

Connections AAA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes November 10th, 2022

Date: November 10th, 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.

ITEM

ACTION

I. Call to Order – Arlene Schwartz

- a. Roll Call – Present were: Ellen Peters, Gary Lipshutz, Arlene Schwartz, Mary Stock, Jan Messner, Jerri Lytton, Shellie Dannenberg, Rick Friday and Nancy Coziahr.
- b. Recognition of Visitors – Aubury, Chris, Nikki
- c. Approval of Minutes of September Meeting – correction of spelling of a name
Motion to Approve corrected minutes – seconded, motion carried
- d. Approval of Agenda - Motion to Approve, seconded, motion carried

II. Reports

- a. Update of Activities (upcoming and events recaps) Aubury, Chris
 - Silent Auction and Golf tournament went well.
 - Shredtastic went well in Sioux City with about 150 cars going through and over 2 tons shredded. Volunteers continue to return and “tweak” the efficiency of the event. We had one business try to sneak through claiming their tax papers were “personal” papers. Aubury is looking at doing another one in May (Older Americans Month) in CB, and the possibility of doing one in Creston.
 - Last month, Connections was selected as the charity for an annual Witches Ride. About 40 witches (professionals from medical and home health care businesses) used the Sioux City Trolley and raised \$2-2,500. They flew into the Musketeers Hockey Game where Chris manned a table, and into various bars and restaurants that were prearranged throughout Sioux City collecting donations. Checks are still coming in.
 - Our Annual Secret Santa for Seniors program will begin soon, offering opportunities for people to adopt a senior or to donate to the agency to get people off the wait list. This program is for seniors who are homebound and may not have family locally or any family at all.

NOTE: If there is anything you want added to the agenda please call or email me at akrueger@connectionsaaa.org (712-828-0763) Our next meeting is 01/12/23 at 10am

- The Witches Ride and a generous memorial that currently is up to \$1300 have helped take 13 people off the waitlist.
- Our staff hates having the waitlist. Recent funding has been inadequate to provide the number of services needed.
- Nikki has been out doing programs from the Older Adult Technology Series (OATS) and some of the evidence-based programs in the eastern region. A class for Matter of Balance is still going on in Osceola, and just ended in Creston, Tai Chi is continuing. Bingocise has started in Osceola at the meal site, where it is the first site to kick this program off.
- Aubury, along with other staff members was out in Fremont and Harrison counties to discuss OATS and find more Adv. Council members for wider representation. It was part of a "roadshow" about the many services/programs offered by Area Agencies on Aging.
- We have canceled this year's Gingerbread Gala. We are working on a fundraising plan for FY 2024, looking at a different approach for this event.
- Tasha is working with a group on materials that will educate seniors concerning preparation/planning for widowhood. Funding is coming from the Western Iowa Community Foundation with a grant from the women's fund. Grant would give seed money for educational materials.
- We hosted a Caregiver luncheon last week to celebrate National Caregiver's Month (November) The event included speakers on different types of therapy including Occupational, Physical, Music, Pet, and Gardening Therapies.
- The caregiver class, Stressbusting for Caregivers, is ending next week. Powerful Tools for Caregivers will begin virtually in January with options for afternoon (begins Jan. 31) or evening (begins Jan. 26) classes. Registration is open on our website or by calling.
- We've started adding QR codes to printed materials and in Facebook posts for events. These allow smartphone users to scan the codes and be taken directly to information and registrations for events.
- Welcome to Medicare Seminars have been held in Council Bluffs and Sioux City, with another on Nov 15 in Sioux City.

b. Legislative Update

Aubury

- Aubury stated that she hopes everyone got out and voted.
- The Iowa Department on Aging will be merging under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Services by 7/1/23. DHHS had assured us that it should not affect our operations but already has decided they don't want to keep Older Worker Program. Ashley, our Older Worker Specialist carries a caseload of 120 people seeking employment from all 20 counties. This partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation. DHHS says they aren't in employment industry.

III. Business Requiring Action

- a. n/a

IV. Business Not Requiring Action

- a. Area Plan Review

Aubury

- b. Management team is looking at the annual plan FY 22-24. We are reviewing the yearly update and are happy with how things are going. We are looking at what is

identified in surveys as pressing needs for seniors. i.e. planning for widowhood, looking to expand the evidence-based programs. We have identified 6 counties that need more outreach and are bringing moving evidence-based programs to those counties. Evidence-based programs are our Gateway programs, bringing more awareness of and information about Connections to the communities.

- c. Kelly Butts-Elston, our CEO, joined the conversation and dropped in to say “Hi and how much she appreciated each member.” She offered to answer more questions about DHHS merger, or anything else. Kelly would like to replicate the “roadshow” that happened in Fremont county. She wants aging individuals to know we are there, especially if there are no congregate meal sites in the area. She said, during the roadshow, they deputized the individuals to tell others about the local AAAs, no matter where they live. It was nice to have completed a team approach to go out and talk about various programs that we offer. Kelly asked AC members to look for sites/groups where we can come out and do the roadshows.

V. Open Forum

Arlene commented that people are enjoying the card program at the Iowa Cafes, Cafes have increased business. Someone else mentioned the soup and sandwich days at meal sites are also well received.

VI. Adjournment: Jerri motioned, Gary seconded

VII. Next meeting Jan 12