



## **Advisory Council**

**June 19, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Council Members Present:** Yvonne Pitsch, Susan Leuthauser, Dawn Dunnegan, Cyndi Mears, Michele Ross, Pat Swartzlander, Todd Wilson

**Council Members Absent:** Liz Sherwin, Brian Teeter

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

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

### **II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with two absent.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Michelle Ross moved, and Cyndi Mears seconded, to approve the Agenda of June 19, 2025. All were in favor.

### **IV. Approval of Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2025.**

Michelle Ross moved, and Todd Wilson seconded, to approve the Minutes as written. All were in favor.

### **V. CEO Update**

Becky attended a meeting in May regarding the new Disabilities Access Points (DAPs), which are part of the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Network. These have come about in conjunction with the restructuring of the

Behavioral Health Districts, of which there are now seven. DAPs will work as a disabilities services counterpart to the AAA's information and assistance and options counseling. Training is presently underway. This is a new service, so AAAs are helping them as to how we do information and assistance, referrals, and option counseling. The meeting in May was to bring together all AAA and DAP partners. In our region there are three Behavioral Health Districts represented. Milestones is looking for a way to have a DAP collocate with us on a part-time basis. Would consist of a disability services employee working from a Milestones location, most likely Davenport, during set days/times. The goal is to encourage more collaboration as well as provide convenience for consumers. During the conversation Cyndi Mears mentioned that she had worked with the disability organization before.

Becky mentioned that the Area Plan was approved. Becky said we have been undergoing some financial stress and have been – and continue to be - working with the State. Accordingly, the Area Plan was approved with conditions. These conditions will ensure we have strong protocols and stronger processes.

We have made a change in contracts this year. Continuing with contracts with some service providers, other services will be offered on a "Purchase of Service" basis. Emphasis on providing services to those with the greatest need. Staff must look at certain criteria when making the determinations and use the provider list to order services for consumers. Change was made for many reasons, one was to ensure that we have service providers for the consumers we work with. We will also be able to monitor budget better. We are moving our new Davenport location. Former building was owned by Foundation Board. Decision made to sell the building. Will move on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June and hope to be operational on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Will send out the new address to all. Do have a couple of Board members that have termed out. Advisory members are encouraged to consider applying. Board membership comes with greater commitment and does carry governing and fiduciary responsibility. If interested Becky said she would be happy to send more information. Have August meeting of Board where new people are being voted on. Yvonne Pitsch asked Becky a question regarding the behavior health and referrals and Becky replied that Milestones information and assistance also do referrals. Staff member will meet with consumers to determine needs and what resources are needed. ADRC is a program area in the Older Americans Act. Up until this latest development, AAAs were the only state-designated ADRCs in the state; now it is expanded to the DAPs. Our primary focus is 60 years of age or above; DAPs focus in under 60 with disabilities. State plans for us to meet every other month, alternating in person and virtual meetings.

**VI. Old Business – None**

**VII. New Business**

a. Election of Officers – Advisory Council – Chair and Vice Chair

Michele Ross nominated Susan Leuthauser to stay as Chair and Susan agreed to stay on. Todd Wilson seconded Michele’s nomination.

Susan Leuthauser nominated Michele Ross as Vice Chair and Cyndi Mears seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

**VIII. Informational Reports by Program Directors**

a. Nutrition Program Update – Lisa Harwood mentioned going through several changes to operate within our budget. Reduced number of people receiving home delivered meals and reducing number of serving days at some meals sites. Requested to serve 4 days instead of 5. Most sites have already gone to 4 days. Do not have a date of when can return to 5 days. We do offer frozen meals for day 5 for anyone that has a higher need. Yvonne Pitsch from Sigourney mentioned that for some congregate is their only meal.

b. Social Services – Sonita Oldfield-Carlson mentioned that Evidence Based Programs have met their goal of 10% area of projection. As Acting Director helping to implement Social Services projects of new Area Plan and the Corrective Action Plan needs which have to be addressed. Adjusting process internally to maintain budget constraints with person-centered Purchase of Service and have consistent procedures. Setting up new process going forward. Michele asked if packets were sent to providers that normally were used and the answer was yes. Changes would affect some but not all. Sonita said the green highlighted items in her report are services that will be going into the “pool.” Services not going into the “pool” are highlighted in blue.

C .Marketing Update – Devin Hansen said he had nothing new to add but that the Annual Report is ready to go out. It is at the printer right now. Becky mentioned our website and asked if everyone was familiar with it.

**IX. 2025 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule**

Next meeting is September 18 at 9 am.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion made by Dawn Dunnegan, and seconded by Michele Ross, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 am.