

Heritage AAA Advisory Council  
July 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Present: Judi Hertle, Shirley Geadelmann, Don Kline, Marianne Hanshaw, Rep. Elinor Levin, Kay Fisk

Excused: Lisa Tallman, Larry Kudej

Staff: Harrison March

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

Harrison March called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves. Rep. Elinor Levin of Iowa City is new to the Advisory Council and was appointed as a Local Elected Official.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Judi Hertle motioned to approve the agenda, Don Kline second. Motion passed, 5-0.

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

Marianne Hanshaw motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Don second. Motion passed, 5-0.

### **Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- No changes to the new federal oversight structure since the previous meeting.
- Caregiver Wellness Day is scheduled for November 6 in Iowa City. Heritage is excited to reach new caregivers from the Iowa City area and work with the new venue, St Andrew Presbyterian Church, which has hosted similar conference-style events in the past.
- Heritage AAA has a new website with greatly improved accessibility. The web address remains the same at [www.HeritageAAA.org](http://www.HeritageAAA.org).

### **Election of Officers**

Harrison explained that the previous chair's term has expired so a new chairperson needs to be elected. Kay Fisk is eligible to remain Vice Chair or assume a different role. Harrison touched base with a few members before the meeting, some of whom are open to accepting a nomination. Discussion included:

- Judi proposed Kay be elevated to Chair, and Judi would be willing to assume the Vice Chair role. This on the condition that Kay would accept the nomination.
- Don Kline motioned to nominate Kay for Chair and Judi for Vice Chair, Marianne second. Motion passed, 5-0.

Note: Harrison called Kay after the meeting to confirm acceptance. Kay expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

As new Vice Chair and highest-ranking officer present, Judi deferred to Harrison to continue leading the meeting.

### **Proposed FY2026 Meeting Schedule**

Harrison reviewed the proposed meeting agenda sent to members with the meeting materials. This schedule is similar to last year's with meetings planned according to key dates and ByLaw requirements. During months without meetings, Harrison will offer open office hours via Zoom. No questions or concerns raised at this time.

Marianne motioned to approve the FY2026 Meeting Schedule as drafted, Don second. Motion passed, 5-0. Harrison will send the calendar as a standalone document and as individual calendar invitations.

### **Annual Advisory Council Orientation**

Harrison presented the annual orientation program for Advisory Council members. A copy of the program was shared with meeting materials. Contact Harrison for an additional copy if needed. Discussion included:

- Shirley Gadelmann wants to ensure geographic representation remains part of the future Advisory Council after ByLaws are updated. She feels sharing information from across the region benefits all, regardless of their location. Harrison noted that geographic representation remains the same and will continue to be a point of emphasis into the future for all Heritage services.
- Rep. Levin asked how services are delivered equitably around the region. Harrison briefly explained how the Older Americans Act allows for some services to be provided directly and others to be provided by funding other organizations. In the Heritage AAA region, for example, community centers around the region ensure maximum reach for senior nutrition programs.

### **County Updates**

- **Benton:** Judi helped Harrison get some space at the Benton County Fair last month. She wondered about sharing information at politically affiliated booths during community events and in church bulletins. Harrison said Heritage is not allowed to endorse a political candidate or party so those booths are not allowed. Church bulletins are a great idea, and he will send Judi some information to help.
- **Cedar:** Shirley recapped a recent event at which the Tipton Police Chief spoke to senior center diners about scam awareness. They hope to invite the Fire Chief this fall for a fire safety review ahead of winter. The County Fair this year was attended reasonably well, and she hopes to hear from a couple of prospective volunteers soon.
- **Johnson:** on behalf of Larry Kudej, Harrison reminded members that the Older Iowans Legislature is on Sept. 29 in Des Moines and via Zoom. Anyone interested should contact Larry.
- **Jones:** not present, no report
- **Linn:** Kay Fisk said development continues for Horizons' Our Place senior center project. She also suggested identifying a new member to also represent Linn County since her retirement has led to less everyday activity in the metro area.
- **Washington:** Don and Marianne worked with Harrison to develop a handout that teaches Encore Express diners more about other Heritage programs. They hope to provide a scam awareness event with the local police department later this summer.
- **Iowa:** not present, no report

### **Open Agenda**

Shirley encouraged members to engage with local county supervisors to advocate on behalf of older adults.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting date is September 25. Harrison will host office hours on August 28.

