



# Heritage

## Area Agency on Aging

### Regular Meeting of the Heritage Board of Directors

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

Via Conference Call and Heritage Area Agency on Aging Location

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#### MINUTES

##### Call to Order

**Present:** Keith Stamp, Peggy Doerge, Karri Fisher, Sister Susan O'Connor, Scott Olson, Carla Stevens, David Thielen, Dusti Winkie and Larry Kudej.

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

##### Mission Moment – Barb Werning, Executive Director

A St. Mark's UMC Encore Café consumer who has attended since it opened several years ago just celebrated their 100-year-old birthday. The individual, a WWII veteran, recently had a party thrown in their honor at Jones Park in Cedar Rapids with many family and friends in attendance. One table was full of friends they regularly eat with at Encore and another table was full of Encore Café volunteers; both fitting examples of congregate dining site socialization that can take place.

##### Introduction – New Board Member, Carla Stevens

Carla introduced herself and presented an overview of her experience working with older adults. All members then provided brief introductions, welcoming her to the Heritage AAA Board.

##### Approval of Agenda

With no further questions, Directors Doerge and Olson moved and seconded to approve today's agenda, as presented. Motion carried, 8-0.

##### Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Held Thursday, August 13, 2026

Upon prior review and with no further questions, Directors Olson and Doerge moved and seconded to approve the Thursday, August 13, 2026, meeting minutes previously distributed by e-mail. Motion carried, 8-0.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

##### Finance Report

###### • Updates

- Federal Funding
  - At the end of each federal fiscal year, states are required to return unused federal funds to be run through a formula and redistributed. For FFY26 Heritage has been notified that we will be receiving \$19K to use across all Title programs.
  - On September 2, the President signed a continuing resolution approving Federal Fiscal Year 2027 funding the same level as 2026 federal programs funding through December 11, 2026, meaning that all OAA programs are flat-funded so far.
- Upcoming Monitoring/Audit
- VOCA

- The VOCA program at Heritage will end Wednesday, September 30. On August 21, 2026, VOCA notified Heritage a desk audit would be performed on staff salaries and benefits for the third quarter claim. The information was submitted by the Fiscal team, on September 4, 2026.
- State ADS Monitoring - Yearly ADS monitoring activity has been scheduled. Areas being audited are fiscal, administration and nutrition. Submission of required documents is to take place by October 26 and ADS staff will be on site, Tuesday, November 17, to perform the monitoring activities.
- Heritage Annual Audit - Denman CPA LLP auditors, will be at the October Finance committee meeting to discuss the launch, planned scope and timing of the FY26 audit.
- FY26 Closeout
  - Board approved budget vs. actual revenues and expenditures for FY26 were reviewed. Further discussion took place on contributing factors that resulted in changes.
  - The Board reviewed the end of fiscal year balance sheet for assets, liabilities and net assets as of September 8, 2026.

### **Approval of Finance Report**

No other questions, Directors Olson and O'Connor seconded to approve the Finance report as presented. Motion carried, 8-0.

### **Fundraising Committee Report**

#### **• Caregiver Wellness Day Event (CWD)**

- The event will be held November 4, 2026, at the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center, Hiawatha, IA. As of today, forty consumers have registered to attend.
- Hy-Vee will be providing vaccines and administer the vaccination clinic. Five consumers have registered to receive a flu shot.
- Finishing touches are taking place on remaining items, including event volunteer scheduling, e-mails to Sponsor/Vendors, etc.
- Event brochures are still available to distribute; please contact Barb if you would like more.

### **Operations/Executive Director's Report**

#### **• Staffing**

- Harrison March's last day was Friday, September 4. At this time, his vacated position as Community Engagement Coordinator will not be filled since current staff are able to incorporate the duties.
- Interviews are being scheduled for the re-opened I&A/Options Counselor position previously vacated in May which was paused while further program analysis took place.

#### **• Program Updates**

- The approval process for licensing is being completed with the Johnson County Health Department, then the Coralville Encore Café will soon open. The site location is the Coralville UMC and Coralville Community Food Pantry on the first and third Thursday of the month, 11:30a-12:30p. Reservations must be made, and the first meal will be served Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- Anna Slife, Nutrition Service Coordinator, is training to become a Dementia Friends Champion. Upon completion, she will be qualified to present the program. This will support our efforts to cross-train staff and streamline travel.
- Heritage is hosting an Advance Directives Clinic jointly with Iowa Legal Aid in Vinton on Thursday, October 29. Please share this event with your family and friends.
- ADS has advised that, with new state and AAA policies and procedures, findings are likely at monitoring visits throughout the state. This year will be a learning opportunity for both state and AAA staff.

- **Other Updates – Including DHHS Integration and Federal Changes**

- Tuesday, September 15, Barb and Jennifer will travel to Des Moines for a meeting with other AAAs, ADS and HHS personnel to discuss the state redesign report required by House File 2707. The final worksheets were submitted to HHS on August 20; a stakeholder survey will be sent out in October and Board members will see the final draft for any suggestions before the final report is sent to the Iowa Legislature. Discussion took place regarding potential impact to Iowa's older adult population with the implementation of the redesign. Members will be kept informed.

#### **Action Items**

- **FY26-27 Required Board of Directors' Compliance Documents**

- A set of two FY26-27 compliance documents are being sent to member's home addresses to read, complete, and return to our office within a two-week period. When the items arrive, if you have any questions, please contact Denise or Barb.

#### **Open Agenda**

- The Older Iowans Legislature (OIL) Annual Meeting will take place Monday, September 28, 2026, from 8:30a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. Individuals can participate in person, via zoom call or by phone and must register. Please contact Heritage Board Advisor, Larry Kudej at [ldkudej@aol.com](mailto:ldkudej@aol.com) if you are interested in attending.
- No other items were brought to the Board's attention.

#### **Public Comment**

- No public comments were brought before the Board.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

- With no further business, Directors Doerge and Olson moved and seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:08 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, October 8, 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