

# WYANDOTTE / LEAVENWORTH AREA AGENCY ON AGING

RUTH E. JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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849 NORTH 47TH STREET, SUITE C, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66102 • PHONE: (913) 573-8531 • FAX (913) 573-8577

July 3, 2025

Dear Advisory Council Member:

The next meeting of the Areawide Advisory Council will be held on **Wednesday, July 23, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held virtually, and the meeting notification/link will be sent to the email on file.

Excused absence requests should be made at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date to ensure the excuse is recorded. Please keep in mind that 3 or more unexcused absences may result in termination of your term on the board.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact the Area Agency on Aging at 913-573-8531.

Respectfully,



Linda Ramirez  
Advisory Council Liaison

/LR

Enclosures

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## AREAWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### WYANDOTTE/LEAVENWORTH AREA AGENCY ON AGING

JULY 23, 2025

#### AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GUEST SPEAKER – Kansas Department of Health & Environment

J. Scott O'Mara, Eligibility Operations Field Specialist

Changes to Processes/Reviews for KanCare effective 7/1/2025

#### COUNCIL CONCERNS

Leavenworth County

Wyandotte County

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leavenworth County

Wyandotte County

#### OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 27, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

WYANDOTTE/LEAVENWORTH AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
AREAWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

*June 25, 2025*

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jacqueline Browne, Sharon Davis, Jason Hussey, Jammie Johnson, Mary Mack, Jessica Pontbriant, and Jamey Rodriguez.
- EXCUSED: Pam Blood, Denise Dias, Cindy Hopewell and Susan McGinnis.
- ABSENT: Carlen Davis, Barbara Ikerd, Anita Krondak and Kim Weaver.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Connie Harmon and Linda Ramirez.
- GUESTS PRESENT:** None.
- CALL TO ORDER:** Jammie Johnson opened the meeting with a thank you to Jamey Rodriguez, who Chaired the meeting in May.
- MINUTES:** The May minutes were approved as written.
- CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:** Jammie Johnson stated that she had a discussion with her Commissioner (Stites). She said that the commissioner suggested that she email her "Public Comment" to him and he submitted the comment to be read aloud at the Commission meeting. Jammie suggests to all advisory council members to reach out to their respective commissioners and provide public comments as it regards to Aging Services.
- COUNCIL CONCERNS:** Leavenworth County:
- Jessica Pontbriant stated that the Leavenworth Council on Aging (LCOA) has been receiving many referrals/calls regarding rent and/or utility assistance. Many seniors are concerned about the cuts to programming at the Federal level.
- Wyandotte County:
- None.
- DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Leavenworth:
- Connie Harmon shared that the LCOA staff is participating in SAVE, a suicide prevention training, provided by the Veterans Administration. Staff will participate in one of 5 training courses offered for one hour during the week of

June 23-27. This will assist them with care and compassion if they were to interact with an older adult or veteran who is in crisis or have thoughts of suicide.

- The COA is partnering with the Community Pantry Project, a local non-profit organization. The idea of the pantry is for individuals to *take what you need; leave what you can*. Anyone can access the pantry, there is no application or requirements, and anyone can donate. The donation does not have to be a shelf stable food item. It can be fresh produce, a toiletry item, hat/scarf or even a working small appliance. The pantry will be monitored and cleaned by the Community Pantry Project. You may visit the website at [www.communitypantryks.com](http://www.communitypantryks.com).
- Staff has scheduled an event for S.A.F.E. assessments (Senior Athletic Fitness Evaluations) hosted by the University of Saint Mary Physical Therapy students on July 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Council on Aging. These assessments will test strength, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility and balance.

Wyandotte:

Linda Ramirez provided the Director's report in Ruth Jones' absence.

- Linda reported a long-time employee, Rik Van Dyke is retiring after 29 years of service at the Area Agency on Aging. Emma Fonseca will act as the Interim Program Manager until the position is filled. Hiring freezes with the Unified Government could possibly impede that process.
- Linda shared that the CORE Funding has been reallocated for 2026.
- Open Comments, as a requirement of our Area Plan will be taken from July 1 – July 31. There are several ways you can provide comments by submitting an email to [60Plus@wycokck.org](mailto:60Plus@wycokck.org), writing to the Area Agency on Aging or by using the online survey portal (Linda will share a link, when available).
- Linda announced that the *Dress for Success Program*, A Back to School Project for Grandparents. Eligibility requirements are 55+ grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren because the parents are unable or

unwilling to act as the primary caregiver and the child must live in the grandparent's home.

- In celebration of National Senior Citizens' Day, the Area Agency on Aging will take a group of 20 seniors to the New Dinner Theatre to see Clue on August 20th. Interested seniors will be required to pay a fee of \$25 and register in person at the Area Agency on Aging.
- Senior Farmers Market Voucher Distribution is still on hold. Seniors are encouraged to sign up for the newsletter emailing list or contact the Nutrition Department at 913-573-8546 for updates.
- Linda shared that there will be a fundraiser held to benefit the Mary Ann Flunder Scholarship on August 8, 11am – 5pm at the Lodge by the Lake on the campus of KCKCC. Ms. Flunder was a long-time member of the Areawide Advisory Council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Jessica Pontbriant asked the group if there is still interest in having a speaker at the next advisory council meeting. She suggested Scott O'Mara of the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. Those in attendance agreed and she will reach out to him again for attendance.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**The next meeting of the Areawide Advisory Council will be held virtually on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 10am.**

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:28am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Ramirez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Ramirez" clearly distinguishable.

Linda Ramirez  
Recording Secretary