reach many older adults Heritage sent their way for assistance. Local public health offices will assist with reaching the older adults referred by Heritage that 211 could not reach.

No community updates presented.

Ideas for Upcoming Meetings

Kay Fisk presented a few ideas and questions:

- Would members be interested in legislative updates? Kay is on the Older Iowans Legislature Board, which supports some legislation still alive after the funnel. Sallie Streib expressed support of this idea and others agreed. Harrison will add it to the April agenda.
- What is the status of Encore Café? Harrison said it is still a grab-and-go model, now with food distributed monthly and vouchers available to redeem for HyVee meals throughout the month. Plans for the spring are in the works.
- Has Heritage been approached with derecho questions by seniors with damaged homes? Some Horizons Meals on Wheels consumers still have questions about resources for recovery. Harrison suggested they call Heritage AAA, which has a resource document for staff to use based on callers' needs and situation.
- What is the status of discussions about a senior center in Cedar Rapids? There was a regular group meeting pre-COVID, but no meetings since.
 - o Sallie said that former Task Force member Sandy Bell was a key leader for that group, but nobody has filled those shoes since Sandy moved away. Aging Services was also part of that discussion, but had their status changed now as part of Unity Point?
 - o Barb Young confirmed Lindsay Glynn at Aging Services was another leader of that group, but yes there were different issues at play with Unity Point's involvement.
 - o Kay noted that Unity Point's mission was a little different than the group's. She might reach out to Lindsay to ask about any updates to report next month. Hopefully a new passionate leader can be identified for this project.



Open Agenda

No items presented during Open Agenda.

Adjournment

Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting, Barb second. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Next Meeting

April 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
April 8, 2021

Present: Chris Shimon, Sandy Bruns, Barb Young, John North, Nancy Lee Siebenmann, Angela Harbour
Staff: Harrison March

Chris Shimon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so review of the meeting minutes was tabled for next month.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March shared the Heritage AAA update:

- Two job openings are posted: Data Project Specialist and Fiscal Director. Details are available on the Heritage AAA website or can be received by contacting Harrison.
- There is ongoing discussion about the return to in-person services, congregate dining sites, etc. No dates are set yet, but Harrison will provide updates as they become available.

Angela Harbour reported ASAC is focused on reducing exposure to second-hand smoke in the community. She has free signage and materials available to post at long-term care facilities and other public locations. Contact Angela to arrange delivery or pickup.

Task Force & Advisory Council Vacancy

Stephanie Humphries has resigned from the Task Force Chair position and her place on Advisory Council due to recurring conflicts with her duties owning and operating Right at Home. Chris Shimon will take over the duties of Task Force Chair, vacating the Vice-Chair role. Task Force members are encouraged to consider members (including themselves) they'd like to nominate for the Vice-Chair role or Advisory Council opening at the next meeting.

Older Iowans Legislature Update

Kay Fisk, Task Force and OIL Board member, will provide an OIL report to Harrison for sharing with members. At the recent legislative funnel, some bills receiving support from OIL survived and others are no longer alive. There remain other bills of interest to older adult concerns as well.

Linn County Senior Center Status

Harrison will work with Kay on getting a status update on the senior center as well. Members remain interested in the project and what next steps could be. Conversation included:

- Sandy Bruns: encouraged by the high participation at Des Moines-area senior centers. Linn County could also consider a community center with senior-related activities and programs as a part of the larger service
- Barb Young: Lindsay Glynn, Director at Aging Services and Advisory Council member, would have answers on the project's status and the roadblocks it faced before the pandemic.
- Nancy Lee Siebenmann: previous Cedar Rapids Mayor didn't seem to offer support, but perhaps Mayor Brad Hart or his potential successor after the upcoming election would be willing to do so.



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- Barb: Even if Aging Services and/or UnityPoint are no longer interested in being part of it, a new group or leader could hopefully pick up where they left off. No need to completely reset the project and lose any progress already made.

Return to In-Person Meetings

Chris asked members about feelings regarding in-person meetings and how to approach this possibility as vaccinations carry on. Members will still need to wear masks and socially distance at meetings if they are held in-person. Feedback included:

- Sandy: wants to be cautious considering virus variants that are spreading in Iowa.
- Barb: not yet ready for in-person meetings. It's unfortunate, but the right call at this time.
- Sandy: an outside meeting would be the only potentially OK setup, but uncertainty about weather makes this hard to plan for.

Chris thanked members for their input and agreed that waiting is appropriate. This topic will be revisited at a later time.

Open Agenda

- Dora Lorenc: recently went to Urgent Care with her partner (who's a veteran) and saw signage saying veterans could receive care at their locations. Trips to the VA are not always required anymore.
 - o Angela added veterans can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at any vaccine site and have it billed to the VA. Need to have their Social Security Number available and tell the provider they're a veteran so it can be billed to the VA accordingly.

Adjournment

Barb motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dora second. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Next Meeting

May 13, 2021, at 10: a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
May 13, 2021

Present: Chris Shimon, Barb Young, Kay Fisk, Ashley Balias, Dora Lorenc

Guest: Sheila Semler

Staff: Harrison March

Chris Shimon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so review of the meeting minutes was tabled for next month.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March shared the Heritage AAA update:

- Heritage's plans for a return to in-person services are: limited in-home visits in June, partial opening in July and hopefully fully open in August. Timeline is flexible based on the pandemic trends.
- Harrison will look into spaces that might work for an outdoor meeting this summer

Chris reported Willow Gardens was recently bought out and renamed Silver Gardens Nursing & Rehab.

Kay Fisk: Horizons plans to resume hot meal delivery June 1 and needs delivery volunteers. Contact Horizons if interested.

