

Aging Partners Areawide Advisory Council Minutes
March 23, 2017

Present: Esther Bailey, Dorothy Schultz, Linda Heinisch, Steve Eggland, Harold Simpson, Keith Larsen, Cathy Rusch, Kathy Stokebrand, JoAnn Sieck, Ardee Rut, Marsha Ward

Audio Conference: Alan Gissler, Marty Stones, Jacob Kruse, Vern Schulte

Absent: Shari Busch, Paul Barnett, John Wyvill, Gerry Merck, Gloria Aron

Staff: Randall Jones, Denise Boyd, Mitch Sump, Susan Keese, Kathy Ruzicka, Sandra Shaw

I. Marsha Ward welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Self-introductions followed.

II. Marsha Ward asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016. Harold Simpson made the motion Dorothy Schultz and seconded. All were in favor and the motion was adopted.

III. Tour of Milford Senior Center: led by Sandra Shaw and Kathy Ruzicka

Randy introduced Kathy Ruzicka, Seward County Program Manager, who manages aging services for the county and thanked her for hosting Areawide Council. Milford Senior Center Manager Sandra Shaw gave a guided tour of the updated Milford senior center featuring new paint, carpet, complete updated in kitchen with new cabinetry and appliances, t.v., coffee bar and exercise facility. The coffee bar has drawn in an average of 10-20 people each morning. The basement is still in the process of remodeling for handy-cap accessibility.

IV. Transportation Presentation: led by Mitch Sump

Mitch stressed that the goal of Transportation Services is keeping seniors in their homes and transported. Transportation is number 2 and/or 3 in importance for older seniors; transportation is a major concern for older adults both in city and rural communities. Mitch oversees two different transportation groups. First, senior center transportation for Aging Partners which is a direct route system, which only picks up people when contacted (suggested contribution is \$1 per stop). Also this includes special events transportation so seniors who cannot get to events on their own, can attend fun events. The key to making sure you have a good transit system, you need good drivers.

The second transportation group overseen by Mitch is Lancaster County Public Rural Transit which is a scheduled route system that provides out-of-Lincoln stops/pickups. Fee is \$2 per boarding. Since Lancaster County Public Rural Transit is a 5311 program, they are not allowed to compete with StarTran; meaning that they must make an out-of-Lincoln stop for ride to be eligible.

Three misconceptions about Lancaster County Public Rural Transit:

1. Too expensive. You cannot buy gasoline for the \$2-\$4 dollars spent on boarding to get to desired locations.
2. Only for seniors. Not, true- anyone can ride. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
3. Only for medical appointments and shopping. Can go anywhere for any reason just as long as the ride is making a stop outside of Lincoln city limits.

Challenges: biggest limiting factor is money/funding, followed by getting good drivers, and misconception information.

NDOR (NE Department of Roads) Mobility Management Program: All Transit providers working to formalize cross county pickups. (Limiting factor is cost) Other limiting factor: how clients will react to changes.

Q&A

- Randy asked who sets fees? For Lancaster, fees are set by county board due to it being a 5311 Program. 5310 Programs must have county board and each city council review/approve to set fee rates. This causes fluctuation between county programs.
- Vern asked for timeline for formalized Mobility Management Program routes? Nothing formally set, but operating by 2018 (but may take as long as 2021).
- Keith asked if a caller who needs only Lincoln transportation can Lancaster Rural Transit help direct caller to appropriate services? Mitch or his staff can provide the caller the number for “Handy Van” services who handle Lincoln only transportation.
- Randy: Transportation has been high on Aging Partners needs assessment, increase the use of Transit. Mitch to increase ridership by using test routes (daily North & South routes). Reintroduce services (Bennet and Malcom “grocery” run).
- Cathy asked to clarify competition with other ride services in Lincoln (such as Madonna Transportation Services, Handy Van, and League of Human Dignity). Lancaster Rural Transit cannot operate exclusively within Lincoln city limits due to Older American Act (funding source) stipulation that our programs cannot replace existing services to seniors which is why Lancaster Transit does not operate within city limits.
- Steve asked for funding breakdown- 75% State/Federal via the Department of Roads, 25% County Board/funds. Last fiscal year rider fees made up about 6% of funding.
- Harold: how do they know the timeframe of pickup?

