

MIDLAND AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Meeting Minutes from 4/17/2025

Salem Bank and Trust Annex Building, Salem, IL 1:00pm

THOSE PRESENT: Jimmie Page, Chole Page, Michelle Garrison, Rosanna Perkins, Gerald Hearing, Brien Guy, Tracy Barczewski, Heather Fontanez, Jodene Carpenter, Joni Kroeger, Stephanie Hawkins, Lori Cummins, and Nancy Hinton (all in person); Judy Kleine, Amy Harrison, Sue Heth, Carol Johnson, Karen Walsh and Susan Elke (via phone)

EXCUSED: Sue Kramer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

The April 17, 2025 Board Meeting was called to order by Board President, Jimmie Page followed by Nancy Hinton calling Roll Call, and then all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS: None

PRESIDENTS REMARKS: President Jimmie Page had no remarks to report

PUBLIC REMARKS: No Public Remarks to Report.

BUSINESS MEETING:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary's Report from March 20, 2025 was approved with a motion from Michelle Garrison and a second from Gerald Hearing. The motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurers report from March 2025, were approved with a motion made by Michelle Garrison and second by Chloe Page. The reports will be filed for audit.

STAFF REPORTS:

The staff reports were as follows: Heather Fontanez stated that she doesn't have the audit for them to review as it is not completed yet but when she has it, she will email it out. Nancy Hinton mentioned the Effingham Wellness Fair that will be held on May 23rd and that she had brought a flyer for it and everyone should feel free to pick one up. Joni Kroeger mentioned that she, Lori, Nancy and Tracy have been working on the FY 26 Applications and getting them ready to send out. Stephanie Hawkins reported that she and Judy have been busy with BA's but have had to wait until after April 15th to use the income from 2024. Stephanie also mentioned that she and Lori had just came from a health fair there in Salem and they had a large turnout.

AREA PLAN DEVELOPMENT: Tracy Barczewski

Tracy announced that she completed the Public Information Document and had it submitted by the due date which was March 28, 2025. Tracy also reported that the Public Hearing would not be held at the Salem KC Extension due to the water damage there from a recent storm. The Public Hearing will now be virtual on April 21, 2025 at 10:00am. We will have it set up in the Midland conference room for anyone who would like attend in person. Also, the Area Plan is due May 15, 2025.

Tracy also reported that many things have happened since we met a month ago. Robert F Kennedy, Jr, HHS Secretary did a lot of restructuring at the end of March. Part of this restructuring may cause a drastic change to the Aging Services. The Administration of Community Living (ACL), has been absorbed into Health and Human Services which is an enormous agency. All of the programs under that umbrella, Title III, Title VI, and Title VII will be split into other existing programs and it is still unclear where our program will end up or who the contacts will be. There was no warning for this, ACL employees did not see it coming and half were let go. What all of this means for us and our programs is still unclear and the worst fear is that our programs will get lost in such a large division. Tracy stated that as an association we are still advocating to keep ACL as a unit in and of itself to serve Older Adults, Caregivers, and Persons with Disabilities. She urged everyone to reach out to Congressional Delegates as soon as possible to tell them how important ACL is to those we serve.

Tracy talked about how payments may be delayed from the Federal programs we have. Area Agencies have met with IDOA twice since this happened and we have met with our providers, not to panic them but to keep them informed as well as to have them analyze their programs and give us a realistic timeline for operation if payments are delayed. Tracy hasn't received answers from all providers yet, but some have indicated a couple of months and others indicated a very short time. Our providers who receive state funding along with federal funding will be able to go on longer and historically we use state funding more heavily this time of year. July, August and September will be crucial Tracy stated. She mentioned that our agency has about 6 months of available funds with all of our discretionary accounts. This is not considering our line of credit. We are planning for the worst but hoping for the best.

The Older Americans Act that guides all of our Federal program has not been reauthorized and we are still advocating for this to happen. Since it was not passed before the new administration came in, it is unclear if there will be major changes in it. We are trying to educate people in political positions and the general public the important programs that are impacted by the Older Americans Act.

Tracy mentioned that she has submitted the corrective action plan from our review in December and that we didn't have any findings on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren review so there were no corrective actions to submit for that.

