

Heritage AAA Advisory Council
September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Present: Shirley Geadelmann, Larry Kudej, Marianne Hanshaw, Lisa Tallman, Don Kline, Judi Hertle, Rep. Elinor Levin

Excused: Kay Fisk

Staff: Harrison March

Call to Order, Introductions

Vice-Chair Judi Hertle called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. No introductions were necessary.

Acceptance of Agenda

Shirley Geadelmann motioned to approved the agenda as presented, Marianne Hanshaw second. Motion passed, 7-0.

Review of Meeting Minutes – July 2025

Shirley motioned to approve the July 2025 meeting minutes as presented, Lisa Tallman second. Motion passed, 7-0.

Consideration of Revised ByLaws

Discussion about key changes in ByLaw revisions included:

- Harrison March said the new membership process will be a simple volunteer application to be reviewed by the Heritage AAA Board.
- Larry Kudej said that Task Forces will not be required under the ByLaws, but are still optional activities based on each county's preference.
- Larry also noted that the Advisory Council Chairperson will no longer have a seat on the Heritage AAA Board of Directors. Harrison noted that this is a new federal code requirement, per the Older Americans Act.
- Rep. Elinor Levin thanked Harrison for sending the redlined copy of Revised ByLaws with plenty of advanced notice to review.

There being no further discussion, Larry motioned to approve the new ByLaws, Don Kline second. Motion passed, 7-0.

Harrison said the Heritage AAA Board will consider these ByLaws at its next meeting on October 9. If approved, they will be adopted and in effect immediately.

Agency Report

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- Caregiver Wellness Day registration is ongoing for November 6 in Iowa City.
- Heritage AAA is accepting applications for an open position of Elder Rights Specialist. Details are on the Heritage website and Indeed.
- Iowa Return to Community will soon accept referrals for Cedar County residents. The program is open to adults ages 60+ transitioning home from a hospital or nursing facility stay. The program will be a partnership with Cedar County Public Health.

Nutrition Program Report

Harrison provided the Nutrition Program Report in place of Tim Getty, who needed to conduct routine site monitoring at a dining site this afternoon. Contents of the report were shared prior to the meeting. Contact Harrison if another copy is needed. In addition to the report, Harrison added that the Farmers Market Voucher program wraps up for the season next month. Discussion included:

- Shirley praised Tim for pursuing funding to continue the TAILS pet food program.
- Lisa asked how the impending federal government shutdown would affect the nutrition program. Harrison said there are no immediate risks to services due to Heritage's regular funding cycle. If the shutdown were to outlast the program funding on-hand, Heritage has contingency policies for using reserve funds in the Older Iowans Endowment Fund.
- Rep. Levin asked if there is a likelihood that any services would be waitlisted. Harrison said not at this time, but Iowa's Dept. of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division has asked all Area Agencies on Aging to update wait list policies to prioritize those with greatest levels of need. He added that nutrition programs are always mindful of this possibility toward the end of the fiscal year.

County Updates

- **Benton:** Judi reported that community events are slowing down in the county now that the fair and farmers markets are mostly in the past.
- **Cedar:** Shirley said Cedar County is preparing a program on Fire Safety for diners in Tipton and making plans for their Fill the Plate fundraiser in November.
- **Johnson:** Larry shared about the Healthy Aging Fair in North Liberty on October 8. The Task Force is considering an educational program on Alzheimer's Disease in early 2026.
- **Jones:** Lisa is working on the fall food drive in partnership with the Anamosa Fareway grocery store.
- **Iowa:** not present, no report
- **Linn:** Harrison shared that the Life Enrichment Center has a new location in downtown Cedar Rapids.
- **Washington:** Don said more than 50 diners joined Encore Express for lunch today. Last week's scam awareness program at the library had a handful of attendees.
- **Statewide:** Harrison reminded members of the upcoming Older Iowans Legislature meeting on Sept. 29. Larry added that Iowa HHS's outgoing and incoming Directors both plan to join the meeting to share updates and answer some questions.

Open Agenda

Nothing presented.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting date is October 23 in Tipton. Harrison will provide the exact location 1-2 weeks in advance of the meeting date.