

## Advisory Council meeting minutes

October 26, 2023

Present: Shirley Geadelmann, Don Kline, Marianne Hanshaw, Judi Hertle, Kay Fisk, Evans Waller, Art Staed, Larry Kudej

Staff: Harrison March, Laura Kriegermeier, Uriel Moorer

Evans Waller called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Judi Hertle motioned to accept the agenda, Shirley Geadelmann second. Motion passed, 7-0.

### **Consideration of the meeting minutes for May 2023**

Don Kline motioned to approve the meeting minutes for August 2023 as presented, Marianne Hanshaw second. Motion passed, 7-0.

### **Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the agency report:

- Caregiver Wellness Day registration is full at 165. A wait list has been started in case of cancellations. The event is Monday, Nov. 6 in Cedar Rapids.
- Uriel Moorer joined the Heritage team as an Elder Rights Specialist. Uriel introduced himself to the group.
- Heritage has two interns this fall: DeLaney from the University of Iowa has worked with Heritage previously and is continuing her focus on Disaster PrepWise. Natasha from Mount Mercy is working alongside Laura Kriegermeier in the Elder Rights Program.
- Evans asked if Heritage has seen any increase in homelessness among seniors, as is the case in other parts of the country. Laura reported that age 65+ is the highest growing rate of homelessness in general and first-time homelessness. Medical and mobility issues create added problems. Heritage does not have housing services, but collaborates with other agencies that provide shelter and then provides services to assist with aging issues.

### **Program Report – Elder Rights**

Laura provided the Elder Rights Program report covering:

- Process from consultation to assessment to intervention
- Funding from Older Americans Act and Victims of Crime Act
- Program data from Fiscal Year 2021 – 2023
- Trending issues: self-neglect considerably higher in recent years, financial exploitation is second
- Discharge statistics: 80% are when services are no longer needed
- How to make referrals/contact Laura. Harrison will send this information to members.

### **First Quarter Program Data**

Harrison provided a data report from the first quarter covering Information & Assistance, Options Counseling and Case Management. He will send this information to members.

### **County Updates**

- Benton: Judi attended Veterans Stand Down event and is working with Extension office's garden
- Cedar: Shirley reported that elected officials recently attended lunch at Tipton Senior Dining to talk with seniors. Fall the Plate Fundraiser is coming up next month.
- Johnson: Larry Kudej said the Task Force meets next month and anticipates discussing membership recruitment
- Jones: Harrison reported the renewed Elderly Consortium in Jones County and that collaboration is likely in the future to promote senior services
- Linn: Kay Fisk shared the Task Force meets again next month. The Life Enrichment Center is changing its program times to better meet attendee interests

- Washington: Don reported the interest in creating flyers for senior services to post around town. Encore Express had 80+ diners today.
- Iowa: Harrison is developing relationships with senior dining sites and hopes to meet with a local hospital soon, too. Tai Chi has been a helpful open door for participants to learn about Heritage.

**Open Agenda**

Brief discussion regarding COVID-19 outbreaks at senior living facilities in Keystone, Robins and Wellman. It's an unfortunate reminder that seniors are still susceptible to worse outcomes and being vigilant this winter is important.

**Adjournment**

Shirley motioned to adjourn the meeting, Larry second. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.