

Meeting Minutes  
Iowa Commission on Aging – in person and Zoom  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 9:00am

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Wulf called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Executive Assistant Christel Oberbroeckling.

**Members Present**

Chairman Joel Wulf, Commissioner Willard Jenkins, Commissioner Cindy Baddeloo, Commissioner Suzanne Heckenlaible, Commissioner David Heaton. Non-voting, ex-officio member present was Senator Sandy Salmon.

**Others Present**

Director Zach Rhein, Linda Miller, Christel Oberbroeckling, Shan Sasser, Alex Bauman, Gloriana Fisher, Joe Campos, Barb Werning, Sonya Streit, Jodi Presswood, Jacob Appel, Mike Donohue, and Cassie Tracy.

**Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Chairman Wulf called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Jenkins motioned and Commissioner Heaton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Commission Agenda was approved. Director Rhein asked that the agenda be amended to allow the Administrative Rules change be discussed first. Chairman Wulf called for a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Heckenlaible motioned and Commissioner Heaton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The amended Commission Agenda was approved. Chairman Wulf called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Heckenlaible motioned and Commissioner Jenkins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Rules:**

**Joe Campos**

Joe Campos discussed duplicative administrative rules and the proposed the following rulemaking action: Rescind and reserve 17 – Chapter 11, rescind and reserve 17 – Chapter 13, rescind and reserve 17 – Chapter 17, and rescind and reserve 17 – Chapter 18. Commissioner Wulf called for a motion to approve the administrative rule change as listed. Commissioner Heaton motioned and Commissioner Heckenlaible seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The administrative rule change was approved.

**Aging and Disability Services Director Update:**

**Zach Rhein**

Director Rhein introduced himself to the Commission. He recognized the recent passing of Bob Welsh, who was a passionate advocate for older Iowans. Director Rhein outlined the new Aging and Disability

Services Division. He is working on filling positions and is currently interviewing a Community Integration Services Bureau Chief. Director Rhein explained that the department will have two main areas of focus which will be Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's) and a Multisector Plan on Aging (MPA). The goal is to work towards integrating services and expanding ADRC's. The MPA will have a spring kick off date and will take approximately two years to develop the plan. This strategic plan will serve lowans for the next ten years and has strong support from Director Garcia and Governor Reynolds. In further discussion, Chairman Wulf stated there is a lot going on in the workforce and would like to discuss it further. He inquired about what was needed from a policy perspective, and stated it is hard to access services if there are no providers, especially in rural areas.

#### **Public Comment:**

Chairman Wulf states Bob Welsh was an advocate for older lowans for 40 years. He will be missed. Commissioner Jenkins expressed concern over scams via telephone and through the internet. He wonders if there is anything the legislature can do to help. Commissioner Jenkins also mentioned that Medicare scams also exist. Senator Salmon gave an update. She states there is caucus call on Thursday, and they will be receiving an update from Director Garcia regarding reorganization issues and Medicaid. Senator Salmon participates in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Republican Caucus Call. Some topics she would like to see addressed include: a backlog of inspectors at nursing homes, the cost of care in nursing homes, ensure services covered if taxes lowered, and to consider lack of appropriate staffing in nursing homes. Linda Miller mentioned the goal for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) is to enable folks to stay in their homes as long as possible. Chairman Wulf recognized Linda Miller's retirement on January 3, 2024. He thanked her for her leadership and stated the aging network is a better place because of her service.

#### **Adjournment**

Chairman Wulf called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Heckenlaible motioned and was seconded by Commissioner Jenkins. The Iowa Commission on Aging adjourned at 9:39am.

