

# **Connections AAA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes July 14th, 2022**

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***Please call in advance if you are not able to attend, unfortunately, the meeting will be cancelled if a quorum is not met.***

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Date: July 14th, 2022  
Time: **10:00 am**  
Place: Connections AAA Conference Rooms

If you would like to attend via conference call or zoom, please let me know so that can be set up.

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## **ITEM**

## **ACTION**

### **I. Call to Order – Arlene Schwartz**

- a. Roll Call – Bob Newman, Nancy Coziahr, Mary Stock, Wendy Jackson, Arlene Schwartz, Bob Johnson, Rick Friday  
Excused: Jeri Lytton, Jan Messner,  
Resigned: Frank Richards
  
- b. Recognition of Visitors: Aubury, Chris, Diane
- c. Approval of Minutes of May Meeting: Motion to Approve by Nancy, seconded: Bob N  
Approved.
- d. Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve by Bob J, seconded by Mary Stock  
approved.

### **II. Reports**

- a. Update of Activities (upcoming and events recaps)
  - We hope to have zoom equipment for next meeting, current video conference equipment is 10 years old and outdated.
  - Shredding events: A shred event was held in Council Bluffs this spring with 2 staff assisting. 42 bins were filled. This was a learning experience that we will use for the future. Sioux City's Shredtastic was a record-breaking event with over 4800 pounds shredding in 2 hours. 14 volunteers assisted including one volunteer who loves to ask for the donations. Donations were slightly over \$600.
  - Older Adult Technology Series (OATS) program – is about teaching about technology. We have hosted 17 lectures in past few months in **XX** communities. **List of counties**. Summer quarter has been light with classes due to staff time off. We are getting ready to schedule this next quarter (fall). If you know of places or groups interested, let Aubury know

NOTE: If there is anything you want added to the agenda please call or email me at [akrueger@connectionsaaa.org](mailto:akrueger@connectionsaaa.org) (712-828-0763) Our next meeting is 5/13/21 at 10am

- RSVP has been in 2 counties for a while. We are resending program to the feds due to Connection's inability to continue to supplement funding.
- Dementia Friends - Jan is presenter. This program helps people and communities to become more dementia friendly. We have programs for groups and businesses. If you know of any groups/businesses interested, let Jan know.
- SHIIP program – Connections is sponsor site for Council Bluffs, Sioux City and Harlan. Welcome to Peggy who is a new volunteer in Council Bluffs. New volunteers getting in place in Cass county and should take some of the load off the Council Bluffs counselors, since Cass county referred clients to our office. In Sioux City, Robert Jaminet has resigned due to health issues.
- Evidence based programs: We are bringing in a new program- Bingocize. We plan to train 3 staff and 7 meal site staff to present this program at mealsites. It combines the game with exercise and prizes.
- Aging well and WTM seminars are scheduled with WITCC again for this Fall. The Aging Well Series will have presentations by Tasha Jones focused on Scams and Elder Abuse prevention on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> and by Jennifer Six from Iowa Easter Seals on Finding the Right Tool (adaptative equipment to increase independence) on Oct 12. Welcome to Medicare Seminars are scheduled for Sept 27 and Nov 15. These are generally well attended.
- Fraud and Scam Workshop is scheduled for Sioux City on Monday at the Siouxland Center for Active Generations, and in Council Bluffs on July 27 at public library. Registration is open on our website or by calling. Walk Ins are welcome.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf tournament is coming up quickly on 9/9/22. This year's heroes being honored are local food producers. Players and sponsors are still needed.
- Gingerbread Gala is scheduled for 12/3/22. Chris will be meeting with Sioux City Advisory Council members for updates.
- Stress Busting or Caregivers class starting Sept 20. Currently Powerful Tools class is in progress. Each of these offered twice per year. They have been successful as virtual classes that allow caregivers to attend from home.
- 167 I&A calls per week
- 123 active CM cases
- Farmers Market vouchers are going out– 883 out as of Monday. There were delays this year due to several reasons including a printing delay.
- Iowa Café – 974 people registered. Cafes are located in more rural areas. Connections has the most café partners in place than any of the other AAAs in the state. Café participants use a debit-type card. We are hoping cards can be used throughout the state during next fiscal year. We also hope state will continue to fund this program.
- Area plan has been sent into state and approved. Aubury will send an overview to Advisory Council members with this month's reports.

b. Legislative Update

State and federal funds have been funded to the 2019 levels. Legislature saw that the AAAs had received ARPA funding and believe those funds should be adequate. We used our ARPA funds during covid to meet the needs that arose when seniors

were self-isolating. Other AAAs may not have and still have remaining funds. Due to the decreased funding, Connections has implemented wait lists for a number of services including MOWs, some of consumer services, some Iowa Cafes (older ones). Discussion followed that we (including advisory council members and clients) need to be advocating for funding. Some services do not have wait lists i.e. elder abuse intervention.

- c. One Advisory Council member asked if Connections is pursuing grants – Aubury answered we are looking into those. Aubury asked Advisory Council members to let her know if they learn of or know of any active open grants. Chris brought out that the number of clients served has also increased during past 3 years our service area, but not in all AAAs.

### **III. Business Requiring Action**

- a. Advisory Council term limits- Aubury said we need to look at how long people have been on. i.e. Bob Newman has been on 28 years.

As recently done with the Board of Directors, we'd would like to have 3 groups... with 1,2,or 3 years remaining to serve. This would be in accordance with the bylaws as by laws indicate three year terms. People can choose to stay on or leave when term is over.

Discussion: We don't want to discourage any volunteers, seems hard to get people to serve, and if agreeable, hard to get them to be at meetings.

Bob is resigning after this meeting. Bob was asked to serve as a consultant.

Bob was hardily thanked.

After discussing current amount of time served, the following indicates end of term for each current member.

FY 24 Arlene, Nancy

FY 25 Shelly, Rick?, Jan M, Mary Ann

FY 26 Geri, Gene, Wendy, Mary

- b. Elections of Officers: currently Arlene as Chair, Shelly as Vice Chair  
Arlene would be agreeable to keeping Chair, no objections  
Shelly nominated as Vice.no objections

### **IV. Open Forum**

- a. Arlene expressed concern that the mealsite raising price for suggested contribution to \$5. Is concerned about the effect on mealsite participation if this goes into effect on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. Aubury pointed out that this amount is still voluntary and hasn't been raised for many years. Several expressed strong opposition to increase as it may cause people not to attend due to sigma they may feel if they can't pay.
- b. Discussion followed concerning how to get participation at meal sites from those who are eating at the Iowa Cafes. Chris responded as a younger senior that the Cafes tend to appeal more to the younger seniors and why. They are a different type of outreach/sr nutrition.

**V. Adjournment:** next meeting Sept 8 in person, with zoom option.