V. Area Plan Update with Service Numbers: led by Randall Jones

Randy provided a graph of services provided through Aging Partners and projected goals for the next year. Aging Partners looks at trends of declined/increased demand of services to adjust for the next year (this includes individual county feedback and goal setting). Areawide Council members roll is to confirm priority of services of the 3 year plan (identified by bright green on graph). At Areawide Council April meeting Randy will provide financial figures/budget by program for the units of services provided.

There were some changes in the reporting processes by the State that impacted units of service numbers such as 1) Nutrition Education and 2) OAA funding for sack lunches (11,000 meals) shifted to Non-OAA paid for with City funding. There has not been a decrease in services, just a change in how it is counted. Regardless of reporting changes, Aging Partners still keeps a count of individuals served to justify spending of State and Federal moneys.

Overall there will be a 2% increase in units of services across the board provided by Aging Partners while dealing with a 1% reduction in Federal Funding (\$23,000) and 1% reduction in State Funding (\$5,000).

Q&A

- Harold asked if these service units affect funding. This Units of Service report is an internal accountability system/assessment tool and does not affect set amount of funding provided.

VI. Medicaid Redesign Overview: led by Randall Jones

This is a plan initiated under the Governor to look at Medicaid programing at the state level and redesign it. Aging Partners participation with Medicaid, through the Medicaid Waiver Program, is we can provide services to help people stay in their homes by providing supportive services. Our investment can be anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000 dollars per person, per month. However if that same person no longer receives services

through the Medicaid Waiver Program you're looking at \$6,000 per month in long term care facilities. This program does save the State and Federal government money. However, due to the increasing age populations, spending is getting out of control. The State wants to look at how to be more efficient and save costs with Medicaid.

This redesign is looking at pulling various HHS services together under a single system to become more efficient. Redesign process began in January 2016. The redesign draft was just released and is holding listening sessions to get feedback on the draft. Anytime between May 2017 and January 2019 implementation will begin. This redesign will have to go through Nebraska legislature for approval.

Summary of Recommendations:

- a) "No Wrong Door" approach, rather than being passed around between different departments/agencies.
- b) Standardized assessment processes for Medicaid Long Term Services and Support programs.
 - Negative side is it may become more cookie-cutter styled service that is less flexible.
- c) Establish the infrastructure to support consumer self-direction, Personal Assistance Services and independent providers.
 - Includes electronic verification system
- d) Enrollment consolidation under one entity using just one assessment.
- e) Transition to a managed care program called Managed Long Term Services and Supports. This would eliminate Case Workers and substitute with a Managed Care Organizations who will supply private providers to manage the care an individual gets (such as insurance companies-Well Care, United Health, and Heritage Health). Essentially it will move management of individual services for Medicaid recipients to Managed Care Organizations.

One big concern is capitation: These private companies will be given money based on the assessed needs of the individuals which is capped; needs of the client may be outweighed by amount of money left. There is a shift from person-centered casework to a dollar-centered casework by for-profit insurance companies.

We all need a voice in this and members should encourage local communities to attend listening sessions and send in their questions, concerns, and comments to <http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/LTCCContact.aspx> or to DHHS.LTSSRedesign@Nebraska.gov.

Link to the draft plan http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/medicaid_LTC.aspx
The only way out of this is if Nebraska Legislature decides not to go down this path.

VII. Discussion regarding Next Year's Membership: led by Marsha Ward and Randall Jones
Annual term starts in July 2017. Nominations for upcoming vacancies will be held at May 25, 2017, at Areawide Advisory Council. Cathy brought up the importance of diversity and the great asset it is to council.

Other Items

Dust off job description and stipulations of Areawide Council to provide members

Adjournment: 2:52 PM

Next Meeting: April 13, 2017, location at Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Keese
4/6/2017

Handouts: Agenda, February 23rd Meeting Minutes, 2016 Multi-County Transportation Options Handout, Long Term Care Redesign Plan Overview PowerPoint, Aging Partners Units of Service Data, Nebraska Aging Services 2017 Taxonomy