Ashley Balias: Linn County's PATCH Program received a new funding allocation for derecho home repair. Call Waypoint at 319-366-7999 to apply. Program intended for homeowners with 80% or less of Area Median Income.

OIL Update

Kay provided updates from the Older Iowans Legislature:

- Two bills of interest recently passed:
 - SF 450: increased penalties for caretakers who commit dependent adult abuse that results in the death of the dependent adult
 - HF 839: conditions under which financial records and information of designated eligible adults may be disclosed
- Bill related to Livable Homes Program is in the House Ways & Means Committee to allow for home modifications up to \$5,000 with a lifetime total up to \$30,000.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) funding is in the Senate Appropriations Committee
- Encourages members to contact legislators to voice support for a direct care worker bill that establishes a database for industry professionals and advocates for better pay and benefits. OIL hoped this issue would gain more steam due to the pandemic, but at this point it seems unlikely without more support.

Barb Young, a LTCO in Phoenix, shared her support for increased resources to the LTCO office and hopes the issue gets more attention. Volunteers need a lot of training to be certified and must participate in continuing education to maintain their status.



Linn County Senior Center Status

Sheila Semler was able to connect with Lindsay Glynn, Director at Aging Services, and heard they are currently busy with other projects and efforts related to the pandemic. Tom from the Senior Center Task Force may have old connections available as well. Lindsay did not rule out a return to the table for Aging Services, but right now is difficult.

Sheila suggested restarting the Senior Center Task Force and offered to reach out to old members and compile a status report. Various Task Force on Aging members would like to receive the update and be involved with early meetings. More details to come.

Advisory Council/Officer Elections in June

The only person ineligible for Advisory Council or Task Force Officer elections for FY2022 is Barb Young, whose third Advisory Council term is ending. All other members are eligible.

Chris and Kay noted their interest in returning to the Advisory Council, while Chris would like to remain Task Force Chair. Harrison encouraged members to consider these nominations and others prior to next month.

Linn County Housing – Ashley Balius

Ashley led a focus-group-style discussion on affordable housing in Linn County. The derecho and COVID have exacerbated concerns about affordable housing across various communities, so the county wants to increase understanding of gaps and needs in preparation for any potential future opportunities. Today, she's interested in how these issues intersect with the aging population.

Discussion questions included:

- What does affordable housing mean to you?
- What experiences have you heard of regarding experiences with affordable housing?
- What's changed in the community over time?
- What would affordable housing look like for the aging population?
- What are your top three issues that make affordable housing most practical?

Ashley thanked members for their time and input. If anyone has follow up thoughts, they can connect with her to talk more about the subject.

Open Agenda

No items presented.

Adjournment

Kay motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dora second. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

June 10, 2021, at 10: a.m. via Zoom/conference call.



Heritage
Area Agency on Aging
Linn County Task Force Meeting minutes
June 10, 2021

Present: Chris Shimon, Barb Young, Kay Fisk, Judy Fries, Dora Lorenc

Excused: Sallie Streib, John North, Ashley Bailus

Staff: Harrison March

Chris Shimon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so review of the meeting minutes was tabled for next month.

Heritage AAA & Community Updates

Harrison March shared the Heritage AAA update:

- Jennifer Knudtson, Fiscal Director, started the position on Monday, June 7.
- Two additional new hires for Options Counselor and Data Project Specialist will start later this month.
- In-home visits have restarted with consumers who wish to have them. Additional in-person services will continue reopening in the weeks to come. Congregate dining programs will reopen at the discretion of site directors working with Heritage staff support.

OIL Update

Kay Fisk provided updates from the Older Iowans Legislature:

- OIL had a few victories and a couple bills that fell short at the close of the session, but that is to be expected. Rarely, if ever, do all bills make it across the finish line.
 - o Notable bills that did not pass: Livable communities bill regarding minor home repairs, modernizing the organization/support for the direct care workforce
- All bills that made it through one committee will be alive again at the start of next session, so now it's time to learn more about where they fell short and advocate with potential sponsors/supporters.
- OIL's annual meeting is scheduled for Sept. 27 via Zoom. They hope to hold an in-person meeting again next fall. Anyone 55+ or representing an organization that serves older adults can apply to join or attend as a guest. Details are on the website: Olderlowans.org.
- Barb Young asked about Long-Term Care Ombudsman funding. Kay said no decision was reached on the bill specifically related to LTCO funding, but funding was appropriated through another bill. OIL feels there needs to be more Ombudsman statewide.

FY22 Elections

A quorum was not present, so FY22 elections were tabled for next month.

FY22 Meeting Schedule

Unanimous support for maintaining the meeting schedule: second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Like in FY21, there will be no December meeting.

Kay offered to check the availability of Horizons' training room as an in-person meeting location. Update to come on this possibility.



Open Agenda

Harrison asked those present for thoughts or ideas on increasing meeting attendance, with several in a row just short of a quorum. Kay and Chris Shimon think returning to in-person meetings will help boost attendance.

Kay suggested goal-setting for the July meeting. Discussion included:

- Kay would like to expand membership to add new perspectives and fresh ideas. Can be somewhat selective with this, as members' skillsets should support the Task Force's goals.
- Chris added reconvening the senior center group and meeting consumers at congregate dining sites as potential goals.
- Judy Fries would like to see a brochure or similar informational piece about the Task Force and volunteerism. Kay suggested that it illustrate the level of commitment and overall idea of the group.
- Harrison will add this to the July agenda and either locate or create a draft for this brochure.

Adjournment

Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting, Barb second. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

July 8 at 10 a.m., location to-be-determined.