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.

Heritage AAA Advisory Council  
October 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Present: Shirley Geadelmann, Larry Kudej, Rep. Elinor Levin, Stephanie Schmidt (Guest – Horizons)

Excused: Judi Hertle

Staff: Harrison March

**Call to Order, Introductions**

Harrison March called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Larry Kudej motioned to accept the meeting agenda as presented, Shirley Geadelmann second. Motion passed, 3-0.

**Review of Meeting Minutes – September 2025**

No changes proposed to September 2025 meeting minutes. No quorum present, so Harrison will send the minutes again via email for an electronic vote. (11/18/25 Harrison's note: electronic vote passed, 6-0.)

**Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- There are no immediate impacts of the federal government shutdown on Heritage AAA operations.
- Registration is ongoing for Caregiver Wellness Day on November 6 in Iowa City. The event is on track to be at or near capacity.
- Heritage AAA is restarting live call answering full-time during business hours.
- Heritage AAA is starting new "office hour" type of programs once per month in each county. The events will be at the same time and place each month. Some counties start in November will all expected to begin by January.
- Heritage AAA has two job openings posted online: Elder Rights Coordinator and Options Counselor. Referrals for qualified applicants are welcome.
- Harrison is partnering with a staff member at Kirkwood Lifelong Learning to host the first Corridor Conference on Aging in May 2026. It will be a free event covering a variety of general interest topics for older adults with two keynote speakers and a handful of breakout sessions. Registration information will be available sometime in December.

**Partner Agency Report**

Stephanie Schmidt of Horizons, A Family Service Alliance, joined the meeting to report on Horizons' current initiatives and recent events. Horizons is one of Heritage AAA's subcontractors providing home-delivered meals in the region. The report included:

- Horizons operates three core programs: Meals on Wheels, Financial Wellness Center and Neighborhood Transportation Service (NTS).
- Meals on Wheels served 268,000 meals last fiscal year and had 365 clients enroll in the new AniMeals program for pet food.
- NTS served 850 riders last fiscal year with 19,000 rides to work and school. A new partnership with Eastern Iowa Health Center provides rides to appointments at their clinic.

- Financial Wellness Center served around 600 households with 96% reporting improved financial readiness.
- Fundraising efforts include Catering for a Cause, the annual Meals on Heels event and the Hawkeye Huddle Lunchbox.
- Horizons will soon enter the public fundraising phase for Our Place, a new senior center located within the Horizons building. They anticipate opening in 2027.

### **Older Iowans Legislature Update**

Larry Kudej provided a report from the Older Iowans Legislature (OIL) annual meeting in September:

- OIL hosted around 50 members at this year's meeting, which has been about average for the past few years.
- Guest speakers included then-Iowa HHS Director Kelly Garcia, ADS Director Zach Rhein and then-DIAL-now-HHS Director Larry Johnson.
- 2026 priority advocacy issues as voted on by the members will be enhanced wages for caretaker workforce, enhancing Iowa Return to Community and other programs to Age in Place and financial literacy to combat scams/fraud.

Shirley asked for key talking points to stress to her legislators. Larry said that HHS does not currently plan to introduce any bills, but the Insurance Division likely will so those are good to focus on. Representative Levin noted that before the session it's helpful to give legislators a heads up on new bills that are expected.

### **Service Data Review**

Harrison reviewed FY2025 service data across Heritage's core programs. A copy of the report was provided before the meeting, but if another copy is needed please reach out.

