



Think Progress. Think Tomorrow. Think GRADD.

GREEN RIVER AREA COUNCIL ON AGING

October 6, 2020

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Area Council on Aging met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., via ZOOM. The following persons were in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Daviess	Melinda Cornell, Henrietta Harris, Lydia Fusco, Betty Medley-Wallace
Hancock	Diann Crask
Henderson	Charlye Jo Griggs, Connie O’Leary, Janeth Nicolas
McLean	Jim Toler
Ohio	Mary Ashford, Mary Young, Wilda Hardesty
Union	Emily Dominguez, Gayle McLeod
Webster	Tracy Henry

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Daviess	Daisy James, *Sim Davenport
Hancock	Franklin Powers, Jean Mattingly
Henderson	Suzanne Cravens
McLean	Leona Austin, *Nancy Wetzel
Ohio	All Present
Union	Rick White
Webster	Jim Townsend*Patty Tapp

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Brenda Renfrow, Ohio County Senior Services
Lona Morton, Hancock County Senior Services
David Farley, Kentucky Legal Aid

*Excused Absence

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT (cont.)

David Tucker, Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County (SCCODC)
Tiffanye Johnson, SCCODC
Nicole Leach, Owensboro Health
Debbie Zuerner-Johnson, Owensboro Health
Jennifer Williams, Director for Aging & Social Services, GRADD
Amber Phelps, In-Home Services Manager, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Coordinator, GRADD
Jeanette Woodward, SAMS Database Administrator, GRADD
Kristy James, Community Collaboration for Children Program Coordinator
Liberty Watson, Support Services Technician, GRADD
Lee Ann Edmonson, State Health Insurance Assistance Program Assistant
Kathy Poe, Intern, GRADD
Megan Wood, Intern, GRADD
Cassie Knot, Intern, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Henrietta Harris called the meeting to order. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

i. Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the February 4, 2020, meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging for approval.

A motion was made by Charlye Jo Griggs and seconded by Connie O'Leary to approve the February 4, 2020, minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Area Plan Update Approval

Jennifer Williams stated that while the FY 2021 Area Plan Update was presented and discussed in detail at the February meeting, the council failed to take a formal vote for approval of the plan.

A motion was made by Melinda Cornell and seconded by Diann Crask to approve the FY 2021 Area Plan Update as presented. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Program Reports

1. Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Amber Gebhard gave an update on services provided through the ADRC from March 1 to September 30. Staff have taken 1,722 calls with 1,375 calls having a Level 1 screening completed. In February, across the district, 12,503 congregate and home delivered meals were served. In August, the number of meals nearly tripled to 30,861.

2. In-Home Services

Amber Phelps reported on the status of In-home services stating that in March, when the initial COVID-19 shutdown began, 44 clients opted to place their services on hold. The number of clients on hold is now down to 13. Ms. Phelps stated she sends multiple service orders daily to the senior center directors to begin home-delivered meals for new clients. The Department for Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) recently gave case managers approval to conduct assessments by phone.

3. Nutrition

Jennifer Williams reported the number of meals served daily across the seven-county district has increased from less than 1,000 per day to over 1,500 per day. The increase is due to the governor's commitment to providing meals to anyone age 60 and over. Ms. Williams said both Canteen and the county aging directors are to be commended for their ability to meet such an increased demand. Ms. Williams stated that although senior centers are not yet open, meals are either delivered to clients' homes or picked up in a drive-through line at the senior center.

4. AmeriCorps Senior Connections

The new program service year for AmeriCorps began on September 1. GRADD's Senior Connection program has 22 member slots this year, which is down six from last year. In addition to the 22 full-time (1,700 hours) slots, GRADD was recently awarded six part-time (1,200 hours) slots. Two of the part-time slots have been filled. Jennifer Williams stated anyone interested in AmeriCorps could call the GRADD office for more information. All AmeriCorps members are serving in-person at their service sites.

5. County Aging Coordinators

i. Daviess County

David Tucker said staff and volunteers at the Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County are trucking along amidst the new demands. They are providing 3,000 meals per week or 600 per day. Through a grant program, they have hired six new drivers and are requesting funds to add two additional drivers. Currently, they are re-routing all home-delivered clients to become more efficient and productive. Staff recently received extra training, which will help them in their roles at the center. Mr. Tucker said morale at the center is very high.

ii. Hancock County

Lona Morton briefly reported, showing video of the drive-in flu shot clinic taking place at the Hancock County Senior Center.

iii. Henderson County

Linda Brown was unable to access the virtual meeting but provided a written report of activities taking place in Henderson. The Gathering Place hosts several outdoor, socially distanced, activities including drive-in Bingo, concert/dance, and Tai Chi classes. A drive-in movie is scheduled for October 22. While many scheduled trips were cancelled, Ms. Brown hopes to begin rescheduling those in early 2021. Lastly, Henderson Community College will be providing an intern to work at the center.

