

January 25, 2023 - KCCOA MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Nancy Ford, Cindy Turnquist, Carolyn Banks, Ron Ford, Ron Owens, Elaine Hansen, Wally Gibson, Rick Parsons, Loretta Ozga, Caroleen Chamberlain, Lamont Smith
Not Present: Beverly Dinsmore
Commissioner: Patty Kubeja
Staff: Jerica Bauer

I. Welcome & 10/26/22 Minutes Approval - Nancy

- a. Motion made by Wally Gibson, second by Carolyn Banks, & minutes were approved.

II. Five County COA Report – Jerica

- a. Supportive Services significantly reduce the State's cost to care for lower-income older adults. These programs promote independence allowing older adults to stay in their homes longer, avoiding costly assisted or long-term care facilities, and helping to lower the strain on our State's healthcare system. Unfortunately, increasing operational costs and growing demand have left these programs underfunded. FY23 legislative additional funding requests have been made to support the Nutrition Program at \$2,178,460 and In-Home Services Program at \$601,920. Please get in touch with our Legislators to ask for their support for these funding requests.
- b. Nutrition Program – The home-delivered meal program provides healthy meals, a quick safety check, and vital human connection to homebound seniors. Providing this program costs a fraction (3.2%) of assisted living costs. However, program costs have increased by 18% since 2019 and continue to grow. To help offset cost increases, we discussed raising the requested "Donation" amount. For Five-County, the average home-delivered meal costs \$173.50 per month per individual (approximately \$8.90 per meal). The average donation received is \$2.45 per meal. After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of increasing the requested donation amount, we decided to raise the amount to \$4.00 per meal, effective 3/1/2023. Carrie Schonlaw will create a marketing message for everyone to include with monthly invoices. This message will remind the recipient that this is only a "SUGGESTED" donation, not a required amount.
- c. Supportive Services – These services include personal care, homemaking, transportation, chore services, home safety, and adult day centers. Without these services, many lower-income older adults will require assisted living or nursing home care, a significantly higher cost to the State of Utah. For example, Assisted-Living costs the State on average \$5,280/mo, while average in-home services cost the State \$440/mo. Unfortunately, the program is underfunded, resulting in a waiting list of over 670 people. The current legislative funding request will only reduce the waiting list by 21% to serve an additional 114 individuals.
- d. Upcoming Five-County Events
 - Caregiver Conference – February 22, Dixie Center
 - Health Expo – March 24, St. George Senior Center
 - Five County Senior Conference – May 5th, Cedar City – American Bandstand

- e. Benefits Program, Hydee Alvarez – We discussed asking Hydee to educate and screen applicants here in Kanab so we can get those in need on the waiting list. We decided to establish a list of Kane County residents who would be interested (and qualify) for the programs before extending the invitation to Hydee.

III. Financial Report – Cindy

- a. Review of Five-County Contract

Service	Amount
Support Services	58,843.00
State Transportation	3,000.00
Congregate Meals	42,642.00
Home Delivered Meals	88,011.00
Total	\$192,496.00

- b. Required Cash Match to receive allotted State & Federal funds

Service	Amount
Support Services	11,235.87
Congregate Meals	6,130.18
Home Delivered Meals	11,604.33
In-Kind (NAPIS)	7,922.74
Total	\$36,893.12

- c. Our contract covers \$10,833 on average for meals each month. So far, we are serving between \$11,300 to \$12,824 monthly meals. Because of the Covid Emergence Funds, we are okay. But once that program ends, we may need to re-evaluate who receives meals.
- d. Jerica reports only the required services rendered amount on the County Council monthly reimbursement form. Her team is providing more services than are being noted. Cindy requested a monthly internal report of the actual number of services provided. Real service numbers could come in handy in future reimbursement negotiations.

IV. Kane County Report - Jerica

- a. The new \$4.00 suggested meal donation amount will begin on March 1, 2023. Kane County is receiving an average donation of \$0.92 per meal. The supplies cost per meal is well over \$5.00, which does not consider labor costs. The actual cost per meal is between \$9-\$10. We had a lengthy discussion about monthly invoices or reminders for meals delivered. The concern is that those recipients most in need may cancel their meals if they can't meet the suggested donation amount. Many widows/widowers in the area live on as little as \$750/mo with no family around to help. It may be possible to send the invoice/reminder to a child or contact person on the individual's intake form. A final decision regarding invoice/reminder options was not made.
- b. The Center is fully staffed right now with the addition of a bus driver and a part-time staff assistant.
- c. The meal prep contract is still in progress. The contractor is preparing a new contract, given that the original contract is now a year old.

V. Center Updates – Wally & Rick

- a. Wally – Valley is preparing around 130 meals daily, plus congregate meals. Attendance is growing. Today they had nine people for a congregate meal, six people attended the movie in December, and eight joined for the December shopping trip. February's shopping trip was canceled due to snow.
- b. Rick – Big Water. The small building he had targeted for holding meetings is no longer available because the property was sold. He is looking forward to Jerica talking to the new property owner about the possible use of the building. He has been helping Page Senior Center deliver meals. Some Big Water seniors visit the Page Senior Center for meals and activities.

VI. Supportive Services Sub-Committee - Cindy

- a. We decided to create a community-based program by moving the sub-committee out from under the umbrella of the KCCOA. We feel a community volunteer organization could be more effective because State and Federal programs currently have lengthy waiting lists for services and limited funds. A community-based organization would include the same supportive service organizations we targeted to guide the group and define the needs. As a separate non-profit, we can recruit senior and non-senior volunteers who are not limited to having a 200% of poverty income. This organization can provide the same training as the Senior Companion program and require complete background checks. Patty suggested that someone form a 501 C 3 non-profit and use the Senior Center as a conduit. Multiple non-profits currently work with the County, and some even get money. Jerica would support such a program and promote available services through the Senior Center. Cindy agreed to take this project on and will report her findings/progress at the next meeting.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 Wally motioned to adjourn and Ron seconded.

VIII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 26th @ 3:00 pm, Kanab Active Living Center