



**ELDERBRIDGE AGENCY ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Conference Call
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
9:00 am

0.0 Call to Order

Vice President Linda Vaudt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

0.1 The advisory council members, staff members, and guests introduced themselves. Also present were: Shelly Sindt, CEO, Stacia Timmer, COO, Amy B. Simpson, Executive Assistant, and Diana Elbert, newly elected council member were present. Ethan Huizenga, Board Liaison was also present. A quorum was present with 18 members in attendance.

Brenda Bengard Audubon	A	Elaine Kelsey Franklin	A	Vacant Osceola	
Vacant Buena Vista		Vacant Greene		Maureen Sandberg Palo Alto	P
Leane Bodle Calhoun	P	Betty Knudsen Guthrie	P	Linda Saathoff Pocahontas	P
Joene Bohlmann Carroll	P	Becky Koppen Hamilton	P	Vacant Sac	
Kathye Gaines Cerro Gordo	P	Vacant Hancock		Merry Landenberger Sioux	P
Randy Van Dyke Clay	P	Vacant Humboldt		Alison Hauser Webster	Ex
Sherry Meyer Crawford	P	Linda Vaudt Kossuth	P	Rick Burke Winnebago	A
Carol DeSchepper Dickinson	P	Lisa Rockshill Lyon	P	Nancy Rheinfels Worth	A
Kelly Schultz Emmett	P	Talia Bremer Mitchell	A	Ann Leonard Wright	Ex
Pat Gansen Floyd	P	Eric Erickson O'Brien	P	Ethan Huizenga Board Rep	P
Deb Kratchovil At-large	P				

0.2 Items to be added to/deleted from the Agenda by Council Members and Staff
No new items were added to the agenda.

0.3 Adopt Agenda
It was moved by Lisa Rockhill and seconded by Kelly Schultz to adopt the May 27, 2020, agenda. Motion carried.

1.0 Council Affairs

1.1 Approval of the February 26, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes
It was moved by Randy Van Dyke and seconded by Carol DeSchepper that the February 26, 2020, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried.

1.2 Change to Advisory Council Bylaws, Article III, Members – 1st Reading
CEO Sindt explained that she made a change to the bylaws in Article III, Section 1 to allow for three (3) at-large members to the Advisory Council. It was moved by Lisa Rockhill and seconded by Betty Knudsen to approve the change to the bylaws, Article III, Section 1, and to waive the 2nd reading. Motion carried.

1.3 Seating of Council Members, Pat Gansen (1st Term), Floyd County, Linda Saathoff (1st Term), Pocahontas County, Linda Vaudt (2nd Term), Kossuth County, Alison Hauser, (1st Term) Webster County, Merry Landenberger (Unexpired term) Sioux County, Debra Kratchovil. (At-Large), Diana Elbert 1st term July 1), Palo Alto County, Jan Olson (Unexpired term, July 1), Humboldt County
Vice President Vaudt seated the current members to new terms and welcomed new members, Merry Landenberger, Deb Kratchovil, Diana Elbert, and Jan Olson to the Advisory Council. It was moved by Joene Bohlmann and seconded by Kelly Schultz to seat the members and to also welcome the new members to the Advisory Council. Motion carried.

1.4 Advisory Council vacancies: Buena Vista, Greene, Hancock, Osceola, and Sac. As of July 1: Carroll, Emmet, Guthrie, and Worth
The Advisory Council was advised of the current county openings and the upcoming county vacancies. Members were asked to provide any possible candidates to CEO Sindt or Amy Simpson.

1.5 Elderbridge Re-opening Plan
CEO Sindt informed the Advisory Council that she will be slowly transitioning staff back in the office next month. Congregate meal sites are still closed. CEO Sindt stated she is constantly evaluating information about COVID-19 and the levels of the virus in Elderbridge's service area.

1.6 Appointment of Nominations Committee for Officers
Volunteers were requested for the Nominations Committee to recruit officers for the next fiscal year. Linda Vaudt volunteered for the Nominations Committee.

1.7 Fundraising Committee report
CEO Sindt reported that the "Play it Forward" fundraiser has been rescheduled to July 23, 2020, at The Waterfront in Okoboji where social distancing is possible. Tickets will be selling for \$25.00 a person. A 65" TV will be given away at the event. A ticket must be purchased to be entered into the drawing for the TV. CEO Sindt further stated that

she is looking at Facebook live to auction off donated items as a back-up if the fundraiser is not held in-person. Grants for the agency are continuing to be written by grant writer, Tammie McCready.

It was moved by Kelly Schultz and seconded by Maureen Sandberg to approve the Fundraising Committee report. Motion carried.

2.0 Board Liaison Report - Ethan Huizenga

The Board has been focusing on COVID-19 issues. Hazard pay was discussed for employees and meal site staff.

3.0 Agency Report

3.1 CEO Report – Shelly Sindt

CEO Sindt reported that the agency has been focusing on COVID-19 issues and staff is working from home. The agency received additional federal funds for the meal program to cover costs for frozen meals and having meals to go. The second round of federal funding can be used for all services and the agency has until September 2021 to spend the funds. Sanitizer and face masks were given to staff and meal sites. The agency's social media has been ramped up to provide information. Food banks and food pantries have been provided funding so seniors can receive food boxes.

3.2 COO Report – Stacia Timmer

COO Timmer reported that with the federal funding that has been received Elderbridge has done some creative outreach to existing partners and potential new service providers. RIDES in Spencer and MIDAS in Fort Dodge were contacted and were asked to pick up groceries and deliver them to seniors at home. A new purchase agreement was also entered into with Seasons Mental Health for assistance in dealing with the pandemic.

Congregate meal sites will be opening up soon. Farmers Market will begin on June 1. Applications and vouchers will be mailed through the US mail system. As of July 1, citizens can make in-person appointments to receive the Farmer's Market vouchers.

4.0 Community Relations

4.1 County Updates – Feedback from Council Members

- Carroll County – meal site is doing well and has picked up extra people.
- Clay County – COVID-19 has stopped a lot of activities. Meeting with Pastoral Association went well and they praised Elderbridge for keeping them well informed. A lot of the churches in the smaller communities have started to congregate again
- Emmet County – Respite Angels have been delivering fresh and frozen meals to the people they serve since they are unable to meet with their clients due to COVID-19. The senior program at the Regional Wellness Center has not been going on. The Wellness Center is taking appointments now and taking seniors on walks. Group respite at Calgary Church has been suspended. Meals on Wheels has increased. A lot of churches have stepped up to help deliver the meals.
- Guthrie County – Guthrie Hospital has a restaurant and has been delivering 20 carryout meals a day. Betty Knudsen stated she will miss the meetings and the members and she has enjoyed being on the Advisory Council.

- Hamilton County – Becky Koppen is the RSVP Coordinator and has been speaking with COO Timmer about partnering with Elderbridge to meet needs through volunteers. Congregate meals have been busier than ever with providing carryout meals.
- Kossuth County – Working with clients who need Medicare or Medicaid to help with their applications. Have been getting volunteers to take food to those who do not have transportation.
- Lyon County – Do not hear much from the Meals on Wheels program, but feel they are doing well. County offices have been closed. Shari’s Kitchen meal site is going well. The homemaker program has been doing well.
- Palo Alto County – Maureen Sandberg expressed her thanks to the Advisory Council and that she has enjoyed her time on the Council. Graettinger’s Food Pantry has continued to work during the pandemic. They bag up groceries and are put on the curb. People drive up and pick-up food boxes. The Grace Baptist in Emmetsburg is doing a food pantry once a month. The manager at the Dinner Date has been managing the take-out program and is doing a good job. She also does a delivery route. The Dinner Date site is currently working on the Nutrition Contract with Elderbridge.

5.0 Coming Dates

- 5.1** Next Advisory Council Meeting – August 26, 2020, 10:30 a.m., Fort Dodge Elderbridge Office
- 5.2** Next Board meeting – June 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m., by conference call
- 5.3** Webster County Caregiver Support Group – 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of every month, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Elderbridge Office, Fort Dodge (Suspended due to Covid-19)
- 5.4** Clay County Caregiver Support Group – Spencer Elderbridge office (4th Wednesday of every month) (Suspended due to Covid-19)
- 5.5** Caregiver Support Group–Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City (Suspended due to Covid-19)
- 5.6** Caregiver Panel Discussion – Coon Rapids, Thomas Rest Haven Activity Room, 1st Tuesday of every month (Suspended due to Covid-19)
- 5.7** May is Older Americans Month – “Make your Mark”
- 5.8** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15, 2020
- 5.9** Caregiver Conference – June 23, 2020, Carrollton Hotel & Events Center, Carroll, Iowa
- 5.10** Fundraiser “Play it Forward” Event, The Waterfront at Arnolds Park, July 23, 2020, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Adjournment

There being no further business before the Advisory Council, it was moved by Joene Bohlmann and seconded by Merry Landenberger to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried.