

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The February 16, 2022, meeting of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging Advisory Board of Directors was held at Rivers Enrichment Center. The meeting was called to order by Debra Davis, at 1:34 pm. Roll call was taken by Jon Withers. All items were tabled as there was not a quorum present.

PRESENT: Sarah Apwisch, Britt Buscher, Debra Davis, Clayton Lyczynski II, Jon Withers.

ABSENT: Steve Boland, Pat Dane, John Gelvin, George Letts, Kathy Pangle, Ed Stemen.

AGENDA:

OTHERS PRESENT: Katie Hughes, Nutrition Manager; Ruth Mancina, Marketing Outreach Manager; Nicki Notestine, Residential Services Manager; Kris Butler, Finance Clerk; Michelle Patrick, Sturgis Journal Robert Tomlison, Three Rivers Commercial.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MINUTES

FINANCE REPORT:

Ms. Butler presented the finance report from January 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 COA Goals & Organizational Plan – Ms. Riley reviewed goals accomplished in 2021 and discussed the plan for 2022. This will be reviewed next month.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Ms. Notestine gave an update on Rivers Residence. 2 of the vacant units have been rented and the remaining are expected to be occupied by the end of the month. There are currently 28 applicants on the waitlist. Residents will be celebrating Mardi Gras next week with games and other activities. In Home Services continues with a substantial waitlist due to the need for aides. Ms. Notestine and Ms. Riley will be meeting with Centreville schools to discuss the possibility of recruiting CTE students (over 18) to assist seniors in their homes. Mr. Apwisch suggesting NHS programs as well. Ms. Riley agreed that NHS is a great resource for volunteer opportunities within the COA.

Ms. Mancina talked about significant increases in participation since the pandemic. A new evening exercise class has begun and has averaged about 12 participants so far. The median age for participants is 66 while daytime classes average 75.

Ms. Hughes compared congregate meals served this time of year last year to now and is showing an increase of approximately 45%. This includes meals being served on site as well as take-out. Home Delivered Meals has added 21 new clients in the last month and is averaging close to the same number

of meals served as last year. Ms. Hughes will be working with Life Enrichment Services to begin “Katie’s Korner” in March. These presentations will include nutritional education and ideas for members. COA Nutrition staff will begin producing member’s 2nd meals a couple times a week beginning in April with a long-term goal of complete self-production.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Ms. Riley showed appreciation to all COA staff for their willingness to help and participate with all COA related events. Discussion of the latest COVID numbers for St. Joseph County were reviewed. At Home Test kits and M95 masks are available to members in the front office at both locations.

Ms. Riley gave an update on discussions with City of Sturgis manager Mike Hughes regarding the splash pad plans. Research is being done as to options to restrict parking as needed for members and renters. The 2020 annual report will be presented to both the SJC Board of Commissioners and the SJCCOA Advisory Board in March.

MEMBER’S TIME:

Mr. Lyczynski shared an upcoming ASN event scheduled on May 18th.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 2:34PM.