### **County Updates**

- **Cedar:** Cedar County Senior Center has a community meal fundraiser coming up for \$10 per person. Shirley plans to help out and promote Heritage services to attendees. Volunteers are also working on plans for the annual Fill the Plate fundraiser at the local grocery store the weekend before Thanksgiving.
- **Johnson:** Larry said the Johnson County Healthy Aging Fair in October was so busy that he couldn't find a place to park, but all indications are of a successful event.
- **Benton, Jones, Iowa, Linn & Washington:** not present
- **Statewide:** no report given from those present

### **Open Agenda**

Nothing presented.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting date is January 22 in Cedar Rapids. Harrison will schedule an 'office hour' on Zoom sometime in November in case anyone needs to touch base before the January meeting.

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.

Heritage AAA Advisory Council  
February 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

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

Excused: Judi Hertle

Staff: Harrison March, Barbara Werning, Jill Sindt

**Call to Order, Introductions**

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

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Marianne Hanshaw motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Shirley Geadelmann second. Motion passed, 6-0.

**Review of Meeting Minutes – January 2026**

No changes proposed to January 2026 meeting minutes. Don Kline motioned to approved as presented, Marianne second. Motion passed, 6-0.

**Area Plan Update**

Harrison March provided the Area Plan FY2027 Update, including activities accomplished in the first six months of the current Four-Year Area Plan and activities planned for the coming year. Harrison will attach the report to the February meeting minutes. Discussion included:

- Kay: would like to see more about how various programs address social isolation. Harrison thanked Kay for noting the importance of stating this explicitly. While Heritage staff know the effects via congregate dining and tai chi classes, it is valuable to state this in our accomplishments and goals as well. Barbara Werning added that social isolation is a frequent topic among all Area Agency on Aging Directors as they discuss the direct and indirect benefits of their programs.

Kay Fisk asked for a motion to approve the Area Plan Update. Larry Kudej first, Don second. Motion passed, 7-0. With the Advisory Council's approval, Heritage's Board of Directors will review the Update next before it is submitted to the state.

**Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- Heritage hired two new staff members recently: one Elder Rights Specialist and one Options Counselor. The agency is now fully staffed.
- Heritage will relocate one day of Encore Café service at Lowe Park in Marion to St Paul's Untied Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. This is done to serve a very underserved neighborhood, while still maintaining two days of service per week in Marion.
- Heritage is co-hosting the first Corridor Conference on Aging in May along with Kirkwood's Continuing Education department. Registration is free and open to adults ages 60+.

- Some Advisory Council members are nearing the end of their third consecutive term, which is the maximum per Council Bylaws. Harrison will contact those members individually to remind them.

### **Legislative Report**

Kay and Larry provided the Legislative Report:

- Kay's HHS committee on aging is focusing lots of discussion on social isolation. They had hoped to secure funding for a pilot project but that does not seem likely this year.
- Larry talked about HF 2707 and SF 2338 (identical bills in each chamber) that would among other things direct the Area Agencies on Aging to redistrict service territories. Barbara noted that the AAAs are still registered opposed to the bills and are in conversations with legislators regarding amendments.
- Larry said bills across the spectrum this year are heavily influenced by it being an election year. There are different dynamics to working with legislators who are likely to be reelected compared to those in closer races.
- Harrison shared briefly on HF 2641 which would allow nursing facility residents to enroll in the Medicaid Elderly Waiver prior to discharge into a community setting. This may help create a more seamless process for those returning to their home or moving in with a caregiver.

### **Member Updates**

Updates from members included:

- Cedar County: Shirley plans to attend listening posts for her representatives and senators to discuss aging issues and share concerns about AAA redistricting.
- Johnson County: Larry reported plans for a nutrition education program for local older adults this spring. Details are to be determined.
- Jones County: Lisa coordinated some scam awareness programs for her diners recently and is looking into options for an exercise class.
- Iowa County: Harrison recently met with a retired social worker from Iowa County who would like to join the Council. More information to come.
- Washington County: Marianne said Encore Café continues to have steady attendance and lots of socialization.