D. Budget Update

Jennifer Williams reviewed the FY 2021 budget. The FY 2021 budget reflects a \$19,756.01 increase over FY2020. Ms. Williams stated GRADD has received a letter of commitment from DAIL and Governor Beshear to use CARES Act funding to cover the cost of the COVID-19 meals. Next year, GRADD aging services does expect budget cuts of about eight percent.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

i. Medicare Part D: Open Enrollment

Lee Ann Edmonson informed the council that open enrollment takes place October 15 through December 7 and is the period in which Medicare beneficiaries can change their prescription drug plans. Regardless of whether someone is satisfied with their current plan, it is advised to complete a plan comparison. Plans change year to year, and the plan that best fits an individual's needs last year may not be the best fit in the coming year. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) staff can assist individuals with comparisons, providing free and unbiased help. Ms. Edmonson said assistance will be different this year due to COVID-19. There will not be any face-to-face counseling, but rather all counseling will take place via phone or video conference. With the senior centers closed, all comparisons will be done through the SHIP counselors at the GRADD office. Should the demand be too great, the state SHIP director will assist. Ms. Edmonson shared some changes to the plan finder, stating consumers will now be able to choose up to four pharmacies for comparison rather than two, and Medicare Advantage is now available to persons with end-stage renal failure. Anyone can visit www.medicare.gov and use the plan finder to complete their own comparison.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID Service Adaptations

Jennifer Williams assured the council that although how services are delivered has had to change, clients are still being served and needs are being met. As stated in the in-home services report, several clients chose to place services on hold, and a few remain on hold. Most clients continue to receive in-home services, feeling it is a greater risk to their health and wellbeing to not have services. Providers for services are following strict COVID-19 guidelines. GRADD case managers are maintaining contact with clients via phone. Senior Centers continue to provide home delivered meals, as well as providing drive-through meals for seniors who would normally attend a congregate site. The county aging coordinators have been very creative in providing virtual activities as well as taking advantage of good weather to provide activities such as parking lot Bingo and line dancing. These activities help address the concern of isolation, which was a growing concern prior to the pandemic. Kentucky Legal Aid has created several informative videos available on their website. At this time, there is no information on when senior centers will open again.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee

With a new year approaching, the following members were appointed to the nominating committee:

Diann Crask – Hancock County
Charly Jo Griggs – Henderson County
Mary Ashford – Ohio County
Emily Dominguez – Union County

A motion was made by Melinda Cornell and seconded by Connie O’Leary to approve the above-named members to serve on the nominating committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

The committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. December 1, prior to the Aging Council meeting. The committee is tasked with nominating candidates for the offices of vice-chair and secretary. The position of chairperson is appointed by the GRADD Board of Directors.

C. Appointment of Executive Committee

The following members were appointed to the Executive Committee for the purpose of reviewing proposals for the provision of legal aid services and in-home services.

Daviess County – Henrietta Harris, Chairperson
Hancock County –Franklin Powers, Vice-Chairperson
Henderson County – Connie O’Leary, Secretary
McLean County – Jim Toler
Ohio County – Mary Young

Union County – Gayle McLeod
Webster County – Tracy Henry

A motion was made by Gayle McLeod and seconded by Janeth Nicolas to approve the above-named members to serve on the Executive Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Proposals will be reviewed with the Executive Committee of the GRADD Board of Directors on Friday, November 13, at 10:30 a.m.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Aging Council VIRTUAL meeting – December 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
- Ombudsman Advisory Council VIRTUAL meeting – October 20, 2020, 1:30 p.m.
- Mental Health & Aging Coalition VIRTUAL meeting – November 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
- Staffing Updates:
 - Jaycie Luna, Case Manager, covering Henderson & Daviess Counties.
 - Kelsey Taylor, Case Manager, has moved from full-time to part-time and now covers McLean and Hancock Counties;
 - Kelsey Iannitello, new service advisor for Medicaid Waiver;
 - Mary Ashford, new Program Assistant for AmeriCorps. Carolynn Kelley will be leaving the position after several years to spend more time with her grandchildren; and
 - Current Interns for Social Services at GRADD include Kathy Poe, Cassie Knott, and Megan Wood.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned.

/lw