

Aging Partners Areawide Advisory Council Minutes
September 21, 2017

Present: Linda Heinisch, Gloria Aron, Shari Busch, Keith Larsen, John Wyvill, Kathy Stokebrand, JoAnn Sieck, Ardee Rut, Sharon Reisdorff, Jacki Miller, Marty Stones, Esther Bailey

Audio Conference: Vern Schulte, Alan Gissler

Absent: Steve Egglund, Harold Simpson, Cathy Rauch, Marsha Ward

Staff: Randy Jones, Denise Boyd, Sandy Lutz, Amy Hansen, Susan Keese

I. Gloria Aron welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Randy introduced new council member, Jacquelyn Miller (Lancaster Co.).

II. Gloria Aron asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 25, 2017. After two corrections made, Ardee Rut made the motion and Esther Bailey seconded. All were in favor and the motion was adopted.

III. Purpose of Areawide Advisory Council: led by Gloria Aron and Randy Jones

Randy stated that Areawide Advisory Council is a collected group of individuals selected from Aging Partners 8 county service area that gather around issues of Aging. Aging Partners is able to leverage our interests in aging concerns to receive State and Federal funding to support our programs.

Areawide Council as five distinct purposes with its involvement with Aging Partners:

1. Review, approve and support Aging Partners *Area Plan*, an outline/proposal for how Aging Partners is going to serve seniors within our service area and reflects the funding that will be needed to meet outlined goals, which is reviewed and approved by the State Unit on Aging. This works as a proposal for funding. The Area Plan is written every 4 years and updated periodically
2. Council members bring issues and concerns related to seniors in local regions they live in. As a united group, we develop plans to meet needs and concerns based on feedback received at Areawide Council. This is asking each council member to be advocates for counties and county advisory committees.
3. Council members are encouraged to talk with local advisory committees and bring back issues for consideration to Aging Partners Areawide Advisory Council.
4. This Council is advisory in nature, with no governance authority. Governance comes from county boards and we encourage Areawide Council members to voice feedback and concerns of meetings to their local boards and promote solving issues of aging on a local level.
5. Areawide Council is a sounding board to see if Aging Partners is heading in the right direction in meeting the needs of aging individuals within our service area. Areawide Council's Bylaws is an excellent overview of the "purpose" of Areawide Advisory Council.

IV. Saline County Aging Services Presentation: led by Amy Hansen

Amy Hansen is the Saline County Aging Services Program Manager. She briefly reviewed services offered in Saline County including caregiver retreats, SHIP, congregate meals and Home Delivered Meals for seniors. Amy then focused the remainder of her time on Saline County's *Full Circle* resource fairs. Amy's *Full Circle* program is the first pop-up senior center to be offered in Nebraska and is her primary goal for Saline Counties' portion of the *Area Plan*. *Full Circle* is an innovated way to get services to underserved areas of her county for older adults. Once a month Friend, NE, host a *Full Circle* pop-up center including food tastings, fall prevention, congregate meal, collective health fair (bone density, flu shots, shingles shots, and nursing students to

perform blood glucose and cholesterol screenings). Friend, NE was selected at the first site to start *Full Circle* pop-up senior centers for two reasons. First, when the nursing home closed, services dropped out of Friend for older adults. Second, Friend is the furthest site from Saline County Aging Services Office-which allows complete county coverage. *Full Circle* has helped meet the needs of underserved/unserved areas of Saline Co. since there is only one senior center. Since starting the *Full Circle* Program last year, Saline County has seen a 9% increase in unduplicated service count by reaching the socially isolated.

Kathy Stokebrand mentioned that there has been more involvement at DeWitt Center (the only meal senior center open in Saline Co.) after folks had attended the pop-up center in Friend with “follow up”. Randy mentioned other counties have followed Amy’s lead by working towards starting their own county pop-up centers.

Lastly Amy spoke on a new program offered in Saline County: Crete, NE, began Tabitha Meals On Wheels which began at 224 meals delivered in its first month. It has grown to over 500 meals per month delivered, with 6,600 meals delivered in the first year of operation. This program is paid for mostly with fundraising effort by Saline County Senior Services and Grant writing.

