



ELDERBRIDGE AGENCY ON AGING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 Conference Call
 Wednesday, February 24, 2021
 9:00 a.m.

0.0 Call to Order

President Rockhill called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Ethan Huizenga, Board Liaison. A quorum was present with 15 members in attendance.

Brenda Bengard Audubon	Ex	Elaine Kelsey Franklin	Ph	Vacant Osceola	
Vacant Buena Vista		Vacant Greene		Diana Elbert Palo Alto	A
Leane Bodle Calhoun	Ph	Vacant Guthrie		Linda Saathoff Pocahontas	Ph
Vacant Carroll		Becky Koppen Hamilton	Ph	Vacant Sac	
Kathye Gaines Cerro Gordo	Ex	Vacant Hancock		Merry Landenberger Sioux	Ph
Randy Van Dyke Clay	Ph	Jan Olson Humboldt	Ph	Alison Hauser Webster	A
Sherry Meyer Crawford	A	Linda Vaudt Kossuth	Ph	Rick Burke Winnebago	Ph
Carol DeSchepper Dickinson	Ph	Lisa Rockhill Lyon	Ph	Vacant Worth	
Vacant Emmett		Vacant Mitchell		Vacant Wright	
Pat Gansen Floyd	Ph	Eric Erickson O'Brien	A	Ethan Huizenga Board Rep	Ph
Deb Kratchovil At-large	A	Carl Legore At-Large	Ph	Dan Skelton At-Large	Ph

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 Carol DeSchepper and seconded by Randy Van Dyke to adopt the February 24, 2021, agenda. Motion carried.

1.0 **Council Affairs**

1.1 Approval of the October 28, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Linda Vaudt and seconded by Jan Olson that the October 28, 2020, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried.

1.2 Seating of two new At-Large Advisory Council Members, Carl Legore, and Dan Skelton

CEO Sindt stated there are two new at-large Advisory Council members. Dan Skelton is a farmer from southern Clay County. He has worked 20 years as a farm broadcaster at KICD in Spencer. He currently is a Clay County Supervisor. Carl Legore lives in Rockwell City and is a Calhoun County Supervisor serving his second term. He is looking forward to working with Elderbridge. It was moved by Elaine Kelsey and seconded by Merry Landenberger to approve Dan Skelton and Carl Legore to the Advisory Council. Motion carried.

1.3 Upcoming term renewals, completions, and current county vacancies

Executive Assistant Amy Simpson went through the upcoming term renewals with the members. An email will be sent out to those members who are up for renewal along with the application. Members will need to reapply for term renewals.

1.4 Joint Planning Committee Report – Service Priorities

CEO Sindt stated that Board members, Advisory Council members, and managers met on November 4, 2020, to discuss funding sources, and services that Elderbridge is allowed to provide under the Older Americans Act. Service priorities were set for Direct Services and Subcontracted Services and they are listed as follows:

The top five Direct Service priorities for FY 2022 are:

1. Home Delivered meals
2. Case management
3. Congregate meals
4. Elder Rights
5. Material aid: goods and services

The top five Subcontracted service priorities for FY 2021 are:

1. Behavioral health services
2. Personal care
3. Transportation
4. Emergency Response System
5. Chore

It was moved by Randy Van Dyke and seconded by Elaine Kelsey to approve the Joint Planning Committee report. Motion carried.

1.5 Fundraising Committee report and upcoming “Aging in Place” fundraiser in April 2021

CEO Sindt stated that the final planning stages of the second virtual fundraiser are in the works. On April 22, 2021, there will be a live auction and a silent auction will be conducted from April 19-25, 2021. A booklet will be created that lists the live and silent auction items. The fundraiser booklet will be sent out to the members once it is completed. Advisory Council members are encouraged to register for the event. It was moved by Linda Vaudt and seconded by Dan Skelton to approve the Fundraising Committee report. Motion carried.

1.6 Review and approval of four year Area Plan 2021-2025

COO Timmer stated that Elderbridge is currently working on a four-year Area Plan. The three goals in the plan are set by the Iowa Department on Aging. COO Timmer discussed the goals and the strategies to fill the gaps within each goal. For instance, counties were identified that were not making a lot of referrals to Elderbridge. Strategies will be developed to target the counties where referrals are low. The completed plan will be submitted on May 1, 2021. It was moved by Jan Olson and seconded by Merry Landenberger to approve the four-year Area Plan as presented. Motion carried.

1.7 COVID 19 Update

CEO Sindt stated that congregate meal sites are still not open. There needs to be a wider distribution of the vaccine in the 60 and over population before the meal sites can open. Some staff is returning to the offices as of March 1, 2021. Virus activity is going down, but variants are now showing up. 211 will be the call center to help people get their vaccines scheduled. Elderbridge will work with 211 in getting people vaccinated and transportation should they need it.

2.0 Board Liaison Report - Ethan Huizenga

Board member Huizenga stated that a remote work policy has been added to the employee handbook due to the changing work environment because of the pandemic. The Board has conducted the CEO performance evaluation and the Board reviewed Section 1 of the Area Plan.

3.0 Agency Report

3.1 CEO Report – Shelly Sindt

- Strategic Plan – Joe Sample met with management staff and the Board to develop a Strategic Plan three years ago. On November 10, 2020, he met with management staff and the Board again to revisit and update the Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan goals now mirror the goals of the Area Plan. The mission statement has stayed the same. The vision statement has been revised to be more actionable. The core values did not change.

3.2 COO Report – Stacia Timmer

- Grandpads – help alleviate social isolation. 38 Grandpads have been leased to Elderbridge and have been issued to clients. It is a simple device that seniors can use to communicate with staff and family members. They are similar to a Kindle or iPad. They are a great option for seniors that are not tech-savvy.
- Robotic pets (Joy for All) – robotic cats and dogs are being considered for clients who cannot take care of live pets. They look and behave like live animals. They also alleviate social isolation like Grandpads.

- Innovation Grant (ACL) – There has been a steady decline in attendance at congregate meal sites. The Iowa Café program will partner with local restaurants to provide a meal. It is a voucher program with local restaurants where participants are given a debit-like card that has a fixed number of meals on the card. Participants are encouraged to contribute to Elderbridge for the program.
- COO Timmer stated there will be an Elder Rights question and answer session by Zoom conference call on March 24, 2021. Call Elderbridge office to register for the event.

4.0 Community Relations

4.1 County Updates – Feedback from Council Members

- Clay County – There was a food drive on February 20, 2021, at the Event Center in Spencer which was successful. There were 550 boxes of food distributed to local families with the Farmers to Families program.
- Franklin County - there has been an increase in carry-out meals. Fifty meals a day have been going out. Citizens would like the congregate meal site to open back up as they miss the social atmosphere.
- Hamilton County – carry-out meals are increasing.
- Humboldt County – Upper Des Moines Opportunity will be moving to main street.
- Kossuth County – decrease in people using the food pantry. Working with different agencies to get food delivered.
- Lyon County – Shari’s Kitchen is doing a great job with meals.
- Sioux County – having trouble getting drivers for Meals on Wheels. Transportation is also an issue.
- Winnebago County – Covid-19 free at the nursing facility. Most staff are vaccinated. Numbers have been steady on home-delivered meals.

5.0 Coming Dates

- 5.1** Next Advisory Council Meeting – May 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m., by Zoom Conference Call
- 5.2** Next Board Meeting – March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Fort Dodge Elderbridge office
- 5.3** Caregiver Support Group – Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City, the last Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom
- 5.4** Webster County Caregiver Support Group – 4th Thursday of the month from, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.
- 5.5** Clay County Caregiver Support Group – 4th Wednesday of the month, at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.
- 5.6** Carroll County Caregiver Support Group – 1st Tuesday of the month from 3:00 to 4:00 by Zoom.
- 5.7** Elder Rights Q&A – March 24, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. thru Zoom conference call
- 5.8** Aging in Place Virtual Fundraiser – Virtual Silent Auction April 19-25, 2021, Live Zoom Auction April 22, 2021- 7:00 -8:30 p.m.

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Adjournment

There being no further business before the Advisory Council, it was moved by Elaine Kelsey and seconded by Merry Landenberger to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Motion carried.