
Meeting Minutes
Iowa Commission on Aging – in person and Zoom
Thursday, June 1, 2023 10:00am

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Jenkins called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Executive Secretary Christel Oberbroeckling.

Members Present:

Chairman Willard Jenkins, Commissioner Cindy Baddeloo, Commissioner David Heaton, Commissioner Suzanne Heckenlaible, Commissioner Steve Van Oort, Commissioner Joel Wulf. Non-voting, ex-officio members present were Senator Janice Weiner, Senator Sandy Salmon, and Representative Joshua Meggers.

Others present:

Director Linda Miller, Director Kelly Garcia, Brian Majeski, Dax Oberreuter, Christel Oberbroeckling, Shan Sasser, Alex Bauman, Eugenia Kendall, Zach Rhein, Joel Olah, Kelly Butts, Bob Welsch, Mike Donohue, Barb Werning, Becky Passman, Shelly Sindt, Tyler Eason, Stacia Timmer, Sharee Huffer, Natalie Ginty, Eric Richardson, Jacob Appel, Sarah Reisetter, Kay Vanags, and Jill Sindt.

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Chairman Jenkins called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Van Oort motioned and Commissioner Wulf seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Commission Agenda was approved. Chairman Jenkins called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Wulf motioned and Commissioner Baddeloo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selection of Commission Leadership

Chairman Jenkins accepted nominations for Chair of the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Heckenlaible nominated Commissioner Wulf. There were no additional nominations. Vice-Chairman Heckenlaible called for a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Van Oort motioned to close nominations, and Commissioner Jenkins seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Commission nominates Joel Wulf as the Chair of the Commission on Aging. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried with five ayes and one abstention.

Commissioner Heckenlaible acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Jenkins for his service and leadership as Chair of the Commission. Director Miller expressed her thanks as well.

Chairman Wulf accepted nominations for Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Wulf nominated Commissioner Heckenlaible. There were no additional nominations. Chairman Wulf called for a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Baddeloo motioned to close

nominations, and Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion. Chairman Wulf called for a motion to nominate Suzanne Heckenlaible as the Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried with five ayes and one abstention.

IDA Director Update:

DIRECTOR LINDA MILLER

Director Miller discussed her new role beginning on July 1, 2023 under the Aging and Disability Services Division with Health and Human Services (HHS). Her title will be Office of Aging Coordination Advisor and she will collaborate on developing the Master Plan on Aging (MPA) for Iowa.

HHS Director Introduction

Director Kelly Garcia

Director Garcia introduced herself to the Commission. She is the Director of Health and Human Services (HHS). Director Garcia reviewed a high-level draft of the table of organization. She discussed the HHS budget and building moves. As of July 1st, there will be one State Board of Health and Human Service. Director Garcia discussed that under the new alignment structure, most disability services will be under HHS, but a few will remain under other agencies. She also explained that that waiver re-design is important as Medicaid is a significant lever to serve lowans with disabilities. She discussed how IT initiatives are important in order to analyze data. Director Garcia discussed that as the new departments come on board July 1st, system entry points will be evaluated and proposed options for service delivery area maps will be introduced. She also discussed that Iowa is one of fifteen states awarded a one million planning grant to support the design and implementation of a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program. This could include opportunities for dementia services.

Legislative Session Update:

DAX OBERREUTER

Dax gave a legislative update which included \$15 million to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for nursing homes in Iowa and increased funding for Office of Public Guardian (OPG). Lawmakers also voted to allocate an additional \$500,000 to the More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS) program. Mental Health Institute Specializations were passed to offer better service delivery. There was an increase in budget for DHS Workers, and a foster parent bill of rights was passed. The legislature also appropriated an additional \$13 million into Medicaid behavior health rates, the first increase in many years. HHS will continue to evaluate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Summary of AAA Area Plan Updates

Eugenia Kendall/AAA Directors

Eugenia reviewed the Commission on Aging Area Plan duties. Per Iowa Code, Iowa Department on Aging - Older Iowans Act, Chapter 231.14(1)(a), and Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 17-6.2(8)(231), the Iowa Commission on Aging approves all new area plans and amendments to approved area plans. Six Area Agencies on Aging are operating under approved four-year Area Plans on Aging (SFY 2022 – 2025).

- Heritage Area Agency on Aging requested a direct service waiver. This request will be considered for approval by the commission.

Aging Resources Area Plan Update

Joel Olah

Joel reports they are focusing on homelessness due to their aging population being 80% urban. Information and Assistance remains a big priority for them. He reports they are phasing out Iowa Cafes and will be starting Bingocize on July 1st.

Connections Area Plan Update**Kelly Butts-Elston**

Kelly reports they have increased participants in nutrition counseling by offering it virtually. They are prioritizing target populations. Their RTC program is robust and they are seeing a younger population with more complex needs. She reports success in the use of their Rapid Response Specialist position.

Elderbridge Area Plan Update**Shelly Sindt**

Shelly reports they are focusing on rural needs and are trying to continue Iowa Cafes as funding allows. They are targeting those at high risk and working on an Elder Justice Grant to train across the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's).

Heritage Area Plan Update**Barb Werning**

Barb reports they are focusing the dashboard for census data and sending people where the needs are. They have been looking at five-year trends and comparing pre and post pandemic data. She discussed that they wish to offer nutrition counseling in a different way.

Milestones Area Plan Update**Becky Passman**

Becky reports they are focusing on an outreach to minorities. They have partnered with Luck in Muscatine & Louisa Counties to reach immigrant populations. They have seen homelessness amplified and are prioritizing those with greatest need.

Northeast Iowa Area Plan Update**Mike Donohue**

Mike reports all of their services are data driven and have been forced to prioritize and look at services they have to provide in this area plan.

Direct Service Request**Heritage Area Agency on Aging**

In accordance with Iowa Administrative Code 17-6.12 (2), Heritage Area Agency on Aging is requesting a direct service waiver for Nutrition Counseling. Commissioner Baddeloo motioned to accept the direct service request. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion. In discussion, Commissioner Jenkins asked "How did this come about?" Barb Werning, Director of Heritage Area Agency on Aging, replied that they have an intern who is getting her dietician degree. They feel by hiring her into this role, it will make nutrition counseling more accessible to their consumers and it will be more cost effective than their current model. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried with five ayes.

Public Comment:

Bob Welsh states that he feels the Commission on Aging and the Iowa Department on Aging is going better than ever.

Adjournment

Chairman Wulf adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.