### **Open Agenda**

Larry noted the Area Agencies on Aging have their annual Day on the Hill next week. He may attend on behalf of Heritage depending on a potential schedule conflict.

Kay added that the Older Iowans Legislature is as active as ever thanks to Larry's efforts and a couple of very engaged new members.

### **Adjournment**

Kay thanked all for their time and active participation in today's meeting. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting date is May 28 in Cedar Rapids or via Zoom. Harrison will hold Open Office Hours on March 26 and April 23.



# Goal 1: Maximize Independence

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People with disabilities and older adults have access to high quality, equitable, and person-centered services that maximize their independence, community integration, and self-sufficiency

What we've done so far...

1. Built relationships with Disability Access Points and UI Center for Disabilities & Development
2. Enhanced website accessibility
3. Opened "Advice on Aging" drop-in sites in 5-of-7 counties
4. Revised Iowa Return to Community Trigger Sheets to improve referral process
5. Provided disaster preparation and response resources to all new consumers

What we'll do next...

1. Provide Heritage trainings to broader group of partner agencies. Emphasis on those outside of aging such as food banks, disability services, housing, etc.
2. Open "Advice on Aging" drop-in sites in other 2 counties (Benton, Jones)
3. Implement Trigger Sheets to general aging programs
4. Consider funding opportunities to add a new staff position as appropriate



## Goal 2: Improve Health and Wellness

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Older adults and people with disabilities are empowered to utilize programs that improve their health and wellness

What we've done so far...

1. Started Tai Chi class in priority areas Cedar Rapids zip code 52403 and Jones County
2. MOU signed to relocate an Encore Café service day to Cedar Rapids zip code 52403 in March
3. Began discussions with potential Encore Café sites in Johnson County
4. Implemented screening and Nutrition Counseling referral process for consumers at high risk for malnutrition

What we'll do next...

1. Additional staff member and potential volunteer training to teach Tai Chi. Classes will be explored in Iowa and Cedar counties.
2. Open an Encore Café site in Johnson County during or before FY27
3. Continue malnutrition screenings and follow up with discharged consumers to measure long-term effectiveness
4. Cross-train staff to manage capacity across wellness classes, malnutrition program and congregate dining



# Goal 3: Improve Safety and Quality of Life

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Older adults and people with disabilities are safe from all forms of mistreatment and are empowered to improve their quality of life

What we've done so far...

1. Developed key points of contact for two-way referrals in Cedar, Jones and Benton counties
2. Provided semi-annual Elder Rights Law trainings via Zoom
3. Hired two Elder Rights Specialists, one of which has completed training. The program was not fully staffed from August – January.

What we'll do next...

1. Offer elder abuse awareness trainings to service providers and their communities served
2. Invite Iowa Legal Aid and HHS/ADS Legal Services Developer to present at Heritage event(s)
3. Implement participant surveys to determine effectiveness of trainings
4. Consider participation in community events as appropriate



## Goal 4: Stay Engaged and Supported

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Older adults and people with disabilities are supported by formal and informal caregivers of their choice and have social connections within their communities

What we've done so far...

1. Hosted Caregiver Wellness Day outside of Cedar Rapids for the first time ever
2. Staff trained on a new Stress/Strain Measurement Tool to assess caregiver consumers
3. Assessed availability of Powerful Tools for Caregivers and determined the region is likely over-saturated with the class
4. Provided Dementia Friendly Iowa trainings to key community partners to increase understanding of dementia and how to support caregivers

What we'll do next...

1. Develop outreach materials and provide trainings on caregiver referrals to subcontractors
2. Track data collected with the Stress/Strain Measurement Tool over a 12-month period
3. Investigate new evidence-based classes for caregivers
4. Provide Dementia Friendly Iowa trainings to more community partners

Heritage AAA Advisory Council  
May 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Present: Don Kline, Marianne Hanshaw, Lisa Tallman, Larry Kudej, Rep. Elinor Levin

Excused: Shirley Geadelmann

Staff: Harrison March, Barbara Werning

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

Harrison March called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Harrison requested to amend the agenda with one item between VI and VII: consideration of new member applications. Marianne Hanshaw motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Larry Kudej second. Motion passed, 5-0.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes – February 2026**

No changes proposed to January 2026 meeting minutes. Don Kline motioned to approved as presented, Larry second. Motion passed, 5-0.

### **AAA Map Update**

Harrison provided an overview of the status of House File 2707 and Senate File 2338:

- Both bills included language that would have redrawn Area Agency on Aging service maps immediately and without identifying payers.
- Iowa's AAAs worked with legislators to include an amendment that provides time to conduct an impact study, cost analysis and propose alternate solutions.

Barbara Werning added more context:

- The AAAs main concerns are the human costs of changing relationships with clients and subcontractors and physical costs related to moving/acquiring offices and infrastructure. A move to seven districts does not feel efficient to the AAAs.
- Some AAAs are relying on the experience of downsizing from 13 agencies to 6 agencies more than a decade ago.
- Meetings with Iowa HHS to discuss impact study timeline and expectations begin next week.

Discussion included:

- Larry asked if Iowa HHS has changed its preference about redistricting at all in the past couple of months. Barb said HHS seems inclined to still pursue the change. HHS and the AAAs agree that service disruption needs to be minimized, if not eliminated. Larry offered to bring the concerns to AARP and the Older Iowans Legislature (OIL) if appropriate.
- Rep. Elinor Levin: this is not the only area in which she senses urgency from the state government, which is likely the result of anticipated changes in elected officials and their appointment leadership. She also understands the goal of efficiency but appreciates the different perspectives brought by different service providers under the current system.

## **Agency Report**

Harrison March provided the Agency Report:

- Heritage co-hosted the first Corridor Conference on Aging last week and the event was a success. He expects this will become an annual event between the agency and Kirkwood Community College.
- Heritage still expects to relocate its office during the Fall 2026 semester. The new location will be on Kirkwood's campus.
- Harrison will share flyers and Zoom links for two online seminars next month: an Elder Abuse Forum on June 2 and a Caregiver 101 session regarding legal topics on June 17.

## **Legislative Report**

No legislative updates to report at this time.

## **New Member Applications**

Harrison reviewed two applications to join the Advisory Council:

- Linda Thomsen, a retired nurse from Jones County. Linda was referred to the agency by Board of Directors Chairperson Keith Stamp.
- Karen Roe, a retired social worker from Iowa County. Karen spent part of her career at Heritage AAA.

Don motioned to recommend both applicants to the Heritage Board of Directors, Larry second. Motion passed, 5-0.

## **Member Updates**

Updates from members included:

- Cedar County: Harrison relayed from Shirley Geadelmann that there are talks to continue the Fill the Plate fundraiser with the new grocery store owner in Tipton.
- Johnson County: Larry reported plans for a legislative forum in June with Representatives and Senators recapping the 2026 session. Rep. Levin plans to attend and shared the Facebook event link in the chat.
- Jones County: Lisa Tallman shared with her diners a news article that provided tips for talking to your elected officials. She hopes her diners will use it to get more engaged with legislative issues.
- Washington County: Don Kline Encore Café is going well and had a nice produce pantry from HACAP today. Marianne added that there continues to be lots of socialization.
- Statewide: Larry said OIL scheduled its annual meeting for September 28 in Des Moines with a Zoom option as well. He expects quality of care in nursing homes to be a priority issue. The signup process will be similar to last year.

## **Open Agenda**

Nothing presented.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m. The next meeting date is July 23 in Cedar Rapids or via Zoom. Harrison will hold Open Office Hours on June 25.