



Area Agency on Aging

Regular Meeting of the Heritage Board of Directors

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

Via Conference Call and Heritage Area Agency on Aging Location

MINUTES

Call to Order

Present: Keith Stamp, Bruce Barnhart, Chris Montross, David Thielen, Dusti Winkie, Grace Schmidt, Jon Zirkelbach, Karen Huber, Karri Fisher, Mandi Remington, Sister Susan O'Connor, Peggy Doerge, Sarah Wagner, Scott Olson, and Larry Kudej.

Also Present: Barb Werning, Jennifer Knudtson and Denise Babcock-Assistant Secretary.

Mission Moment – Ann Neville, Case Manager and Amy Rasmussen, Elder Rights Specialist

Information was shared regarding three recently served consumers along with the impact of the services provided. In each situation described by Ann and Amy, team and community collaboration was essential to achieving positive outcomes in areas of health, housing, and finances for these individuals.

Approval of Agenda

Today's meeting agenda was e-mailed to Board members for review. With no questions or amendments, Directors Doerge and Huber moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, 14-0.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Held Thursday, April 9, 2026

Directors Barnhart and O'Connor moved and seconded to approve Thursday, April 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried, 14-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Finance Report

• Federal Funding Trends

- Reviewed slides prepared by Aging and Disability Services (ADS) shared at monthly ADS fiscal meetings. The slides compare year-over-year historical funding trends, adjusted for inflation, for State and Federal (Title III and NSIP) funding sources. Trends show funding levels continue to decline, not keeping up with rising costs and the increasing number of older adults needing services

• Employee Benefits

- Employee benefit annual open enrollment begins Wednesday, May 27, 2026, with the effective date of the coverage from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Existing plan increases represent a \$3,500 budget increase (12%) compared to the FY27 Board approved budget that Gallagher had previously estimated (10% increase).
- After discussing options with our benefit broker and with the Finance Committee, Heritage is proposing adding WellMark BCBS HMO 3000 plan. This plan has similar copays as the existing HMO 1500 plan, but with a higher deductible. The new plan would become the baseline plan for employees.

Employees selecting a benefit plan other than HMO 3000 would be responsible for the premium cost difference.

- A comparison chart for the three proposed plans, including deductible, out-of-pocket max, coinsurance, and copays along with the associated premiums was shared.
- If staff change medical plans the deductible and out-of-pocket max does not restart (runs calendar year).
- Benefit enrollment materials will include the Heritage cost so staff see the full value of their benefit package.
- With no other questions, Directors Olson and Huber moved and seconded to approve the FY27 Heritage staff benefit package changes as discussed. Motion carried, 14-0.

• **Q3 Closeout – ARPA & VOCA**

- To ensure continuation of the two ARPA positions, \$32K is being transferred from the ARPA transition account to the checking account.
- To cover VOCA Admin expenses \$310 is being transferred from the money market account to the checking account.

• **Fiscal Report**

- Statement of Cash Flows and Balance Sheet as of May 11, 2026, as well as the Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, were included in the meeting packet for Board review as were Q3 Bank and Fund Balances, Sub Provider Spenddowns and Encore Café attendance and contributions.

Approval of Finance Report

With no other questions, Directors Montross and Doerge moved and seconded to approve the Finance report. Motion carried, 14-0.

Fundraising Committee Report

• **CWD Site Update**

- Several potential sites for Caregiver Wellness Day have declined participation due to organizational changes or event space policies. The Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha is being considered.

• **Speakers**

- The committee is considering John Hale, of the Hale Group, as keynote speaker. Merce Berg-Klug, professor with University of Iowa School of Social Work and Jessica McGraw, Sr. Financial Exploitation Investigator with the Iowa Insurance Division, are also being contacted to speak.

• **Vaccinations and Respite Care**

- Hy-Vee will be contacted to see if they can provide free vaccinations at the event again. Respite care will be available for event participants.

Operations/Executive Director's Report

• **Staffing Changes**

- Options Counselor, Miranda Kasemeier, resigned effective May 31. The position has been posted; a number of qualified individuals have applied. Interviewing begins next week.

• **Program Updates**

- Subcontractors were called earlier this week and informed of FY27 funding decisions which included reductions and potential waitlist activity.

- The annual Senior Farmers Market program begins in June.
- The VOCA funding application was completed May 1. The process has changed and our application was significantly different this year. It will be a couple of months before the funding decision is known.
- Heritage's Advice on Aging program includes a partnership with the Coralville library. Harrison met with a group including a member of the Iowa Public Library Association, who mentioned our programming for older adults through this partnership. The individual plans to take the information back to her area as a model of partnership between the two entities.
- The Corridor Conference on Aging will be held Wednesday, May 20. This is a partnership between Kirkwood Community College and Heritage.
- Two more Caregiver 101 zoom sessions are left: Wednesday, May 27 (support for caregivers) and Wednesday, June 17 (legal issues including guardianship and powers of attorney).

• **Other Updates**

- House File 2707 passed and was signed by Governor Reynolds in late April. Section II applies to the AAAs. A copy for review was attached to the e-mailed Board packet and discussed.

Action Items and Assignments

• **Annual Board Member Training Reminder**

- Board members need to have 240 minutes (4 hours) of training completed by July 31.

• **FY26-27 Board Membership**

- It is time to consider membership for the upcoming fiscal year. Questions should be directed to Barb.

Open Agenda

- No items to address currently.

Public Comment

- No comments were brought to the Board's attention.

Motion to Adjourn

- No further business, Directors Doerge and O'Connor moved and seconded a motion to adjourn. With no opposition, the meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., in-person or via zoom conference call at the Heritage East building conference room, 6301 Kirkwood Boulevard SW, Cedar Rapids.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Babcock

Denise Babcock, Assistant Secretary

Approval by Board:

Keith Stamp

Keith Stamp, Chair