



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

Conference Call

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

9:00 am

**0.0 Call to Order**

President Lisa Rockhill called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**0.1** The advisory council members, staff members, and guests introduced themselves. Also present were: Shelly Sindt, CEO, Stacia Timmer, COO, Danielle Crail, Healthy Aging Director, and Amy B. Simpson, Executive Assistant were present. Ethan Huizenga, Board Liaison was also present. A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance.

Brenda Bengard Audubon	Ex	Elaine Kelsey Franklin	P	Vacant Osceola	
Vacant Buena Vista		Vacant Greene		Diana Elbert Palo Alto	Ex
Leane Bodle Calhoun	Ex	Vacant Guthrie		Linda Saathoff Pocahontas	Ex
Michelle Klocke Carroll	P	Becky Koppen Hamilton	P	Vacant Sac	
Kathye Gaines Cerro Gordo	P	Vacant Hancock		Merry Landenberger Sioux	P
Randy Van Dyke Clay	P	Jan Olson Humboldt	A	Alison Hauser Webster	Ex
Sherry Meyer Crawford	A	Linda Vaudt Kossuth	P	Rick Burke Winnebago	P
Carol DeSchepper Dickinson	P	Lisa Rockshill Lyon	P	Sandra Olson Worth	P
Vacant Emmett		Vacant Mitchell		Tracy Crees Wright	P
Pat Gansen Floyd	P	Eric Erickson O'Brien	P	Ethan Huizenga Board Rep	P
Deb Kratchovil At-large	Ex	Carl Legore At-Large	P	Dan Skelton 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 Linda Vaudt and seconded by Merry Landenberger to adopt the May 26, 2021, agenda. Motion carried.

**1.0** Council Affairs

**1.1** Approval of the February 24, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Elaine Kelsey and seconded by Merry Landenberger that the February 24, 2021, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**1.2** Seating of Advisory Council members, Leane Bodle (renewal) Calhoun County, Michelle Klocke (new) Carroll County, Carol DeSchepper (renewal) Dickinson County, Elaine Kelsey (renewal), Franklin County, Becky Koppen (renewal) Hamilton County, Lisa Rockhill (renewal) Lyon County, Eric Erickson (renewal), O'Brien County, Rick Burke, (renewal), Winnebago County, Sandra Olson (new), Worth County, and Tracy Crees (new), Wright County

CEO Sindt stated that there are new members that are being seated along with members who are renewing terms. President Rockhill asked that the new members introduce themselves to the group. Michelle Klocke, Carroll County, Sandra Olson, Worth County, and Carl Legore, At-Large, briefly introduced themselves to the Advisory Council. President Rockhill welcomed the new and returning members to the Advisory Council. It was moved by Randy Van Dyke and seconded by Merry Landenberger to seat the aforementioned members. Motion carried.

**1.3** Current Vacant Counties: Buena Vista, Emmet, Greene, Guthrie, Hancock, Mitchell, Osceola, and Sac

CEO Sindt stated that efforts are ongoing by staff to fill the vacant counties in the service area. There will be new candidates presented at the August Advisory Council meeting.

**1.4** Fundraising Committee Report

CEO Sindt reported that in April there was a silent and live auction at the Mason City Elderbridge office. Over 100 items were donated for the silent auction and 14 items were donated for the live auction. The fundraising event was successful and raised \$12,000. The next fundraiser will be a gala event down in the Carroll area sometime in 2022. Elderbridge's grant writer has been working on the four-year Area Plan and will begin submitting grants when the four-year Area Plan is approved. The successful Iowa Return to Community program will be expanded to Hancock County.

**1.5** Elderbridge Re-opening Plan

COO Timmer stated that the Re-opening Plan is in the packet. The offices have been open during the entire pandemic with the buildings closed to the public. The offices will reopen on June 1, 2021. Staff will return to the offices with some employees still working a hybrid work schedule. Seventy percent of staff have been vaccinated, non-vaccinated staff will be encouraged to wear masks while working in the office. The public will be encouraged to wear masks if they are unvaccinated. COO Sindt stated that the public will be asked to schedule appointments after the offices reopen to control the flow of the public coming into the buildings.

**1.6** Four year Area Plan update

CEO Sindt stated that on June 10, 2021, she will be presenting a summary of Elderbridge's four-year Area Plan to the Iowa Commission on Aging. The Iowa Department on Aging is recommending full approval of Elderbridge's Area Plan to the Iowa Commission on Aging. CEO Sindt went through her presentation in detail with the Advisory Council members. Advisory Council members thanked CEO Sindt for the information and provided her with positive feedback concerning the presentation.

**1.7** Volunteers for Nominations Committee for Officers for FY 2022.

President Rockhill stated that if members are interested in serving as an officer during the next fiscal year to contact CEO Sindt to express their interest. The Annual Advisory Council meeting is in August and officers will be elected for the next fiscal year at that meeting.

**1.8** COVID-19 Update

CEO Sindt stated that she has received a report that most of the staff and residents in nursing homes have been vaccinated. According to the CDC fully vaccinated individuals are protected and do not have to wear a mask. Unvaccinated individuals need to wear a mask to protect themselves. Randy Van Dyke stated that there is still a tremendous amount of literature concerning COVID 19 that is not up to date.

**2.0** **Board Liaison Report - Ethan Huizenga**

Board member Huizenga stated that a new Board member was seated and the Board approved new Advisory Council members.

**3.0** **Agency Report**

**3.1** CEO Report – Shelly Sindt

CEO Sindt stated she has nothing new to add to her previous reports concerning Fundraising, Nutrition, and COVID 19.

**3.2** COO Report – Stacia Timmer

COO Timmer invited the new Advisory Council members to reach out to her to learn about Elderbridge programs. The staff works hard to keep up with the latest training so Elderbridge can provide consumers the most current updated information. Staff meetings are held every other week to keep lines of communication open with the staff. CEO Sindt gave kudos to COO Timmer for leading the development of the four-year Area Plan.

**3.3** Healthy Aging Report – Danielle Crail

Healthy Aging Director Crail reported that despite the challenges the pandemic brought to the nutrition program, she is proud of the meal sites for their resolve to keep producing meals to feed the senior population. The majority of the meal sites are reopening on June 1<sup>st</sup> with half a dozen sites opening in July. Signage, posters, hand sanitizer, thermometers, and disinfectant wipes will be provided to the meal sites. Social distancing will still apply at the congregate meal sites. Home-delivered meals and curbside pick-up will still be available for those who are not ready to return yet.

The Iowa Café program began on January 20, 2021, with Mat's Place in Garner Iowa. Since that time there have been 1,386 meals served. Ten restaurants in North Iowa have partnered with the Iowa Café program. Three of the ten restaurants have just signed

up. Seven current restaurants have a total of 345 Iowa Café participants signed up for the program. In July, Healthy Aging Director Crail will be doing a presentation concerning the Iowa Café program at the National Association Conference.

#### **4.0 Community Relations**

##### **4.1 County Updates – Feedback from Council Members**

- Cerro Gordo County – Kathye Gaines has been speaking with a representative of the Grandpad program and she is willing to do a presentation to the Advisory Council. Kathye Gaines will provide the contact information.
- Clay County – Asked that the Zoom information for the Caregiver Support Groups goes out in one email so he can attend the other group meetings as well as Clay County.
- Franklin County – Programs and activities were added last week for the first time since the pandemic started. The site will be serving homemade beef burgers and ice cream on Tuesday, June 1.
- Hamilton County – Becky Koppen, RSVP Coordinator, is working to promote in Hamilton and Webster Counties the services that can be made available through volunteers. Brochures will be distributed out to the community and to the MOW population that can benefit from volunteer services. RSVP is partnering with Elderbridge.
- Kossuth County – MOW has decided not to do meals yet. The Care Team sells family swim tickets for \$20.00 for any pool located in cities in Kossuth County. The program is now open to Grandparents raising grandchildren. If Grandparents cannot afford the swim tickets, grant money is available to assist with that.
- Lyon County – Shari’s Kitchen is doing well. Just starting to see the effects of COVID 19 on mental health. There will be major funding changes related to mental health.
- Sioux County – Need volunteer drivers for MOW. Right now they are delivering three days a week.
- Worth County -Sandra Olson is excited about being part of the Advisory Council. She is focused on resuming congregate meals in Northwood. There are very few social outlets for seniors in the community, so they will be doing new activities at the Senior Center.

#### **5.0 Coming Dates**

- 5.1** Next Advisory Council Meeting – August 25, 2021, 10:30 a.m., Annual meeting, Fort Dodge office
- 5.2** Next Board Meeting – June 8, 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.
- 5.5** Clay County Caregiver Support Group – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.
- 5.6** Carroll County Caregiver Support Group – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 3:00 to 4:00 by Zoom.
- 5.7** Older Americans Month – May – “Communities of Strength”
- 5.8** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15, 2021
- 5.9** Office Closure – Memorial Day, May 31, 2021

**6.0 Adjournment**

**6.1 Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Advisory Council, it was moved by Randy Van Dyke and seconded by Linda Vaudt to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried.