

Connections AAA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 11th, 2023

Date: May 11, 2023
Time: **10:00 am**
Place: Connections AAA Conference Rooms or by Zoom

ITEM

ACTION

I. Call to Order – Arlene Schwartz

- a. Roll Call – attending were Kathy, Wendy, Geri, Ellen, Rick, Mary, Arlene, Eugene (Gene),
- b. Recognition of Visitors – Present were Aubury, Chris and Nikkole
- c. Approval of Minutes of March Meeting – motioned, seconded, and approved
- d. Approval of Agenda - motioned, seconded, and approved.
- e.

II. Reports

- a. Update of Activities (upcoming and events recaps) – Aubury and Chris reviewed events listed on the May 2023 Advisory Council Update, sent out with the meeting agenda. Some additional activities include attending the Prive Festival and an Older Adult Night at the Storm Chasers.
- b. Additional new staff member – Allison from Red Oak is a new Service Navigator.
- c. Legislative Update – Kelly gave the legislative updates. She was in Washington DC and anticipates a couple of tough years ahead of us. Congress is divided, the debt ceiling is a concern, and Congress is considering cuts to non-military discretionary funding. We, along with N4A, will be fighting against cuts. We already have waitlists and significant cuts. ARPA dollars are only good for one more year. Members were encouraged to advocate – to speak, email, and write to federal congressmen and senators for OAA funding. It's a bleak outlook. Benefit of funding OAA programs is that they support aging at home and are less expensive for taxpayers. At state level, we are partnering with Alzheimer's Association to have a dementia specialist withing each AAA. State is not interested in funding this request. State funding will be the same as last year. Again advocates are needed. Mary asked for a standardized letter. Kelly said she would mock one up by midweek, next week.

III. Business Not Requiring Action

- a. Discussion with the Healthy Living Director please see Enclosed document.
Sherri Carston explained why drink mix is being substituted for milk at the meal sites and home-delivered meals. It was a financial decision. By cutting the milk and moving to the nutrition drink, the funds save will provide 7,200 more meals.

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 5/11 at 10am

Currently, there are over 300 people on the waitlist for home-delivered meals. There may be a need in the future to prioritize congregate meals looking at who is most in need. Several AAAs have had to close their café programs. We are now looking at potentially closing 3-4 Senior Centers Meals due to low attendance. Sherri also addressed Farmers Market Vouchers – this year there were fewer vouchers, but the amount is being raised from \$30 to \$50. When callers leave their address and other info, the messages are routed to the office corresponding to the region in which they live. The application is then sent. We've sent out 300 applications so far. We expect the vouchers to be gone by early July.

- b. Discussion of recruitment of advisory council members – We have several terms ending this year according to bylaws. Arlene, Bob J, and Nancy are affected. Arlene has decided to resign from her position.

We would like to see representation from all 20 counties and would appreciate suggestions from counties that currently aren't represented.

IV. Open Forum – Questions about Bingocize, one of our newest evidence-based programs. It combines bingo and exercise. Geri commented that the Osceola meal site is starting their second session and she (and others) really enjoy it. It meets 2x/week for 10 weeks.

We also welcomed Jenny within the fiscal department and thanked Ann for her years of service and congratulated her with best wishes for her retirement.

The next meeting is on July 13th, with elections at that meeting.

V. Adjournment: motioned, seconded and approved.