



**COUNCIL ON AGING NUTRITION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Aging Nutrition Advisory Board was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chuck Wilson, via Zoom conference, in lieu of being in person at the Council on Aging office, 3328 US Highway 51 North, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Janice Turner, seconded by Karen Ferguson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Present: (via phone call or Zoom) Pam Bostwick, Tom Brien, Patricia Burhans, Rena DeWar, Jeff Didelot, Karen Ferguson, Sherril Gilbertson, Jack Kooyman, Debbie Kraus, Sue McGinness, Vicky O'Donnell, Janice Turner, and Chuck Wilson

Excused: Vicki Gobel

Staff Present: Paula Schutt, Lisa Messer, Linda Hardie

Introduction of Visitors: Amy Karas, Nutrition & Health Associates

Approval of February 17, 2021 Nutrition Advisory Board Minutes: A motion was made by Tom Brien, seconded by Pat Burhans, to approve the February 17, 2021, Nutrition Advisory Board minutes. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chuck Wilson noted that Beloit Meals on Wheels is having a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser at Mary's Place in South Beloit today.

Staff Report:

Staffing: Linda Hardie stated that progress is being made on filling the much needed full-time Nutrition Program Assistant position. There were 15 persons who applied; at last check, there were five interviews scheduled.

Volunteers: There are now six home delivered meal routes in Janesville (as of March 1); but staffing them has been a challenge. Onboarding has been completed for several new drivers. There are currently five potential drivers who have expressed an interest, but it's been very slow.

Vaccines: All Nutrition Program staff and volunteers became eligible for the COVID vaccine as of March 1, 2021. The guidelines state that "Some public-facing essential workers, including food supply chain....." are eligible. Hardie supplied Nutrition Program staff and volunteers with

a letter, which identifies them as a staff or volunteer and will allow them to garner a vaccine. Sue McGinness asked how many staff and volunteers had been vaccinated; but the answer to that question is not known, as there is no vaccination requirement.

Happenings: Yesterday (Tues., March 16) there was a huge response for the St. Patrick's Day meal. About 80 meals were distributed from Milton; a total of 256 meals were ordered from Best Events. Hardie also stated that Nutrition Program staff spend a lot of time on the phone. She received 2020 statistics from the I.T. department: there were 13,831 calls (4,356 outgoing calls and 6,610 incoming); this translated to 665 hours of phone time. In addition to these, the phone line for the Senior Farmers' Market vouchers was also busy: there were 1,606 calls with 70 hours of phone time. Total for all 3 lines: 15,437 calls involving 735 hours of phone time!

New Business:

Senior Farmers' Market Vouchers: Hardie shared that the first inquiry call regarding the vouchers was received last week. It seems likely that COA will be able to secure an intern from UW-Whitewater to assist with the voucher program again this year. Statistics for 2020 were received from Wisconsin DHS about the SFMNP voucher program redemption rates in 2020: In Rock County, there were 485 voucher packets issued; dollar value of issued vouchers: \$12,125; dollar value of redeemed vouchers: \$8,855; redemption rate: 73%. Statewide, the average redemption rate was 73%; highest redemption rate was in Waushara County, at 90%; lowest redemption rate was in Menominee County, at 49%. Some Board members inquired about possible barriers which might have caused these redemption rates; what Waushara County might have done to get such a good redemption rate; one board member stated that for some, transportation to the farmers' markets poses a significant challenge.

Old Business: No Old Business

Reports:

Best Events: Rod Oksuita was not present.

Nutrition & Health Associates: Amy Karas stated that she has been doing her quarterly site visits. Both new site managers are doing a great job. At each of her site visits, she provides nutrition education via printed handouts to those participating in the curbside pickup meals. (Pre-COVID, she used to do a nutrition education presentation to the diners.) During the current round of site visits, she has also provided a handout to the site managers on glove use, which she then reviewed with each of them.

Dining Center /Curbside Pick-up Meal Visits: none.

Home Delivered Meal Ride-Alongs: none.

Adjournment: Chuck Wilson requested that Paula email by-laws. A motion was made by Jack Kooyman, seconded by Sue McGinness, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Nutrition Advisory Board.