

Heritage AAA Advisory Council  
January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Present: Shirley Geadelmann, Kay Fisk, Don Kline

Excused: Judi Hertle, Larry Kudej, Rep. Elinor Levin, Lisa Tallman, Marianne Hanshaw

Staff: Harrison March, Kimi Hambright

### **Call to Order, Introductions**

Kay Fisk called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Shirley Geadelmann motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Don Kline second. Motion passed, 3-0.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes – October 2025**

No changes proposed to October 2025 meeting minutes. No quorum present, so Harrison will send the minutes again via email for an electronic vote. (1/26/2026 update: minutes approved, 5-0)

### **Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- Two new staff members are scheduled to start at Heritage AAA next week: one Options Counselor and one Elder Rights Specialist. The agency will be fully staffed after both begin.
- Registration is open for the Corridor Conference on Aging on May 20 in Hiawatha. Registration is via Kirkwood's Lifelong Learning Center, but Harrison is happy to assist as needed.
- Heritage will host three clinics to assist with completing Rent Reimbursement Program applications. Two are scheduled for February and one in March. All will be at the Heritage AAA office.

### **Heritage Program Report – Iowa Return to Community**

Kimi Hambright provided the program report on Iowa Return to Community (IRTC). Harrison will provide a copy of her presentation to all members after the meeting. Questions included:

- Regarding referrals, how does the average person know about the program? Kimi said that referrals are required to come through the partner agency, which is currently Cedar County Public Health. This differs from most Heritage programs in which a client can "self-refer" to the program.
- Regarding expansion, how does the future of the program take shape? Kimi answered that limited funding means have a narrow, targeted scope. While the program is currently open in Cedar County only, there is progress toward adding a major local hospital to the referral system as well.

### **Member Updates**

Updates from members included:

- Cedar County: Shirley reported another successful Fill the Plate campaign. New owners at the grocery store in Tipton have indicated willingness to continue the event annually. The Cedar County Senior Center also hosted a successful fundraising dinner.
- Washington County: Don reported that Encore Café dinership remains steady. Even smaller days are still 50+ diners. Heritage's new Advice on Aging program right before Encore serves lunch is another great opportunity to learn about available services.

## **Legislative Report**

Kay Fisk provided the Legislative Report:

- Lots to keep an eye on this year that affects older Iowans directly and indirectly.
- The Older Iowans Legislature is hopeful for increased focus on quality-of-care issues in both community and nursing facility settings. OIL meets with the State Offices of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman tomorrow to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Some advocates are concerned about introducing bills that are too novel or different from previous years. They feel some legislators will avoid rocking the boat in an election year. Kay wishes to remain active as ever.
- Iowa Health and Human Services has a new Director, recently promoted internally from the Dept. of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing. He has deep familiarity some of the key issues facing older Iowans.

## **Area Plan Timeline**

Harrison explained that the timeline for Heritage's annual Area Plan Update requires the Advisory Council to review the Update before the end of February. He presented two options: 1) add a regular meeting to February and keep the regular meeting in March, or 2) swap February's open office hour with March's regular meeting. All present agreed to swap the meetings.

Harrison will send updated calendar invitations to include a regular meeting on February 26 and an open office hour on March 26.

## **Open Agenda**

Nothing presented.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m. The next meeting date is February 26 in Cedar Rapids.