



**DHHS - State Unit on Aging Advisory  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2018 9:00 am-2:00 pm**  
South Central NE Area Agency on Aging  
620 E 25th Street, Ste. 12  
Kearney, Nebraska

- Present:** Barbara Wegner, Colleen Claassen, Michael Millea, Shari Busch, Rod Hughes, Rodale Emken, Claire Schmidt, Janice Price, Charlotte Dorwart, Kenneth Niedan, Doyle Howitt
- Absent:** Christine Sueverkruepp
- Staff:** Cynthia Brammeier, Administrator
- 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  
Dennis Loose, Executive Director, Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging  
Linda Foreman, Executive Director, West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging  
Cheryl Brunz, Executive Director, Aging Office of Western Nebraska  
Randy Jones, Executive Director, Aging Partners  
Jina Ragland, AARP  
Claire McHenry, Nebraska Banking Commission

Clare Schmidt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Members and guests were welcomed. Roll call was taken.

Agenda:

Rodale Emken moved, Colleen Claassen seconded, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Minutes:

Rodale Emken moved, Janice Price seconded, to approve the minutes with one correction: Shari Busch was present, and remove Kathy Stokebrand. The motion carried.

State Unit on Aging Updates:

Cynthia Brammeier reported on activities within the unit. Scottsbluff & North Platte monitoring is complete. The Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) is conducting fiscal testing for Aging and Medicaid waiver programs for FY19. An issue being researched is “fixed price” meal reimbursements to providers. The SUA has requested federal guidance. Advisory Committee members received a copy of the APA report for North Platte, AOWN will be conducted later this Fall. An APA question about AAA nonprofit status, was resolved. An expected repeat finding is the value of donated space for a senior center or meal site. AOWN used 1% of insured value, which was suggested by their CPA and confirmed by the NACO assessor representative. The APA disagrees with this method of valuation. The Department of Revenue recommended a rent survey – which is not feasible in small communities with few if any other rentals.

The Medicaid & Long-Term Care Division Director, Matthew Van Patton asked the SUA to lead a gap analysis of “Aging in Place Inventory Assessment” of services – including both public and private across the state. The project is a logical fit with Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, and the ADRC project. The SUA is working with MLTC, and the other divisions, as well as other departments, and the private sector.

The State 4-year plan, in draft form, is due to the Administration for Community Living / Administration on Aging in the spring.

The AAA 4-year AAA area plans are due to the SUA in the spring. The SUA and AAAs began working collaboratively earlier this year on the 4-year plans. SUA and AAA staff are meeting in December, in Kearney, to go over the area plan requirements, and the AAAs will establish performance measures for the coming 4 years.

A request for proposals is with DAS purchasing to competitively bid for software to replace the system currently in use. It is expected to be released in the next month.

Grant funding reports were handed out for SFY18. Expenses were provided for the 8 AAAs, 3 nonprofits with the Senior Volunteer Program; and National Able – Employment Grant.

LB 793 – A copy was enclosed with meeting materials. ADRC plans are in place, 7 AAAs are participating & working with disability partners. A request for proposals is with DHHS procurement to hire a temporary contractor to help implement Medicaid administrative claiming, in relation to ADRC activities.

Staffing Updates – The Federal Aid Administrator position is posted. The current staff person is moving out of state.

#### Guest Speakers:

AARP: Jina Ragland presented information on the upcoming Legislative session. AARP joined the Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, and American Heart Association to collectively meet with 35 of the 42 senators running for office over the summer. Meetings were held in 5 locations NP, Columbus, Lincoln, and Omaha. Every 3 years, AARP polls members statewide. The last survey topic was caregivers. Ideas for 2019 are being considered.

Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance, Bureau of Securities - Claire McHenry presented information on investment fraud. An investment advisor will be a fiduciary. They must act in clients' best interest. However, a broker-dealer agent may be held to a suitability standard. As an investor, you must know the professional credentials for the person you are working with. Investors are strongly encouraged to look up brokers by name, to see where they are licensed, their background, and see a full report on the person. To sell instruments, they must be registered in the state to sell most investment products, unless operating under an exemption. Check online [www.Brokercheck.FINRA.org](http://www.Brokercheck.FINRA.org) If you do not ask in person, you can look them up. You can also call the Department to look this up for you. The Serve Our Seniors website was shared. [www.serveourseniors.org](http://www.serveourseniors.org) In general, if you do not recognize an incoming call, leave it for voice mail. Scammers rarely leave a message. Watch out for the free lunch seminars. The Department offers speakers to travel for presentations.

Fraudulent schemes described included:

Ponzi scheme – investments pay off top tier investors.

Affinity fraud – bring in friends, churches, and close communities.

Financial abuse goes hand in hand with other abuse, both physical and neglect.

#### Member Reports

Each member made a brief report for their area and activities.

- Michael Millea, ENOA: Trained as an Ombudsman and is visiting facilities in Omaha.
- Barb Wegner: Medicare Part D enrollment is gearing up. The Cozad Grand Generation Center added a new bus with funding through Nebraska DOT.
- Rod Hughes, NENAAA: Budgets are about even for the AAAs.
- Shari Busch, Aging Partners, Lincoln: The meal site in Hickman is moving to a new community center. The Joann Maxey center is closing, and the program is moving to Belmont. The Malone Center will be using the facility differently. Contracted meals were discontinued, and the downtown kitchen is in operation again. A new exercise facility opened in the old Election Commission office on South 9th Street. This has increased attendance by 65%. The New Veterans clinic was approved.
- Rodale Emken, SCNAAA: Retiring from gardening and selling the lot. This year, Rodale delivered 300 vases of flowers to the nursing homes and visited with the residents.
- Colleen Claassen, AP: They are seeing a lot of patients at Bryan who are signing up for Medicare Advantage.
- Charlotte Dorwart, AOWN: shared a letter she wrote to representatives regarding services for aging and disabled Nebraskans.
- Doyle Howitt, SCNAAA: Is living in a long-term care facility, and has helped organize a more formal exercise group. Doyle has received positive emotional response from residents.
- Janice Price, BRAAA: The advisory committee will meet next week. AP will get involved in the Senior Day with the Legislature. Senior Center attendance is dropping. They are trying evening meals to attract different participants. There is a need to address welcoming new members. Younger seniors are still working, and the agency is looking for ways to attract them.
- Ken Neiden, WCNAAA: The congregate meal program has picked up 4 couples daily in Hershey. They wrote letters to the media and editor, the newspaper helped promote programs.

#### AAA Updates – Zoe Olson

The AAA Directors met with Director Van Patton in August, more meetings are planned. The AAAs met on 9/11/18 with the disability partners regarding the ADRCs. Six have signed MOUs. The AAAs and disability partners are developing action plan for implementation. The FY19 ADRC plans were approved 9/10. The next meeting with disability partners is scheduled for October 30, in Kearney. The evaluation vendor calls were conducted in September. February 26 is senior day at the legislature. More information will be available from your service areas. This year, the Governor will be invited.

#### Nominations: April Annual Meeting

Chairperson - Clare Schmidt; Vice Chair-Colleen Claassen; Legislative Committee – Rod Hughes.  
Recommendations.

- We will need to organize a nominating committee for the April meeting.
- The April meeting is the annual meeting.

#### Public Comment: None.

The next meeting will be held: April 10, 2019; 9am-2pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.