



**ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 VIA ZOOM**

**Council Members Present:** Susan Leuthauser, Liz Sherwin, Dawn Dunnegan, Cyndi Mears, Michele Ross, Brian Teeter, Pat Swartzlander, Todd Wilson and Ryanne Wood

**Staff Present:** Becky Passman, Sonita Oldfield-Carlson, Kathy Hyde, Lisa Harwood, Kim Crutcher, Stephanie Newton, Devin Hansen, 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 all were present.

**III. Approval of Agenda of September 19, 2024**

Motion made by Cyndi Mears to approve the Agenda with the change to "Item IX. - 2025 Calendar Year 2025" meeting date from June 20 to June 19, which was seconded by Michele Ross. All were in favor.

**IV. Approval of Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2024**

Motion was made by Todd Wilson and seconded by Cyndi Mears to approve the Minutes as written. All were in favor. Ryanne Wood abstained since she wasn't a member in June.

**V. CEO Update**

Becky first wanted to welcome Ryanne Wood as the newest Advisory member and asked her to tell the Council a little about herself. Ryanne said she serves in Lee County as CEO of Southeast Iowa which covers 13 counties. Becky said we are heading into the Area

Plan preparation season. We must do a 4-year plan. This is one of the requirements of the Older Americans Act. The State Area Plan provides goals, and we need to plan strategies and tactics to meet the goals. We want to provide services so those most in need can be helped. We look at where the gaps and needs are. We need to help those with the highest needs and risks, especially the frail and at risk of institutionalization, and determine who and where they might be and how we can help with our limited funding. Becky said today's meeting is going to be centered on each program area, provide context and ask for feedback from the council, and also ask for highest needs they may be aware of in their community, but we may not be. They can provide insight as we look for gaps in services. Susan mentioned how important it is to get information to Becky before January. There is another Advisory meeting in December so information can be given to Becky at that time as well.

**VI. Old Business – None**

**VII. New Business – None**

**VIII. Program Updates and Reports**

- a. Nutrition Program Update – Lisa went over the highlights of the reports submitted to the council, highlighting on the success of the new Oskaloosa site. She also mentioned that the Centerville Community Café will be closing on November 5 due to lack of staff and low participation. Lisa gave the council an update on the wait list for meals. Todd Wilson mentioned in his county they have Meals on Wheels through the hospital and Steel Wheel Café to support the seniors. Wondered if Milestones could meet to figure out how to partner, maybe get a working session together. While Becky said we are very interested in a partnership, funding for us is very strapped right now. But need to get a date and Todd suggested setting a date in October or November during one of the County Board meetings which are every two weeks on a Tuesday at 10 a.m. Michele Ross talked about the Lee County cafes and wondered if there were any more activities to help draw people to the congregate site. Lisa did mention the “crafternoon.” Becky said we rely on word of mouth to invite others and let them know about us. While we bring the services, we do rely on the community to help support it by helping people know about it. We don't have the money to advertise in all the regions. We do take advantage of any free outlets but if the council knows of any other free or low-cost community outlets, please let us know. Devin mentioned that the meal site managers have asked for flyers which they can post at various places. Dawn said there are a lot of rural areas with food deserts are often overlooked. Ryanne asked what the barriers are for getting to the cafes. Lisa mentioned that they do have some informal transportation by people willing to bring others. And there is some transportation assistance in some communities. We contract with public transportation such as 1015 transit and Southeast Iowa transit and River Bend Transit in Muscatine, Clinton, and Scott

- counties. But you do need to make a reservation in advance. Our last Area Plan one of our goals was to find private transportation options in counties but were unable to find any. Dawn asked about RSVP. Becky mentioned that they are not as active as they used to be in in many of our counties. Lisa also asked the council what kind of things they thought people in their counties would be interested in participating in at the meal sites in their communities. Dawn suggested they needed things to do that would make people want to come and want to bring a friend.
- b. Social Services Program Update – Kim said that they have gone through a lot of changes in the last few months. She said that so many new people bring a renewed energy to the program. Kim provided graphs that gave an idea of services and expenditures in the social services department. Calls coming through our 800 number go through the information and assistance specialists who may provide answers, resource information, and/or referrals as appropriate. Currently, evictions and neglect are a frequent concern. Many callers need assistance applying for Medicare, homemaker or visiting nurses’ programs. We have some contracts for some of these services. Kim said the largest group being serviced are the 85+ group. Want to be reaching those folks most under served. Any ideas on how to provide services to these populations would be appreciated. Transportation is another area in demand. Social isolation and behavior health is another area. How can we better reach those at home and alone most of the time? Becky asked the council if there were any community partners they might suggest we contact to see if we can partner with them. Ryanne suggested Mutual Health Connection for possible resources, 911 used some systems. Cyndi said trying to get into different homes to build a relationship with one family can start to build among communities.
  - c. Health Promotion & Home Safety – Sonita mentioned there are specific programs offered with whatever support we have within the project. Have lots of needs but limited resources. Trying to gain access to programs available.
  - d. Marketing Update – Devin said his focus right now is the upcoming Caregiver Conference. This year’s theme is “Self-Care: Thrive as a Caregiver.” Over 40 exhibitors are signed up, offering local products and services designed to support family caregivers. Will have yoga, therapy dogs, and personal story caregiver speaker. Becky said we are in the process of putting out a county fact sheet and the agency’s annual report. County Fact Sheets show breakdown of all services by counties. When completed will send a complete sheet to all Advisory members. County Fact Sheet is for 2023.

**IX. 2024 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule**

Next meeting is scheduled for December 12 at 9 a.m.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion made by Liz Sherwin and seconded by Todd Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 .a.m.. All were in favor.