Q&A

- Gloria asked where Congregate Meals are served in Saline Co. Wednesdays in DeWitt and once a month in Friend at the *Full Circle* pop-up center. Amy is planning on expanding the congregate meal programming by converting the backroom at Wilber Senior Services into a Dining room for Congregate Meal Site (where we met for today’s meeting). Aging Partners gave money to get tables and chairs to help facilitate meal site at Wilber.
- Randy emphasized that funding is provided through Aging Partners based on population size and County Boards also allocate additional funding resulting in a wide range of funding individualized to each county.
- Marty added that Crete Air Medical Center may be a good team-up for Saline County Senior Services to provide space for *Full Circle* pop-up centers.
- Amy plans to start *Full Circle* pop-up center at Western, Tobias, and Swanton, NE.
- Linda mentioned that Geneva (Fillmore Co., 2nd to start pop-up senior centers) is a huge supporter of pop-up centers and recommended approaching city council for support.
- Randy asked if senior services are strong in Crete. Amy replied that Crete is “hard to break into” due to a self-sufficient attitude and that volunteers are not as readily available. Also, Tabitha covers a lot of services in Crete. Randy emphasized OAA will not replace present services and strives to compliment and support existing services which is why there is less of a presence in Crete.

V. Food Preparation Contract: led by Denise Boyd

Denise Boyd is Aging Partners head Registered Dietitian and Nutrition Division Administrator, while overseeing the multi-county programs. Aging Partners kitchen facility has been operating for 27 years. Due to aging equipment and major facility costs (to meet coding) Aging Partners is facing big expenses to maintain their central kitchen. These future costs led to a discussion about a food contract with a vendor and away from our Central Kitchen.

Due to ENOAs success in getting a good price contracted meal, Aging Partners pursued getting a contracted vendor to provide meals. After a 30 day open bidding, the selected bid for the food contract went to Company Kitchen/ Treat America. Company Kitchen is located in Omaha and has been in business 54 years. They have other contracts in Lincoln and successfully transfer high quality meal items. Meals are cooked fresh daily beginning at 1 a.m., door-to-door delivery, meet OAA regulations, and have been well received at other

Lincoln accounts.

Aging Partners is ready to go to contract with Company Kitchen/Treat America; however, after a news story in the Lincoln Journal Star, the State Unit on Aging requested that the *Area Plan* must be amended to reflect food model change before Aging Partners can move forward with contracted meals.

Denise handed out a current menu from central kitchen as well as Company Kitchens menu for comparison for council members.

Q&A

- Amy asked if meals will be delivered hot. Yes, they are cooked fresh each morning and delivered hot to meal sites.
- Kathy asked what happens if food cannot get to Lincoln? Randy answered that if whether conditions close Lincoln Public Schools then senior centers close as well and lunch is canceled. Second, Company Kitchen is looking into availability of Lincoln kitchen to supplement Omaha production. Third, shelf-stable blizzard boxes which meet all meal regulations and guidelines are provided at each meal site if food truck is unable to get to Lincoln from Omaha.
- Kathy asked if there were any Lincoln bids or UNL. No, 75 local vendors were sent information from purchasing about bid (with 30 days to respond). Only 2 showed interest. However, only Company Kitchen/Treat America (Omaha) submitted a bid.
 - Sandy Lutz interjected that Aging Partners is very confident with vendor after an on-site visit to Arlington Senior Center (furthest point Company Kitchen drives). Three Aging Partners staff joined Arlington for lunch and found the food very good, nice portioning and overall pleasing. None of the participants complained and said that they were enjoying the new menus provided by Treat America. Distance food traveled to Arlington comparable to Lincoln travel time.
- Randy added that Aging Partners will be performing routine quality checks including:
 - Communication with Lancaster County Health Department
 - Food delivered and served hot, ready-to-eat
 - Maintaining safe, standardized temperature equipment
 - Logging of all temperatures to maintain health and quality standards
- Gloria asked how long the contract is. Four years with 90 day escape clause for non-performance and a 30 day “out” for any reason.
- Shari asked if the Downtown Senior Center will move to Victory Park. Transportation will provide choice for participants. They can attend one of our current center sites or we will provide van service to and from Victory Park.
- Keith asked if there were lost positions. Three part-time staff will be released. However, the fulltime cook will be retained for quality assurance monitoring and to help with meal service at the downtown location. Additional programming may provide part-time work such as Saturday food delivery.
- Ardee asked if Aging Partners will have to wait for State approval and how long. Randy answered yes that there is a delay in start date until approved and that the State Unit on Aging will not give set timeframe for their answer.

Randy added in addition to kitchen depreciation, Aging Partners still hopes to move to Victory Park which has no kitchen and is too expensive to invest in a kitchen there. It was decided to make a kitchen/food model change now before we're in the position of having too. Also that it is more financially efficient because the cost per meal was increasing and this new food model helps us reduce that cost. The Treat America contract will save roughly \$50,000.

Randy asked Areawide Advisory Council for recommendation to submit and approve the revised *2017-2019 Area Plan* to the DHHS State Unit on Aging. Jacki Miller made the motion and Keith Larsen seconded. All were in favor and the motion was adopted.

VI. Continued Diversity Discussion: led by Randy Jones

The purpose of expanding the Areawide Advisory Council membership number is to increase diversity. We are looking for people who can add quality discussion while at the same time expand our viewpoint.

VII. Medicaid Waiver Redesign Update: led by Sandy Lutz

State of Nebraska has been looking at populations growing needs and how to meet those needs in a more economical way. DHHS went across the State to see what concerns are; are needs being met; and different options/ways to meet those needs. Compiled feedback and final recommendations was presented in May 2017 to have Managed Care come in a takeover the bulk of DHHS/Medicaid services. Now it's up to Legislature what to do with findings and the Managed Care "recommendation". If Legislator moves forward with recommendation, then Aging Partners' Medicaid Waiver Program will look very different or possibly taken over by a separate Managed Care company.

Sandy's gut feeling is that the bulk of Medicaid will go to Managed Care-which will cost more. Three Medicaid Managed Care programs administering Medicaid care services in Nebraska-Total Care, Well Care, and United who may be interested in taking over managed care in Nebraska. Regulations dictate that at least two Managed Care Programs must be available within the State.

Q&A

- John pointed out two problems coming up; first, a lack of staff who understands Medicaid Reform in the Legislator. Second, Legislator seems to be embracing Managed Care.
- Keith asked what does monitoring look like with Managed Care. They will monitor services provided-not those services that are missed.
 - Sandy emphasized we have to make our voices and concerns over Managed Care known to Legislator.
 - Randy also mentioned the importance of promoting home and community-based care services and voicing these programs success.
- Amy asked why Managed Care is being promoted so quickly on the heels of Heritage Health (a Managed Care program) even though there is a lack of success data. Sandy agreed, one legislative recommendation, made by Senator Patty Pansing Brooks, was to hold off one year on deciding on Managed Care to see how Heritage Health is going? Things have slowed down now, looking at 2020.
- Randy asked Kathy if at her October 11th meeting if she can find an opportunity to ask the State what they're doing to promote the role of the Area Agencies on Aging and Senior Organizations in the future of Long-Term Services and Support.

VIII. ADRC Update: led by Sandy Lutz

Legislator funded a two year *Aged and Disabled Resource Center* pilot program, expires June 2018. The ADRC aims to provide services to anyone with disability and the aged (60 and older) in the State; this has hugely expanded exposure of Aging Partners. Aging Partners has reached out to and networking with other agencies to better meet needs of younger disabled individuals. The most common needs are housing, financial help, transportation.

Aging Partners/ADRC works as a one-stop shop for individuals seeking help. Aging Partners is able to make referrals to other organizations to help individual needs get met if Aging Partners cannot handle the

need/problem directly. Help varies from a one-time encounter up to in-depth case management.

Legislator is looking at fully funding ADRC past the pilot program. Randy does not know what the future of the program looks like. Aging Partners approached the State to let them know that if they want ADRC to continue, past its two year pilot program, it will require funding of roughly \$3-7million dollars to keep it at the level of success it's currently at.

IX. Council Expansion Update: led by Gloria Aron

Membership is based on population 65 years or older by county. This allows for Lancaster to add up to four more council representatives. The purpose of expanding council membership is to increase diversity and add quality discussion to the group. Jacki Miller has filled one of these openings and leaves three open seats.

X. Review of Areawide Council Schedule: led by Gloria Aron

Areawide Council will meet next October 19th at David City, NE.

David City Senior Center

592 D St. David City, NE. 68632

Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM (\$4.50 under age 60, \$3.50 over age 60)

Council will meet 1:00-3:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Keese

October 9, 2017

Amended by Randall S. Jones

Handouts: Agenda, May 25th Meeting Minutes, Areawide Advisory Council 2017-2018 Calendar, Areawide Advisory Council 2017-2018 Member List, Areawide Advisory Council 2017-2018 Tentative Year Agenda