



## **Advisory Council Meeting August 10, 2022**

The **Aging Advisory Council** members convened virtually on Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Janice Wilberg, *Chair*  
Gene Guskowski, *Vice Chair*  
Commissioner John Griffith  
Ann Laatsch  
Kent Mayfield  
Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede  
Amanda Weiler  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### **Members Excused:**

Ruth Bevenue  
Patricia Dunn  
James Kimble  
Sally Lindner  
Nia Norris

### **Members Excused:**

Suzie Ryer  
Commissioner Cherie Swenson

### **Staff Present:**

Andrew Bethke, DHHS  
Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS  
Vonda Nyang, DHHS  
Bekki Schmitt, DHHS  
Carrie Vallejo, DHHS

### **Attendees from the Public**

Howard Snyder  
Christie Carter, *LGBT*

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Janice Wilberg called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator for DHHS Aging Services, took roll call. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, but was achieved during the meeting.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 8, 2022, AND JULY 13, 2022.**

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

### **III. OLDER AMERICAN'S ACT (OAA) ARPA PROJECTS**

Daniel Idzikowski, Program and Policy Manager for DHHS Aging Services provided an update on the Older Americans Act ARPA project requests. This agenda item was tabled due to a non-quorum of members and will be reviewed at the next Advisory Council meeting. The Aging Unit has one additional project they would like the Advisory Council to review and approve before submitting it to the

full Commission for approval. It is to purchase an audio-visual telecommunications system for two of the County owned senior centers in order to hold hybrid meetings. Since the Advisory Council didn't have a quorum, the Advisory Council was unable to vote on adding this additional project.

#### **IV. AGING UNIT BUDGET PRESENTATION:**

The Budget presentation for today's meeting was tabled until the next Advisory Council meeting because the presenter for this topic was absent. The Advisory Council discussed its role in reviewing the Aging Unit's budget to make recommendations to the Commission. The Chair discussed with the Advisory Council the need to have a clear written document that would articulate the Commission's authority, roles, and responsibilities with the Aging Unit in reviewing and approving the budget and other processes within the department. Example: Hiring a new Aging Unit Director.

#### **V. COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION**

Chair Wilberg informed the Advisory Council that today's discussion on communication strategies is informational only as there isn't a quorum of Advisory Council members to act. Wilberg reviewed the communication strategies discussed at the previous Advisory Council meeting. The communication strategies included incorporating outreach requirements and metrics in Aging's vendor's contracts to ensure the vendors are making every effort to reach seniors who are not utilizing their programs and services. Vendors should also provide status reports to the County program coordinators, contact non-profit organizations that have face-to-face contact with seniors/door-to-door, and provide them with information on other ADS programs and resources.

A discussion ensued on other possible communication strategies, including hiring a firm to do a study on reaching seniors through paper mailings. A few members emphasized that not all seniors are tech-savvy and are not utilizing the internet or phones for their information on programs and services.

#### **VI. AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Chair Wilberg announced she had seen an obituary notice for Barbara Bechtel. Recommends that the Advisory Council and the Commission send condolences and recognition to Barbara Bechtel's family.
- On August 17, 2022, Open House on the New Emergency Mental Health facility (DHHS) 1500 N. 12th St. Call Health Center to sign-up for a tour.
- COA Chair John Griffith announced that Daniel Idzikowski has been selected as the new Aging Unit Director.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be September 14, 2022, a virtual meeting.  
Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant