



**ELDERBRIDGE AGENCY ON AGING
 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 1306 N. Main, Algona, IA 50511
 Wednesday, May 24, 2023
 10:30 a.m.**

0.0 Call to Order

Chair Randy Van Dyke called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

0.1 The Advisory Council members, staff members, and guests introduced themselves. Also present were: Shelly Sindt, CEO, Stacia Timmer, COO, Amy Simpson, Executive Assistant, Jody Applegate, Healthy Aging Director. Daniel Clemons, Algona Senior Center Executive Director, Don Marine, Algona Senior Center Board President, and Mark Wolf, Algona Senior Center, Vice President. Ethan Huizenga, Board Liaison was excused. A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance.

Advisory Council member Dan Peterson introduced Daniel Clemons, Algona Senior Center Executive Director to the council. He is a veteran, is very organized, and has been instrumental in the success of the senior center along with the board members.

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| Vacant Audubon | | Deb Sabin Franklin | Ex | Vacant Osceola | |
| Lisa Funk Buena Vista | A | Penny Tiffany Greene | Ph | Diana Elbert Palo Alto | P |
| Leane Bodle Calhoun | A | Robert Kempf Guthrie | A | Linda Saathoff Pocahontas | A |
| Michelle Klocke Carroll P | Ph | Becky Koppen Hamilton | Ph | Carol Auen Sac | Ph |
| Amanda Kaufman Cerro Gordo | Ph | Amy Callahan Hancock | Ph | Merry Landenberger Sioux | P |
| Randy Van Dyke Clay | P | Jan Olson Humboldt | Ex | Beth Gernhart Webster | Ex |
| Vacant Crawford | | Dan Peterson Kossuth | P | Rick Burke Winnebago | Ex |
| Carol DeSchepper Dickinson | Ex | Lisa Rockhill Lyon | Ph | Sandra Olson Worth | Ph |
| Jessica Carlson Emmet | Ph | Vacant Mitchell | | Tracy Crees Wright | A |

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| Pat Gansen Floyd | Ex | Eric Erickson O'Brien | Ph | Ethan Huizenga Board Rep | Ex |
| Deb Kratchovil At-large | Ph | 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 Diana Elbert and seconded by Dan Peterson to adopt the May 24, 2023, meeting agenda. Motion carried.

1.0 Council Affairs

1.1 Approval of the February 22, 2023, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
It was moved by Lisa Rockhill and seconded by Merry Landenberger that the February 22, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried.

1.2 Approval of Advisory Council applications for terms starting July 1: Lisa Funk, Buena Vista, 1st Term, Michelle Klocke, Carroll, 1st Term, Lionel Foster, Cerro Gordo, Jessica Carlson, Emmet, 1st Term, Dan Peterson, Kossuth, 1st Term, Diana Elbert Palo Alto. 2nd Term, Linda Saathoff, Pocahontas, 2nd Term, Sandra Olson, Worth, 1st Term.

Chair Van Dyke listed the members above for approval. CEO Sindt stated that Lionel Foster, Cerro Gordo County, is coming from the Board of Directors, and Amanda Kaufman, will be moving to the Board of Directors, so they switched places. Their new terms will begin July 1, 2023. It was moved by Lisa Rockhill and seconded by Dan Skelton that the members be approved as presented. Motion carried.

1.3 Current vacant Advisory Council counties – Audubon, Crawford, Mitchell, and Osceola. As of July 1, Guthrie and Webster counties will be vacant

Efforts are ongoing to fill those counties. Advisory Council members were encouraged to spread the word about the vacancies. It was also suggested to contact the Boards of Supervisors in those counties to see if they would be willing to serve or have recommendations.

1.4 Fundraising Committee Report

CEO Sindt reported on the following:

- The Fundraising Committee met on April 5, 2023, and will meet next on June 7, 2023. It was decided to not meet monthly.
- There was a micro-fundraiser at Applebee's in Mason City on May 9, 2023. The event raised \$577.58. There will be another Applebee's fundraiser in Mason City and Fort Dodge. Elderbridge raised the most money to date at the May 9th fundraiser. It is also a great way to make the public aware of Elderbridge.
- Donation and pledge cards were developed. The pledge cards will be distributed and Elderbridge will share our story with businesses and the public. Pledge cards were given to Advisory Council attendees.

- Pizza Ranch was also suggested for future fundraisers. Advisory Council Amanda Kaufman suggested contacting the Mom and Pop restaurants in small communities also.
- Advisory Council Dan Peters suggested Elderbridge contact churches in our service area. CEO Sindt stated she will ask Public Relations Coordinator Sue Anne Stoermer and Volunteer Coordinator to reconnect with churches in our service area.

It was moved by Becky Koppen and seconded by Dan Skelton to approve the Fundraising Committee report as presented. Motion carried.

1.5 Area Plan Update.

COO Timmer stated the Area Plan Update was filed on April 1, 2023. A four-year Area Plan will be submitted next fiscal year with yearly updates to follow. The Iowa Department on Aging reviewed the update and requested modifications which were completed and approved. Elderbridge will then meet with the Iowa Commission on Aging on June 1, 2023, via Zoom to present the Area Plan update for approval. COO Timmer will also train the Elderbridge staff on the Area Plan update, and would also be willing to present the update in more detail to Advisory Council members if they are interested.

1.6 Volunteers for Nominations Committee for officers for next fiscal year

Chair Van Dyke called for volunteers for the Nominations Committee. Chair Van Dyke stated that members can think about it also. If no one volunteers staff will be reaching out to members.

1.7 LifeLong Links Program Report

COO Timmer reported the following:

- LifeLong Links provides direct services at Elderbridge. That includes Information and Assistance, Options Counseling, Case Management, Elder Rights, and Caregivers.
- Elderbridge received an Elder Justice grant from the Iowa Department on Aging. The focus is on Elder Rights. Elder Abuse Awareness Day is on June 15. The grant provides funding for material aid and client assistance. It includes financial exploitation, self-neglect, and hoarding.
- Linda Hildreth, who retired from the Iowa Department on Aging is writing a curriculum to train staff for Elder Rights. Hopefully, the training can be provided statewide.

2.0 Board Liaison Report – Ethan Huizenga

CEO Sindt stated that there will be no Board Liaison report.

3.0 Agency Report

3.1 Healthy Aging Report – Jody Applegate

- The department is fully staffed and there is a nutrition coordinator in each of the four offices.
- The nutrition program is facing challenges for the next fiscal year due to funding reductions. Managers are looking at what expenses Elderbridge can sustain. Preliminary budgets will be going out to those who have contracts for review by the meal sites.

- Farmer’s Market Vouchers will be available on June 1 for seniors 60 and over that meet the Income guidelines. Vouchers this year are \$50.00. Elderbridge, as of the date of the meeting, has not received the vouchers but has been assured they will be mailed on May 24 or 25.

3.2 COO Report – Stacia Timmer

- Home and Community-Based Service contracts – Elderbridge contracts with 80 subcontractors who help provide direct services to consumers in their communities. A lot of the subcontractors have asked for increased funding and are aware due to decreased funding Elderbridge may not be able to meet that request.
- A new Service Specialist staff member will be starting at the end of June.

3.3 CEO Report – Shelly Sindt

- Elderbridge was provided increased funding during the pandemic to meet the increased needs of seniors and that funding is now gone. Elderbridge is currently facing a 1.4 million reduction in funding from FY23. The demand for services doubled during the pandemic and has not diminished.
- A large portion of the deficit is coming from the nutrition program. There is funding in reserves for a rainy day which may be used to offset the deficit.
- The Iowa Café program has been discontinued because the funding has been used. Five restaurants that are located in areas where there are no meal sites will remain functional.
- Chair Randy Van Dyke – state and federal funding is not adequate to provide the necessary services to seniors and the disabled. The funding levels need to change. Chair Randy Van Dyke stated that with Elderbridge leading the way, a briefing via Zoom will be scheduled that will pull together all the congressional and senator offices to discuss policy and appropriations. He will try to get 2 people from each office to attend the briefing. CEO Sindt will be the presenter at the meeting. A follow-up will be requested after the briefing. The AAAs have to change how they are talking to the state legislature. Advisory Council members can contact their federal and state legislators by writing letters to advocate for increased funding.
- CEO Sindt stated that Iowa currently ranks 27th in the nation for food insecurity in older adults.

4.0 Community Relations

4.1 County Updates – Feedback from Council Members

5.0 Coming Dates

- 5.1** Next Advisory Council Meeting (Annual) – August 23, 2023, 10:30 a.m., Zoom or Fort Dodge Elderbridge office
- 5.2** Next Board Meeting – June 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- 5.3** Older Americans Month – May, “Aging Unbound”
- 5.4** Office Closures – May 29, Memorial Day
- 5.5** Virtual Caregiver Support Group with Ally Schwarzkopf – 3rd Thursday of every month, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom
- 5.5** Caregiver Support Group – Virtual meeting, the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, Mason City area

- 5.6 Webster County Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Wednesday of the month from, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., First Baptist Church, Fort Dodge
- 5.7 Clay County Caregiver Support Group – virtual, 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. by Zoom
- 5.8 Coon Rapids Caregiver Support Group – 1st Tuesday of the month from 3:00 to 4:00, United Methodist Church, Coon Rapids
- 5.9 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15, 2023, “Seniors Deserve Our Respect and Our Attention”
- 5.10 Caregiver Appreciation Event – June 21, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Adjournment

There being no further business before the Advisory Council it was moved by Dan Peterson and seconded by Dan Skelton that the meeting be adjourned at 12:19 p.m. Motion carried.