

ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2024

Council Members Present: Susan Leuthauser, Liz Sherwin, Patricia Steiner, Dawn Dunnegan, Cyndi Mears, and Todd Wilson

Council Members Absent: Michelle Ross, Brian Teeter, and Pat Swartzlander

Staff Present: Becky Passman, Lisa Harwood, Kathy Hyde, Devin Hansen, Sonita Oldfield-Carlson, Kim Crutcher, Stephanie Newton, and Sharon Schnoor

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and 3 members were absent, but there was a quorum.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Cyndi Mears, and seconded by Dawn Dunnegan, to approve the Agenda as written. All were in favor.

IV. Approval of Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024

Motion made by Dawn Dunnegan, and seconded by Cyndi Mears, to approve the Minutes as written. All were in favor.

V. CEO Update

Becky asked Todd Wilson, our newest council member to introduce himself and tell the Council a little about himself. Becky then talked about the Council attendance and mentioned as a result of the rules of attendance, we had lost two members – Frank Illiff and Diane Carr. But we had just gained two new members – Todd Wilson and Ryann Wood. The Board of Directors was to approve Ryann

Wood during their meeting today. Becky asked the Council if anyone needed a copy of the By-Laws but all said they had them. Becky then introduced our new Social Services Director – Kim Crutcher. We are fully staffed now with the exception of one position in our Ottumwa office. Our Marketing Director was busy promoting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day/Month and staff has gone out to various places to promote it. That is our big push this month; trying to prevent elderly abuse. We have a new food service, Trio, in a few counties. Said we are continuing to experience some growing pains with them but are working with them for improvement. New service provider contracts will go out July 1 – starting new year of funding. Funding levels for home and community based services consistent with last year, trying to maintain good service area coverage. Becky asked Council members to let her know of needs in their county. Looking for gaps for next year’s new four year plan and one of the member roles is to give us feedback on gaps in our service area.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Motion made by Cyndi Mears, and seconded by Todd Wilson, to keep the Chair and Vice-Chair as is. All were in favor.

Chair: Susan Leuthauser

Vice-Chair: Michelle Ross

VIII. Informational Report

a. Nutrition Update – Lisa said they are working with Trio and their main focus is getting them to rework some of their meals to be more in alignment with ours. Continuing to provide nutrition counseling. Ottumwa recently held a Senior Prom that went over very well. This is the second year. Had a very good volunteer base and donations of \$1,400 toward games and prizes for the event. Susan asked where nutrition education was held and Lisa said they were held at the sites and also given as handouts to meal delivery recipients.

b. Social Services Update – Kim has recently been hired so didn’t have a report to give but did want to introduce herself to the Council. Kim said she had a lot of plans to improve communication and budget spending. Kim has many years in the home and community based services area.

c. Health Promotion and Home Safety Update – Sonita said we have a 4 year commitment with the University of Iowa to offer a program called Stepping Up. Program hopefully to help reduce falls and also will do Tai Chi. Will be making an effort to work in the Muscatine area. Need training of potential staff proficient in Spanish as the Pisando Fuerte program is tailored for Spanish speaking only. We have a \$8,000 grant to help us. Sonita said if anyone on the

Council knows someone who may be interested to let her know. Working with Northeast Iowa AAA and Elderbridge on program of Falls Prevention. Program is for 16 weeks. Working to make falls prevention available to all in our service areas. New program under Evidence Based Music through Iowa State University. Music therapist testing to see benefit of program with people that have Parkinson disease. Working with Lisa at our sites in Ottumwa, Bloomfield and Chariton. People attending virtually. It is going well. Working on breathing techniques and hand development.

e. Marketing Update – Devin said he is busy doing social media, editorials, newsletters to all our home delivered participants and employee newsletter, as well as creating flyers for events. Going well so far. Also does job postings and other duties as assigned. Working on Elder Abuse Prevention Day/month. Updating brochures and getting our website presence consistent. Caregiver Conference – do not have a set date yet but probably November 9.

IX. 2024 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Meetings scheduled for September 19 and December 12 at 9 a.m.

At this point Becky asked for any suggestions on how we can make meetings more informative. Cyndi asked if it would be helpful if they looked into meal delivery. Becky said there were just 6 counties where services changed due to a new vendor for the 6 counties. Todd asked how our meal delivery was for Wayne County. Becky said we used to have a congregate site there about 3 years ago and a meal delivery program. We were asked to go and they are using the hospital now. We have offered to discuss how we could help supplement them in some way to contribute to the program but no interest. Todd could perhaps be a bridge of connection. Sonita mentioned that the library had asked about a falls prevention program and interest in caregiver support but that nothing ever materialized. Perhaps Cyndi might have an opportunity to see if anything at the library would be appropriate. Dawn asked what does “drop meals at a site” mean. Lisa explained that it means Mt. Pleasant does not have a community café and instead meals are brought to the “drop site” where the meals are divided up among the volunteer drivers for delivery to the individual homes.

X. Adjournment

Motion made by Cyndi Mears, and seconded by Todd Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. All were in favor.