



**COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday July 15 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Council on Aging Advisory Board was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Mark Richardson. All present were participating via ZOOM or the telephone.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Janice Turner and seconded by Pat Burhans to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Vicky O'Donnell, Mark Richardson, Janet Smith, Janice Turner and, Patricia Burhans, Robert Borremans, Debbie Kraus, Jack Kooyman, Sherril Gilbertson, Vicky Gobel, Rena Dewar

Excused: Jean Boyle, Sue McGinniss, Tom Brien, Karen Ferguson

Unexcused: none

Staff Present: Paula Schutt, Lisa Messer, Ryan Booth, Lachel Fowler, Julie Seeman

**Introduction of Visitors:** Pam Bostwick

Approval of June 17, 2020 Advisory Board Minutes: Following corrections noted: In the staff reports under Director, EVA should read EVAS. A motion was made by Janet Smith and seconded by Janice Turner to approve the minutes with noted correction.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** none

**Staff Reports:**

Director: Paula announced that her 1 year anniversary was July 15. She also reported what an excellent response she had to marketing of the Aging Mastery Program Kit. The article that was published in the Janesville Gazette was picked up by AP Wire and it appeared in a number of papers in many states across the United States. All the publicity resulted in requests for over 150 kits.

Elder Benefit Specialist Lachel is doing much of her work by phone and mail. People have been calling about the extension for taxes. That does not apply to homestead taxes as you can file for those all year.

Mobility Management: Jennifer was at an event and not able to attend the meeting so she provided some statistics on her recent activities. Her first and second Wednesday walk had 15 people each attend, her third one had 18 people. Her first few cycling without age events had one person, nine people and 5 people at each of the three events. She holds these in Palmer Park each Friday.

Transportation Supervisor – Ryan reported he is in the process of bringing on two new drivers. The number of trips continue to rise. He reported that next month two of our new buses will be in service.

Caregiver Specialist – Since April, Julie has been doing zoom support groups, as well her Wacky Wednesdays on Zoom. She reported that the state has rolled out an online caregiver training program. She recently did a paper survey for NFCSP and AFCSP clients concerning the needs they might have. She is working with an agency in San Francisco on a project named “The Hummingbird Project.” Home health care agencies are slowly going back into homes but clients are experiencing a shortage of available staff. Debbie Kraus asked Julie how people got their caregivers. Julie replied that she had a list of agencies and she will provide it to anyone who requests it and then the clients calls the different agencies to find the one they want.

Health Promotion Coordinator - Lisa reported that changes are occurring weekly. Pat Burhans and Paula Schutt were supposed to be traveling to Fond du Lac in August to be trained as instructors for Healthy Living with diabetes. At the last minute the training was cancelled because no one else had signed up. Stand Up and Move More will hopefully be happening in the spring of 2021. Currently the Rock County Health Department is recommending no face to face workshops. Recently the Council on Aging partnered with Eat Smart, Move More, Weight Less, a new health program. COA will be offering the class FREE to the first 10 participants who sign up. This is a \$235 value. This is going to be a virtual class. Walk With Ease is moving online, as is Powerful Tools for Caregivers. There will be no virtual Mind over Matter training.

**New Business** – Debbie Kraus announced she has been attending virtual statewide WASC meetings with many of the senior centers in the state. The way each one is handling the COVID situation is different, depending on how hard their area is being hit with the illness. Some are open, some are not, some take temps or practice social distancing if they are open. Grinnell is not yet open, but she is hoping to do something in September for Senior Center Month.

**Old Business** – GWAAR has reviewed and approved the COA Aging goals. Paula briefly reviewed them for the board. Each board member has received a copy of the goals. A number of them were revamped to reflect the currently health crisis. GWARR has reported they are satisfied with where the Rock County COA is at with their goals. Mark Richardson asked if GWAAR would be more lenient due to how COVID has affected the programs. Paula reported that they gave been very understanding and willing to work with us.

Paula reviewed the two changes to the by-laws and Debbie Kraus noted that in Article 4, Section 2 it reads “special meetings may be called by chair and board is to be informed by mail and telephone. She suggested that “electronic communication” be added. The board decided to spend the next month reviewing them and schedule voting on the changes at the August meeting

### **Board Membership Report Reports:**

County Board of Supervisors, Tom Brien: absent

ADRC of Rock County, Vicky O'Donnell: no report.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made at 9:45 a.m. by Debbie Kraus and seconded by Janis Turner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. *Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board.*