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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**DHHS - State Unit on Aging Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2018 9:00 am-2:00 pm
South Central NE Area Agency on Aging
620 E 25th Street, Ste. 12**

- Present:** Christine Sueverkruupp, Barbara Wegner, Colleen Claassen, , Michael Millea, Shari Busch, Rod Hughes, Rodale Emken, Claire Schmidt, Janice Price, , Charlotte Dorwart
- Absent:** Kenneth Niedan, Doyle Howitt
- Staff:** Cynthia Brammeier, Administrator
Penny Clark, Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Guests:** Rod Horsley, Executive Director, South Central NE Area Agency on Aging
Connie Cooper, Executive Director, Northeast NE Area Agency on Aging
Zoe Olson, Executive Director, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging
Casey Muzic, Executive Director, Midland Area Agency on Aging
Ryan Sothan, Outreach Coordinator, Consumer Protection Division, Nebraska Attorney General's Office

Clare Schmidt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00am, welcoming everyone. Cynthia Brammeier took roll call. Introductions were made. Rodale Emken moved, Colleen Claassen seconded, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Nominations 2017-2019:

- Committee Chairperson: Clare Schmidt
- Vice Chairperson: Colleen Claassen was nominated by Barb Wegner, seconded by Christine Sueverkruupp.
- Chairperson of Legislative Committee: Rod Hughes

Rodale Emken moved, Janice Price seconded, to close nominations, and approve the slate. The motion carried.

Minutes:

Colleen Claassen moved, Christine Sueverkruupp seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

State Unit on Aging Updates

Grants and Contracts: Cynthia Brammeier presented financial reports: FY17 year-end grants paid to the agencies; and reports for the first six months of FY18. These are published on the State Unit on Aging web page: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Aging/Pages/Financial-Program-Data.aspx>

Staffing Updates: The fiscal program manager position had a change at the end of December. Renee Savidge joined the DHHS Grants Unit. Bob Halada joined the State Unit on Aging in February. Bob has 29-30 years of accounting experience at the state, and recently worked in the DHHS Grants Unit. Bob is quickly learning about the aging network. Additionally, LB 793 passed, two positions were requested in the fiscal note. One Federal Aid Administrator to manage administrative claiming

through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, which will be new funding. A Business Systems Analyst was requested to help with the reporting and system replacement and related changes.

2018 Legislative Updates:

LB 793 made the Aging & Disability Resource Centers permanent. LB 793 was the Developmental Disabilities bill, and the ADRC was amended onto it. Funding was provided through the Health Care Cash Fund for two years. Future funding will require an appropriation. Changes from the pilot project include adding six services to the aging taxonomy (definition of services), determining how and where to measure those services, and methods of counting non-client activities related to the ADRC by the agencies. The AAAs can offer one or more of 8 services. The AAAs can choose whether to participate in the ADRC.

LR414 will look at whether the ADRC services are a duplication of existing AAA services.

LB903 the Ombudsman program, federally required updates, passed. No program changes are affected. This brings Nebraska in line with the federal regulations, which were finalized in July 2016. The next step is updating the corresponding regulations. Most of the regulation changes are drafted.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program – Penny Clark presented the LTCOP annual report, and discussed the nuances of LB 903.

Regulation updates are in process. A chapter will be added for nutrition programs. It will bring several federal and state resources into one document for the agencies and staff administering nutrition programs. The other change is splitting the definitions into a separate chapter. Aging will submit all chapters as a bundle for approval and conduct one public hearing. Redundant language with state statute was removed; for the most part, federal definitions are referenced, but not duplicated. In the case of the Ombudsman program, some federal redundancy is required in the corrective action plan.

AAA Updates:

Connie Cooper, Executive Director of the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, and Chairperson of the Association of Area Agencies on Aging, discussed several items:

- Area plan and budget activities, and Care Management program recertification;
- The legislative session was busy and ran to the last day regarding LB793, she thanked Senators Stinner, Bolz, Crawford, Reipe, and Scheele, the Health and Human Services Committee, and the Legislature;
- The Norfolk Daily News ran a nice article on the Ombudsman program;
- LB394 and LR442 passed, the AAAs are following closely;
- Monitoring visits included the State Auditor this year performing fiscal testing and was time consuming; the AAAs are also conducting more in depth monitoring of senior centers;
- Ten years ago, the aging network worked on senior center revitalization project and looked at issues to attract baby boomers;

ADRC Project

Rod Horsley, Executive Director of the South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, reported on the ADRC activities. Rod distributed the March 2018 statistical report regarding calls, contacts, and surveys. Survey numbers have been very low, but the reports are very positive.

Guest Speaker: Ryan S. Sothan, Outreach Coordinator, Consumer Protection Division, Nebraska Attorney General's Office

Ryan presented statistical information regarding Elder Fraud both nationally and locally. Overall, there is vast under-reporting of fraud and abuse of seniors, estimated to be 24 times greater than the number referred for investigation. There is no central repository of elder abuse/fraud reporting. In Nebraska, reports can be filed with the Attorney General's Office, Adult Protective Services, Area Agencies on Aging, Better Business Bureau, Elder Access Line (run by Legal Aid of Nebraska), Local Law Enforcement, Nebraska Department of Insurance, Department of Veterans Affairs, or the National Eldercare Locator. Ryan provided several online listings of resources and a printed book. The Centers for Disease Control updated the definition of Elder Abuse, "an intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that creates a seniors risk of harm to an older adult." Elder abuse risk factors include: isolation and low social support, dementia, previous traumatic experience, functional impairment or poor physical health, and gender – women are more likely to be abused than men. Ryan reported on the recently launched Endangered Missing Advisory alert system through the Nebraska State Patrol. The system has been successful at finding missing vulnerable adults.

<http://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/vnews/display.v/ART/59e0d1f96ef2d>

Ryan reported on the new consumer scams and fraud reporting site, printed books with a form was also provided <https://protectthegoodlife.nebraska.gov/report-scam>

Meal Program Overview

Cynthia presented a PowerPoint on federally funded meal programs.

- Health & Human Services: Older Americans Act, Medicaid Waiver, & Title XX.
- US Department of Agriculture: Child & Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, & Summer Food Service Program.
- Salvation Army, Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- National Meal Delivery Services: Mom's Meals, GA Foods SunMeadow.
- Grocery Stores: HyVee
- Commercial kitchens: Bryan Health, Catholic Health Initiatives, Valley, & Tabitha.
- Churches & community centers.

All facilities providing meals must follow Nebraska Food Codes. Lancaster County has additional food code regulations. Each program has rules about who can participate, how and how much they should pay, the food mix, the setting, and programming in the case of Older Americans Act meal programs.

Member Reports:

- **Charlotte Dorwart, Sidney, Aging Office of Western Nebraska:** Tai Chi is bringing more people into the centers.
- **Rodale Emken, Holdrege, South Central:** No report.
- **Rod Hughes, Norfolk, Northeast:** Healthcare is limited in the area.
- **Janice Price, Beatrice, Blue Rivers:** One center has closed.
- **Christine Sueverkruepp, Lincoln, at large member:** Working on a Medicaid Waiver documentation group. Rural areas continue to have caregiver challenges. A program to get younger eligible to drive elders to centers is increasing participation in some areas. Waiver

clients cannot have a provider in the home when a home delivered meal is scheduled, it is considered double-dipping.

- **Barbara Wegner, Cozad, at large member:** Working on SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) on new Medicare cards. Mutual of Omaha plan is ending and premiums are going up.
- **Colleen Claassen, Lincoln, at large member:** Colleen was married in March. Colleen is working on a committee with Lancaster County Health Department for poor and uninsured persons with diabetes, chronic health issues, and recently released prisoners. There is funding for prisoner release programs, but not a lot of programs. The May breakfast at Aging Partners will feature, from DHHS: Courtney Miller, Director of Developmental Disabilities Division; and Heather Leschinsky, Deputy Director of Medicaid and Long-Term Care.
- **Shari Busch, Lincoln, Aging Partners.** Shari is the new member, as Kathy Stokebrand retired. Aging Partners received a \$42,000 grant for new equipment at the new fitness center. The center is open to the public 8-4, M-F. Over \$60 is suggested \$10 donation per month; under 60 is \$15 per month.
- **Claire Schmidt, Grand Island, Midland Area:** The Grand Island Senior Center held their “Senior Prom” again, and a few folks arrived in a limo.
- **Michael Millea, Omaha, Eastern Nebraska:** Mike announced Administrative Professionals Day. Mike recently became an Ombudsman. Barb and Shari expressed interest in becoming Ombudsmen.

Questions, Public Comments:

Christine Sueverkruupp moved, Michael Millea seconded, to encourage members to contact senators with concerns about the aging network.

Other Business:

Kathy Stokebrand will receive a *Nebraska Admiralship* as a thank you for her 28 years of service on the Aging Advisory Committee. Thanks to Shari Busch, the presentation will take place on Thursday at the Aging Partners Advisory Council regular meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 9:00 am– 2:00 pm, South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.