



**COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday December 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Council on Aging Advisory Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jean Boyle. All present were participating via ZOOM or the telephone.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Pat Burhans and seconded by Jack Kooyman

**Roll Call:**

Present: Janice Turner, Patricia Burhans, Rena Dewar, Tom Brien, Karen Ferguson, Jean Boyle, Vicky O'Donnell, Debbie Kraus, Sherrill Gilbertson, Jack Kooyman, Sue McGinniss

Excused: Vicki Gobel, Tom Brien

Unexcused: none

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

**Introduction of Visitors:** Chuck Wilson, Pam Bostwick

Approval of November 18 Board minutes: A motion was made by Janice Turner and seconded by Karen Ferguson. Motion passed.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:**

**Staff Reports:**

**Caregiver Specialist** - This report did not record on the ZOOM software and there are no notes.

**Director** – Paula reported she just submitted the 85.21 contract for 2021, she is working on preparing the GWAAR budget for 2021 as well as sending out contracts. She is going to work on getting a more complete distribution of the COA newsletter in the coming year. We send out a large number electronically, but physically right now they are going to all the libraries (Arrowhead distributes them for us) and all the home delivered meals as well as the dining center meals. We actually need to get more printed each month because 500 does not cover all the places we want to deliver.

**Elder Benefit Specialist** – Lachel is preparing for next year and is trying to determine how she is going to do the Homestead Tax Credit applications in 2021. Debbie from Grinnell is working with her to possibly have her see clients at Grinnell. Last year she prepared homestead taxes for 263 clients. Homestead Taxes do not have a deadline like regular taxes and can be done anytime during the year, but clients are hoping to get them done early so they can get their money back.

**Mobility Management** – Jennifer reported that she is also getting geared up for next year. She is busy setting up various presentations. The Mobility Manager position is very involved with the Transportation Coordinating Committee and they are in the process of electing and replacing members. Traditionally they have had 15 members and they just added an additional member this year. She is also starting to build her itinerary for her 2021 Wednesday Walks. She reported that in her first year of the walks she had 160 participants. This year, in spite of COVID, she had approximately 200 participants. Unlike many programs held indoors, COVID did not affect this activity as much since most of the locations are outside. Janice Turner commented that she felt that this year there was more education built into the walks.

**Transportation Supervisor** – Ryan Booth reported in November transportation averaged 81 rides per day, using an average of 6 buses each day. Transportation numbers are rising from the low of March when COVID first hit. Transportation staff is preparing to have all driver's transition to being a County employee in 2021. After working with Rock Haven and Corp. Counsel, it has been decided to have our drivers get COVID testing twice a week at Rock Haven. There is no charge for this as it covered by a grant that Rock Haven received. Buses continued to be cycled in and out of the garage according to our repair schedule. Ryan said an issue that came up with the cold weather is the disinfectant freezing overnight in the vans. To solve this problem, transportation has purchased duffel bags that each driver will carry with them. The bags will contain all the "tools" needed by the drivers throughout the day, i.e. forms, sanitizer, tickets, PPE, etc.

**Health Promotion Coordinator -** Lisa is in the process of determining how all of her programs are going to work in 2021. A silver lining that came with the COVID is it allowed us to expand our programming through ZOOM. We can also cross County lines now, as well as share programs with other Counties.

We have two leaders who will be trained to teach Living Well with Chronic Conditions. We are pairing with Sheboygan County to have a Living Well class. Tina Monk Gerber is joining with another instructor to present Powerful Tools for Caregivers. Stepping o has been approved to teach online. Two of our Mercy leaders are no longer employed by Mercy and Lisa is hoping they may want to continue to teach. In January there is an online training to update current leaders.

Lisa is a part of H.E.A.R, a health equity group and this past month the group were talking about mental health in youth. Lisa had inquired what resources were available for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. According to the 2010 census there were 58,000 children living with their grandparents in Wisconsin.

Lisa mentioned she is still looking for leaders for various programs. Lighten Up is going to be resubmitted for a grant in 2021 and they will most likely be changing the name.

### **New Business:**

1. Nominations - Debbie Kraus asked how many board member positions were open. Paula reported that four positions were open. Two board members (Vicky O'Donnell and Janice Turner) had first terms expiring and they agreed to continue for a second term. Jean Boyle's second term is ending as of 12/20, Mark Richardson, Janet Smith and Bob Borremans all resigned.

Janice opened nominations. Sue McGinnis nominated Chuck Wilson, seconded by Pat Burhans. Passed.

Pat Burhans noted that Pam Bostwick had some interest in being on the board. Pam confirmed this. Jean Boyle asked Pam to tell the board a bit about herself and why she was interested in running for board membership.

Pam said many years ago a good friend of hers was a transportation dispatcher for COA. Pam is retired 32 year County employee and she is very impressed with the programs the

COA offers and the efforts of all the staff. She would like to be a “voice” in the County for the COA.

Pat Burhans nominated Pam Bostwick, seconded by Janice Turner. Passed.

Paula confirmed with the election of Jeff Didelot last month, this leaves just one open seat for board membership.

Jean opened nominations for Board Chair. Sue McGinniss nominated Janice Turner who declined. Jean Boyle nominated Sue McGinniss, she declined. Pat Burhans nominated Chuck Wilson for chair. There was minor discussion on nominating someone for chair who was not officially on the board as of the current date. It was decided that Chuck would be nominated and voted on for chair, pending approval of board membership by the County Board. Pat’s nomination was seconded by Sherill Gilbertson. Passed.

Jean opened nominations for Vice Chair. Janice Turner nominated Sherrill Gilbertson, seconded by Sue McGinniss. Passed.

### **Old Business - Evas Committee Report**

Paula reported that the EVA’s committee met the previous evening and voted on the integration. It passed with one dissenting vote. It will be going to the County Board on Thursday evening for a final vote. That meeting is open to the public.

Pam Bostwick asked if she could explain her dissenting vote. She felt there were many questions that had been asked by COA Board members that had not been answered and concerns that had not been addressed. She also felt the County was not specific enough on how the plans would be carried out.

Janet thanked Pam for her dissenting vote and she explained that she had felt blindsided by Paula’s decision at the Dec 2 meeting. She said she felt within two years the COA will not have a board and all the people who work for the agency will have their duties diluted. She feels integration is a dis-service to the county residents.

Paula explained that the COA is required to have a nutrition program advisory board. She said she is working closely with GWAAR throughout the transition to ensure all bases are covered.

Janet explained she is concerned about the programs that are currently being offered. She feels Paula has transitioned the COA to something very much needed and utilized.

At this point in the meeting Chair Boyle recognized two guests that had joined the meeting: Supervisor Shirley Williams and Amy Kerris from Nutrition and Health.

Debbie Krause said she listens to radio station 98.1 and she has heard a lot concerning Dane Counties ADRC and “One stop shopping”. Debbie cautioned that as we integrate, we need to take care that ALL of the COA programs continue to be recognized and marketed.

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

County Board of Supervisors, Tom Brien absent

ADRC of Rock County, Vicky O’Donnell: Vicky gave her appreciation to Lachel for all her work on the Medicare Enrollment process. Clients were calling up to and on the final day and Lachel was always gracious in making sure they all got served.

She also reported that Cori Marsh had created personalized Dementia Specific bags for caregivers. The staff was in the process of distributing them.

Board Member Rena DeWar commented that her mother had gotten an ALEXA from the ADRC and she loved it. It was working out very well.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Sue McGinniss and seconded by Karen Ferguson to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m... Motion carried. *Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board.*