



**DHHS - State Unit on Aging
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2015 10:00 am-2:00 pm
620 East 25th St. Ste 12 Kearney, NE**

Present: Colleen Andrews, Charlotte Dorwart, Rodale Emken, Doyle Howitt, Rod Hughes, Jacqueline Kuxhausen, Michael Millea, Kenneth Niedan, Claire Schmidt, Kathy Stokebrand, Christine Sueverkruupp

Staff: Cynthia Brammeier-Administrator, Kevin Young-Staff Assistant

Guests: Michelle Chaffee, Office of Public Guardian; Rod Horsley, Director South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging

10:05 **Rodale Emken** called the meeting to order and took roll call.

The minutes for the October 15, 2014 were emailed and handed out at the meeting. It was noted that Sidney was misspelled. It was moved, seconded, and the minutes were approved as amended.

Nominations of new officers: Clare Schmidt, Chairperson; Jacqueline Kuxhausen; Vice Chair; and Rod Hughes, Chair of Legislative Committee. No further nominations were presented. It was moved and seconded to approve the officers presented. The officers were elected unanimously.

Advisory Committee bylaws changes were reviewed. Redundant language was removed from the bylaws and absences were discussed.

It was moved, seconded to make changes presented and discussed at the meeting. The amendments were approved unanimously. An attachment of the changes in strikethrough formatting will be attached to these minutes.

Committee Member Duties were reviewed regarding the expectation of each member visiting facilities and events in their planning service area. A new member orientation was discussed.

It was moved, seconded to make changes presented and discussed at the meeting. The amendments were approved unanimously. An attachment of the changes in strikethrough formatting will be attached to these minutes.

10:40 **Cynthia Brammeier** updated the Committee regarding staff changes at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the State Unit on Aging (SUA). Calder Lynch, the new Medicaid Director began March 9th and Courtney

Phillips, new DHHS CEO began on April 2nd. The SUA's Federal Aid Administrator, Renee Savidge started on March 23rd.

The Senior Medicaid Patrol (SMP) program will move out of the State Unit on Aging and join the Nebraska Department of Insurance (DOI) Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) administration on of July 1. SMP is an excellent fit with SHIIP whose vast volunteer network who already serve the state's 60 and over population.

A request for proposals (RFP) was issued for a new state wide contract for the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP). Experience Works, the current vendor, was the only bidder. The RFP was required per a US Department of Labor audit of the SCSEP program, and ENOA stopped offering the services.

Penny Clark began reporting to the CEO on October 1, 2014. Courtney Phillips, the new DHHS CEO, started April 2, 2015. Penny has increased the volunteer base statewide by 10-15 volunteers in her first year as the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging will begin a new ombudsman program on July 1st, 2015. Rod Horsley was commended for his efforts to support the Ombudsman program. Aging Partners in Lincoln dropped their program in February, 2015.

The State Unit on Aging's Four Year Plan was submitted in draft form to the Administration for Community (ACL). Suggestions were received, and amendments are being made. Advisory Committee members received copies via email prior to the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Plan, including future modifications requested by the ACL.

12:30

Cynthia Brammeier reviewed the Aging Nebraskans Task Force Strategic Plan, published in December, 2014. Themes from the task force included information, coordination, transportation and innovation as well as getting the right support to the right person at the right time. Recommendations included making Access Nebraska more accessible to seniors, modernizing the forty year-old Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), and working to improve transportation availability in rural areas.

LB 690 (2014) created the Aging Nebraskans Task Force, and the Office of Public Guardian.

Legislation affecting the Sate Unit on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in 2015 include LB 320 and LB 607. LB 320 creates 3 pilot Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) and develops a State Alzheimer's plan. LB 607 creates a Home Healthcare Bills of Rights.

LB 320 establishes an ADRC pilot project where the AAAs would partner with local providers and submit proposals to the State via an RFP process. It would serve everyone with a disability, regardless of age, greatly increasing the client base of the AAAs. LB 320 was amended to include a State Alzheimer's plan which fits together with ADRC's goal of having a single contact for those seeking services. It is currently in its final reading and is expected to pass.

LB 607, in creating the Home Healthcare Bills of Rights would, among other things, open Ombudsman services to those receiving in-home services. This would more than double the population currently served by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The Nutrition Tool used on monitoring visits, developed by Program Specialist Erik White, was reviewed.

The ACCESSNebraska performance measures released by Health and Human Services was reviewed. The website with this information was shared via email.

Cynthia presented materials from Jerry Deichert of the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research. Data shows the wave of baby boomers as they age.

1:00

Michelle Chaffee, Public Guardian, discussed the newly created Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), its structure and mission. In line with the Aging Nebraskans Taskforce recommendations, the office will act as a guardian or conservator of last resort for those individuals who have no one to fill the role. Michelle is in the process of hiring twelve public guardians, to be housed across the state, with each serving forty clients.

Michelle plans to increase the Court Visitor program. When a ward is identified by the court, statute requires an investigation by either a guardian ad litem or a court visitor to assess the wards' needs. This is to ensure the ward is receiving only the amount of assistance needed. The OPG will also be responsible for recruiting and training private guardians and conservators statewide.

1:30

Advisory Committee Member Reports

Christine Sueverkruupp shared an article she wrote promoting the Aging network in an article in the Lincoln South Newspaper. Christine highlighted the history of the Older Americans Act on its 50th anniversary. The article discussed the array of services offered to Older Nebraskans through the Act.

Jacqueline Kuxhausen reported a reduction in attendance in Gothenburg's Senior Center, as a new assisted living facility has opened up. Jacqueline also reported participation is high in card and pool tournaments as well as quilting.

Clare Schmidt described a Senior Prom offered by the Elders Issue Consortium in Grand Island hosted at the Senior Center. There was also a Health Fair in Grand Island. There will also be a Caregiver Day sharing resources available to caregivers.

Doyle Howitt reported that the Peterson Center is alert to developing additional aging services that are attracting people to the center. Doyle and Rod Horsley are involved with an evening class at UNK on the aging process. The size of the collegiate group has doubled.

Colleen Andrews discussed education programs at hospitals regarding aging services. Colleen reported that Aging Partners seminars are well attended by professionals and the general public.

Ken Niedan related that the Hershey Senior Center has dropped attendance to 12 people per day. It is still losing money each month and is dependent on reserves.

Michael Millea reported participating in a Senior Prom at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Gerontology. This program involves students that practice social exposure with the aged. Lewis and Clark High School also participates in the program.

Rod Hughes discussed a senior center that is considering closing. Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging would like to open more senior centers, but there are no funds available. Pilger is searching for a place to rebuild their Senior Center. Norfolk built a new garage for their Handy-Bus service and they offer an auto club that hosts car shows.

Kathy Stokebrand reported that Saline and Lancaster County are working on their bylaws, and are opting for less frequent meetings. Saline County has been successful serving evening meals. Other successful programs include Swimming, Tai Chi, quilting, Bridge, and Pitch groups.

Charlotte Dorwart reported the western senior centers are working well despite financial setbacks. The Aging Office of Western Nebraska took over the work of Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska; particularly the foster grandparent program. The area also received assistance from local ministerial organizations to purchase food for their congregate meal programs. One senior center has contests during meals and their attendance has doubled from 16 to 35.

Rodale Emken reported that the Holdrege Senior Center will receive \$65,000 from Phelps County.

1:50pm

Board Orientation: Advisory Committee Members requested a board orientation from Cynthia at the next meeting. It was agreed to start at 9am for the orientation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2015.