



DHHS - State Unit on Aging Advisory
 Committee Meeting Minutes
 April 10, 2019 9:00 am-1:30 pm
 South Central NE Area Agency on Aging
 620 E 25th Street, Ste. 12
 Kearney, Nebraska

Present:	Colleen Claassen, Michael Millea, Shari Busch, Rodale Emken, Janice Price, Doyle Howitt
Absent:	Barbara Wegner, Rod Hughes, Claire Schmidt, Charlotte Dorwart, Kenneth Niedan
Staff:	Cynthia Brammeier, Administrator
Guests:	Rod Horsley, Executive Director, South Central NE Area Agency on Aging Zoe Olson, Executive Director, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging Randy Jones, Executive Director, Aging Partners Alicia Jones, Administrator, SHIP, Nebraska Dept. of Insurance Kimberly Church, Fraud Investigator, Nebraska Dept. of Insurance Tag Herbek, Consumer Finance Counsel, Nebraska Dept. of Banking & Finance

Call to Order: Colleen Claassen, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10am. It was noted a quorum was not present, due to weather and illness. Decisions made at the meeting will be ratified at the October meeting.

Roll call: Members and guests introduced themselves, roll was taken.

Minutes: Minutes of the 10/3/18 were distributed via email and in meeting packets. No changes were noted. A vote to approve the meeting minutes will be conducted at the next meeting.

Nominations: The following was offered, and will be voted on at the next meeting: Colleen Claassen, Chair; Vice Chair, two nominees: Doyle Howitt, and Michael Millea; Legislative Chair, Shari Busch. Other members can be nominated for positions.

Legislative: State and federal funding is expected to remain flat. The appropriations committee is proposing to make the ADRC permanent in the FY20 budget. Otherwise, LB294 would extend funding through 6/30/21 with health care cash funds. Information will be shared as the legislature approves the budget.

A committee member requested information on the number of persons in nursing homes, and information about rates. Staff will obtain the information and share it.

Guest Speakers:

Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance: Tag Herbek. Consumer Finance Counsel

Tag presented information on reverse mortgages. A handout was provided.

1. Reverse mortgages are either:
 Special (single) purpose
2. Private (non-government insured)
3. HECM (home equity conversion mortgages)

Nebraska Department of Insurance, Fraud Unit: Kimberly Church, Fraud Investigator.

Kimberly presented information on the Fraud Unit, which is criminal based, following criminal statutes. The team includes a Chief, and 3 investigators. All investigators are certified law enforcement. The laws followed are the Insurance fraud act. Investigations include private insurance plans, insurance agents, financial advisors, anyone selling annuities, health care providers, or policy holders. The Fraud unit works closely with the Medicaid fraud division, and Medicare fraud, regarding providers.

The Fraud Unit worked 720 referrals last year. Most of these were from insurance companies, stemming from denials related to fraud. The value of property casualty was over \$42M in losses last year. Durable Medical Equipment fraud is high. Other fraud involves contractors, convincing clients to assign their full insurance claims over. Unfortunately, DOI cannot help with assignment of insurance claims. This becomes a civil issue. No one should sign over to start work.

Any insurance product should issue a statement every month. Even auto payments should have a report to the purchaser every month.

SHIIP Nebraska: Alicia Jones, SHIIP Administrator, DOI

Alicia provided a handout. SHIP manages three grants:

- SHIIP, State Health Insurance Assistance (Medicare enrollment assistance);
- Senior Medicare Patrol: Medicare Fraud Prevention; and
- MIPPA: Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act – low income and rural outreach.

SHIP has 300 counselors, with 50 in process, bringing the total to 350 statewide. Counselors are professionals, social workers, billing, pharmacy tech, and true unpaid volunteers. There are 8 locations across the state. Counselors have 8 hrs. of online training, followed by a full day of in-person training, and twice per year update training.

SHIP counselors help new enrollees sign up for Medicare, and change plans.

SHIP can help appeal discharge notices. SHIP Counselors can helping get compromised Medicare numbers changed. Any fraud should be reported and get new number and card issued.

The Durable Medical Equipment scams are prevalent. The back brace fraud resulted in a \$2B indictment, and 12 arrests this week on a national level.

Another scam is DNA testing.

AAAs: Zoe Olson, Executive Director, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging, and Ne4A Chair reported on behalf of the AAAs. The AAAs are following LB 468. The AAAs held a “senior day” at the Capitol on 2/26. The ADRCs are stronger this year, with good working relationships with the disability partners. ADRC funding remains the same. Senators were polled, and indicated Aging was their #2 priority. AAAs are meeting with senators annually. AAAs submitted area plans for FY20-23, and are working on revisions. The AAAs have concerns regarding the Census 2020, with rural areas losing population, and urban areas increasing population.

SUA Updates: Cynthia Brammeier, Administrator State Unit on Aging

- FY19 monitoring is complete. AOWN (Scottsbluff) fiscal monitoring is scheduled next week by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA). Monitoring for FY20 will start again in August. The APA will not be required to be on site for FY20 testing.
- The Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, is still researching a per meal reimbursement method at the state's request. This was brought up during monitoring, and was reported on at this meeting in October.
- In-kind value has been noted by the Auditor, and further information is being researched for the agencies. In essence, if an agency is using in-kind as a match, it needs to be treated like cash, for example - requiring the same level of detail tracking such as time sheets, documented local averages for hourly rates for professionals volunteering, etc.
- The Aging in Place report mentioned in October was completed in December, and is being edited by the Public Information Officer at DHHS.
- The agencies have all submitted 4-year plans. Requests for follow up is in process. Revisions have been submitted, and approvals should begin this week.
- Aging software replacement – a request for proposals (RFP) was awarded, and then the Department of Administrative Services rejected all bids. The replacement RFP was reissued on 4/1/19, with a new closing date of 5/1/19.
- A new staff person was hired to replace the Federal Aid Administrator. Gene Hogan came from the University in a grants funded area.
- Disaster grant – The SUA spoke with each agency after the disaster to see how disaster plans were carried out. The SUA expects to apply for a disaster grant. At this time, Northeast is the only AAA interested and in need of assistance.
- Grants, Funding Reports was distributed. All of the grants are listed in the handout. This represents invoices through 12/31/18. This is published on the website quarterly.
- Elder Justice Training is scheduled for 8/20/19. The agenda was provided at the meeting.

Aging State Plan: Cynthia Brammeier

The four-year Aging State Plan is required by the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, regarding how the State will meet the requirements of the Older Americans Act. The federal approval of the plan secures the federal grants for the upcoming four-year period. A hard copy was mailed to the advisory committee in March. Edits were offered at the meeting. Per unit reimbursement is mentioned in the state plan, with an anticipated approval to alleviate the APA concern over this practice of reimbursement at the AAA and senior center level. The SUA and AAAs began meeting in April-May 2018 to review federal goals and discuss the approach for the AAA Area Plans and the State Plan. The SUA and AAAs are required to address the federal goals at a minimum, and may offer local goals in the plans also. The State plan is online and input is being sought from the public. A public hearing will be held May 7. The plan will be finalized in June.

Next meeting: October 16 and 23 will be offered as possible dates for the next meeting. Committee members will be polled for preferences.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.