



Green River Area Development District

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Green River Area Council on Aging

August 4, 2026
Minutes

The Green River Area Council on Aging met on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the GRADD office. There was a quorum with the following people in attendance.

Council Members' Present:

Daviess	Henrietta Harris, Darla Baker, Caleb Farkas
Hancock	Franklin Powers, Diann Crask
Henderson	Kim Biggs, Ronda Smith
McLean	Jim Toler, Sherry Daughtery, Patricia Martinez
Ohio	Wilda Hardesty
Union	George Blakeley, LaDonna Tapp
Webster	Sondra Norman

Guests and Staff Present:

Mandy Fambrough, Webster County Senior Services
Sandra Martin, McLean County Senior Services
Bill Cooper, Owensboro Daviess County Senior Services
Melissa Polites, Union County Senior Services
Kelli King, GRADD
Tiffanye Corsey, GRADD
Mary Poirier, GRADD
Lauren Wellman, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, GRADD
Bethanne McPherson, GRADD
Jessica Boarman, Comfort Keepers
Dave Farley, KY Legal Aid
Maria Shyver, GRADD
Brad Alley, GRADD
Nikki Rouse, GRADD

Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Curtis Dame, Secretary | Charlie Castlen, Treasurer | Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director



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I. Call to Order

Chair Henrietta Harris called the meeting to order, and prayer led by George Blakeley.

II. Guest Speaker

The committee received an overview of Hospice of Western Kentucky's services, philosophy, and community programs. Hospice serves Daviess, Hancock, Hopkins, and Muhlenberg counties and works with neighboring hospices for referrals.

The hospice team includes nurses, CNAs, social workers, medical directors, and chaplains. Hospice is available to patients with a terminal diagnosis and an expected life expectancy of approximately six months or less, with early referrals encouraged. Hospice focuses on comfort and symptom management and does not hasten death.

The differences between palliative care and hospice were also discussed, including that palliative care allows patients to continue aggressive treatment, while hospice focuses on comfort after curative treatments are discontinued. Hartford House in Owensboro provides inpatient hospice care, respite care, and care for uncontrolled symptoms, with plans to expand its current 13-bed facility.

The hospice volunteer program includes approximately 80 active volunteers who provide companionship, caregiver respite, and other support. Bereavement services are available for 13 months following a death, along with free community grief programs, children's grief camp, and Tucker's Treehouse. Hospice also provides community activities and special accommodations to help fulfill meaningful patient and family wishes.

The annual Hospice Banquet will be held September 10 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Convention Center and is free to attend with reservations.

III. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes June 2, 2026

The motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by George Blakeley to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.

B. Program Providers Reports

Dave Farley with Legal Aid provided an update, noting that additional funding was secured to extend operations through the end of April. Benefits staff continue to experience a significant backlog, with calls taking approximately two to three weeks to be returned. New clients will be assigned to another attorney to help address the workload.

Amber Gebhard reported for Fiver Star extra cold meals were provided with hot meal deliveries on Thursdays and Fridays throughout June, and each homebound client received a shelf-stable emergency meal box containing seven meals. The central kitchen

was permitted to remain in the current senior center building through June 28, and the fall cycle menu is scheduled to run from September through November.

Comfort Keepers reported that services are being provided across all areas, with 133 clients currently being served. The program has no waiting list and is operating at capacity without delays, allowing clients to receive services in a timely manner.

Brad Alley reported that the AmeriCorps program will close Program Year 25 on August 31, with the new program year beginning September 1. An end-of-year celebration is scheduled for August 14 at the GRADD office. Increased funding will expand the program from 16 to 25 service slots, with 19 slots tentatively filled. The first service orientation for the new program year is scheduled for September 1. Overall, the program is experiencing growth.

Leslie Wilson reported on behalf of Andrew Law that October is Resident Rights Month. The third annual Resident Rights Month Forum for nursing home residents and staff will be held October 21, approximately 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the GRADD boardroom. The forum will provide an opportunity for residents to voice their needs, share concerns, and improve communication with nursing home administrative staff.

Kelli King reported on the Kentucky Family Caregiver Program, which continues to provide support to grandparents raising grandchildren. Clients may choose a private-pay provider for respite services and receive partial reimbursement for those services. During FY26, the program served 53 grandparents and 87 grandchildren. Since July 1, 24 applications have been processed. The program continues to provide valuable support and flexible respite reimbursement options for eligible caregivers.

Abbie Newmeyer reported on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and shared that Tiffany Lindsey has been named the new coordinator for ADRC and SHIP (Medicare insurance) services. Abbie will be departing this Friday. During the last fiscal year, the ADRC handled 9,169 calls and made 1,481 referrals. The report highlighted the leadership transition and the significant volume of services provided through the ADRC.

Lauren Wellman provided an update on In-Home Services and Meals on Wheels. The team currently consists of five case managers, including new Aging Assessor Megan Dennis. The program is serving approximately 394 clients through Meals on Wheels and 130 clients through in-home services. Case managers are carrying caseloads of approximately 90–100 clients each. Lauren noted the current staffing levels and service capacity of the programs.

Maria Shyver provided an update on the Community Network. The community-based resource program currently has 50 active partners and meets every other month to promote collaboration and coordination of services. The Parent Engagement Program held 209 meetings last year to address educational neglect and helped prevent 209 families

from having open DCBS cases. Maria also highlighted the “Building Stronger Families” in-home service, which provides a 12-week nurturing parent program. The update highlighted strong interagency collaboration and the positive preventative impact of these programs.

IV. New Business

Leslie Wilson provided an update on procurement and funding. Legal Aid and In-Home Services will go through the procurement process this year. A committee with one representative from each county will be needed to review the RFPs in October, with proposals due in December.

Leslie also reported that the state has identified approximately \$4 million in increased funding for the senior nutrition meal program statewide. A detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the meal funding increases and allocations will be presented at the October meeting.

Overall, the procurement timeline is established, and the funding outlook is positive pending final confirmation.

V. Announcements

The next Mental Health and Aging meeting is scheduled for September 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the GRADD boardroom.

The next Green River Area Council on Aging meeting will be held on October 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom.

The committee welcomed new staff members Megan Dennis and Tiffany Lindsey and welcomed Diann Crask back to Aging Council.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henerietta Harris", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Chairperson, Henerietta Harris

/bsm