



COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday May 20, 2020, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Aging Advisory Board was called to order at 9:20 a.m. All present were participating via ZOOM or the telephone.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Debbie Kraus and seconded by to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Present: Vicky O'Donnell, Mark Richardson, Janet Smith, Janice Turner and, Patricia Burhans, Jean Boyle, Robert Borremans, Tom Brien, Sue McGinniss, Vicky Gobel, Debbie Kraus, Jack Kooyman, Karen Ferguson

Excused: Sherril Gilbertson, Rena Dewar

Unexcused: none

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

Introduction of Visitors: Marilyn Bondehagen and Pam Bostwick

Approval of February 19, 2020 Advisory Board Minutes: A motion was made by Pat Burhans and seconded by Karen Ferguson, to approve the February 19, 2020 Advisory Board minutes. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Pat Burhans announced an upcoming Parkinson Conference. Karen Ferguson announced that the churches of Milton were beginning a Memory Café.

Staff Reports:

Director: Paula announced that Josh Smith sent out the memo that the County would be reopening, she talked about the Rock Rebound Plan, and said that the Council on Aging has a plan they are phasing in slowly. She announced that the proposed merger of the COA and the ADRC has been put on hold, due to COVID 19. Presentations had been made explaining the pros and cons to both EVAS Committee and the Human Services Advisory Committee. Currently, the EVAS committee is comprised of all new members. It will need to be re-presented to them. She welcomed all board members to go to the County Health Department Web page and look at the Phased Opening plans. Mark Richardson asked if work was continuing on the new building. Paula

replied that it had been halted for just a bit. Plans are to move forward now. Tom Brien stated that bids will go out in June. Sue McGuinness asked if it was normal for the EVAS Committee to all be replaced at once. Tom Brien replied that it was standard practice. Paula named the new committee members: Yuri Rashkin, Chair, Lou Peer, Pam Bostwick, Jacob Taylor, and Doug Wilde.

Elder Benefit Specialist: Lachel announced she has been working remotely. She has been answering questions regarding the stimulus package, as well as working with new Medicare recipients. She has also been helping Linda with Farmer's Market Vouchers and looking at a possible grant for the nutrition program. She has been watching webinars as well as helping Julie present a webinar to caregivers. The County has issued her a work cell phone.

Mobility Management: The contract for (NEMT) Non- Emergency Medical Transportation was awarded in Feb and the current provider, MTM appealed the decision. Jennifer has been working on the Pantry Delivery program that she created. This uses County vans to deliver pantry supplies to county residents who do not have transportation. The pantries that are participating are ECHO in Janesville, Caritas in Beloit, CUPS in Orfordville, and the Lutheran Church in Clinton. It is in its 7th week and has been very successful. She is exploring ways to keep it going after the full use of the transit vans returns. She is all set to go with her Wednesday Walks. One big change this year is that there will be no transportation provided to the walks or the lunches.

Transportation Supervisor – Ryan announced that two buses have been retired and three new buses have been delivered. They have been detailed, inspected and approved. We have been and will continue to prioritize rides on the vans throughout the pandemic.

Caregiver Specialist - Julie reported that she is reaching out virtually to the caregivers she works with. She has virtual meetings of some kind almost daily. Many of the caregivers have learned to use Zoom. Each Wednesday she holds a program called Wacky Wednesday, she also has bingo, trivia and name that tune. She stated that last fall she had a caregiver luncheon that was a bit hit. She booked the speaker from that meeting to present at several zoom presentations for her caregivers. On May 4 she had 40 people attend her zoom program. On June 4, she will present Senior Scams and Schemes and another program will be held on June 8. She has also been contacting her clients by phone to check in with them and assess if they have any needs. Pam Bostwick asked how many caregivers Julie worked with. Julie replied that she had 432 people enrolled in NFCSP and 16 enrolled in AFCSP. She still has funding and will be getting additional state funding through the CARES act.

Health Promotion Coordinator: _Lisa Messer reported that most if not all of her programs have been postponed, rescheduled or cancelled. Her Stepping On class status is unsure as of now as she has lost all of her instructors through furlough or reassignment. She has been in contact with all of here past participants to assess needs.

New Business Paula thanked staff for their innovation and perseverance through all of the COVID difficulties. They have had many challenges and have remained creative in finding new ways to do things.

Old Business – Sue McGinniss made the suggestion that the minutes reflect that the March and April meetings were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

Board Membership Report Reports:

County Board of Supervisors, Tom Brien: Tom announced that Kara Purviance is now the new County Board Chair and Rich Bostwick is the Vice Chair.

ADRC of Rock County, Vicky O'Donnell: Vicky stated that all ADRC staff continues to work from home. She has been busy taking phone calls, doing assessments for long term care.

Adjournment: A motion was made at 9:45 a.m. by Tom Brien, seconded by Sue McGinniss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. *Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board.*