

WYANDOTTE/LEAVENWORTH AREA AGENCY ON AGING
AREAWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 26, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Gordon, Brandon Johannes, Camalla Leonhard, Mary Mack, Susan McGinnis, Tina Medina and Deloris Pinkard and Susan White.

EXCUSED: Anita Krondak and Charles Williams.

ABSENT: Natalie Barge, Dolores Elliott and Joan Spero.

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Harmon and Linda Ramirez.

GUESTS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Linda Ramirez called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15am.

MINUTES: April minutes were mailed to members and were approved.

**CHAIRMAN
COMMENTS:** Thomas Gordon apologized for being tardy. He stated that his goal is to assist the council in proving a pathway to keep on track and setting goals for obtaining information and services for seniors in our counties.

COUNCIL CONCERNS: Leavenworth County:

- Leavenworth has no council concerns at this time.

Wyandotte County:

- Thomas Gordon raised the concern that Wyandotte County needs to fill its vacant positions on the board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Leavenworth:

- Connie Harmon stated that the Leavenworth Council on Aging (LCOA) has been awarded a grant from *Meals on Wheels of America* to expand its Meals on Wheels program which has grown 25% this year.
- The LCOA has applied for a grant that will assist with the PALS (Pets and Loving Seniors) program. The program will provide supplies and veterinary services for seniors in Leavenworth County. The program is currently operating on donations.

- Connie mentioned several organizations that they work with to provide services to their Caregivers and Care Recipients.
- The LCOA are recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th and June 22nd in Leavenworth County at two different locations.
- Connie reported that the LCOA will be participating at the Senior Fair on July 30th and will be providing food and entertainment.

Wyandotte:

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

- Linda Ramirez reported that the Wyandotte County held its CHAMPSS (Choosing Healthy Appetizing Meal Plan Solutions for Seniors) on May 12th. The event was held at the IHOP at the Legends location. Seniors may now use their CHAMPSS card at that location and continue to use their benefit at the HY-Vee in Mission, Kansas.
- Linda shared that the Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging held its Older Americans Month Celebration on May 20th. The virtual event featured an opening speech by the Wyandotte County Director, Ruth Jones; a PowerPoint presentation which explained services available; three testimonials from seniors in our area and a closing speech by the Leavenworth Council on Aging Director, Connie Harmon.
- Linda shared that the assessors are slowly returning to in-person assessments. Not all State programs have adopted the face-to-face requirement.
- The Community Living Program unit is currently 2 people short. One staff member is out on maternity leave and one position is currently vacant. July 1st will be the soonest the unit will see relief.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Thomas Gordon provided a brief synopsis of the duties of the Silver Haired Legislature and provided a means for advisory council members to submit any concerns of their constituents to the SHL body. SHL can discuss those issues with the legislative body at the Capitol in Topeka.

- Mr. Gordon asked Linda Ramirez to explain the duties of the advisory council members. Linda provided several examples of how the advisory council should proceed when discussing issues related to seniors in the counties. Linda suggested that all concerns should be reported to the council at the next meeting and suggests council members refer seniors to the Area Agency on Aging.
- Linda Ramirez shared that every senior situation is different. and Because a senior is 60 years of age and older does not automatically qualify them for service. Each participant must meet specific guidelines as it refers to different funding sources. Dr. Pinkard suggested a "disclaimer" that can be used so that seniors will understand that because someone they know receives services, does not mean that they too will qualify for the same service.
- Linda agreed with Mr. Gordon as he spoke of *Frequently Asked Questions* and she suggests that everyone bring one of those questions to the meeting in June.
- Linda reminded the council that the *Conflict of Interest* and *Communication/Correspondence* forms need to be turned in, especially from the new council members. Linda also stated that she will email a "fillable" In-Kind Contribution form to the council to be used in the future.
- Linda announced that the Wyandotte office will be participating in the Juneteenth parade that will be held on June 19th.

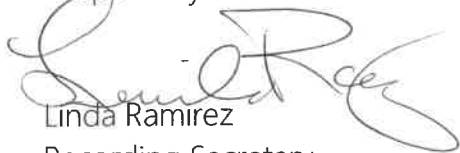
NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Areawide Advisory Council will be held virtually at 10am on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted:


Linda Ramirez
Recording Secretary