AREA PLAN DEVELOPMENT continued: Tracy Barczewski

Despite working in a world of uncertainty, Tracy says we are trying to continue on with business as usual. We have met with IDOA to discuss the new rules and also we continue to complete reports, attend meetings, and do trainings as required. She also mentioned that I4A is planning a Media Day Blitz in May and we are in the process of getting something lined up in our area.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: Tracy Barczewski

Tracy began her Executive Director's Report by stating that we have been working on the Request for Proposals and getting them ready to send out on April 28th. Lori, Nancy, Joni and herself have reviewed and updated the applications. She believes that we have letters of intent for all the programs and that these letters are due by the end of the day on April 21st.

Tracy reported that Heartland Human Services is losing some staff and this could have an impact on the Caregiver Program. All three staff in the geriatric program staff, Trisha Ratliff, Faye Eden and Kristi Emerick will be gone by April 30, 2025. The positions have been posted and a coverage plan has been submitted. This will have an impact on the Caregiver Program and Tracy just wanted all of the board members to know. Tracy stated that we will assist when they get new staff hired. Tracy stated that Lori, Nancy, and Joni will try and assist as much as possible during this transition time. The Caregiver Advisor program has grown into a very large program.

Tracy reported that the Brain Aging Conference on April 3, 2025 at the Salem KC Extension, that was streamed from Springfield was a success! She stated that we were lucky to get it done before the building flooded. We had 12 people attend which Tracy was very happy with and even more happy that we were able to get it going with no major issues. Tracy said she would do it again if asked.

Tracy mentioned that we are preparing for a review of the Veterans Program and the Effingham Wellness Fair that is scheduled for May 23rd.

Tracy mentioned that May is older Americans Month and the theme this year is "Flip the Script" which encourages a shift in how society perceives, talks about and approaches aging. Tracy said that we used to say one day at a time but we have updated that slogan to one hour at a time. At this point we show up each day, see what fires need to be put out and then move on to the next.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT continued: Tracy Barczewski

Tracy went on to report, that CEFS had notified her that as of the end of this year, that they would no longer be providing their health promotion programs, which will leave us without a provider in 4 out of our 5 counties.

Tracy reported that the Request for Proposal Applications would be going out on April 28, 2025, and then due back on May 30, 2025. A Program Development Committee will be held before the June Board Meeting to discuss the Applications that were returned.

Tracy reported that currently in Clay, Fayette, and Effingham County, there was a waiting list on Home Delivered Meals.

Tracy finished her report by thanking the Board and telling them how much she appreciated them sticking by her during this challenging time.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

No meeting so no report

IDOA REPORT- Stefanie Eisele, Regional Coordinator:

Stefanie stated she was happy to make it today. She stated that services are being provided as best as we can in these tough times and that IDOA is trying to provide support for our agency. She stated that we just want to keep everyone on the same page. She mentioned that she is continuing to do monitoring visits throughout IL and that IDOA is continuing to work on a State Plan. They are planning 3 in person roundtables like they did before and there will be virtual options as well.

Stefanie stated that IDOA is trying to proceed as usual and are under the belief that the federal funds will come and the IDOA Fiscal department is trying to stay on top of payments to the Area Agencies. IDOA is still waiting for the final allocations but this is difficult with no ACL contact and they are working on contingency plans all over the state.

Jimmie asked if Stefanie knows that state of the finances in the state of IL and Stefanie stated that the allocations are fairly robust with an increase in meals and in DFI and Rural funds but this may not be able to supplant Federal funds. She stated that they are analyzing what might happen if Federal Funding is slowed or decreased. Our funding at the Area Agency is approximately 38% Federal and 62% state according to Heather.

Jimmie also asked if Stefanie knows whether or not the contingency/discretionary funds of the State will be used. Stefanie is not sure about that.

Michelle committed that she doesn't know how Tracy and the staff keep it all together. She appreciates us and applauds us. Chole stated that we are doing good because we are "keeping our heads while those around us are losing theirs."

STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Elke, Chairperson – No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- Michele Garrison, Chairperson- No Report

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE-Sue Kramer, Chairperson- Excused absence so No Report.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE- Chloe Page, Chairperson-No Report

Tracy did mention that she is going to change the process of adding members because it seems overwhelming. Chole agreed.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE-Brien Guy, Chairperson- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: We will need to schedule a Personnel/Finance Committee in May before the board meeting. It will probably last 30 min and Jimmie suggested we start it at 12:15, so it is right before the board meeting on May 15th.

Also, in June, the Board meeting may be lengthy as it will be our funding meeting and we will need Program Committee, but Tracy mentioned she will speak to Sue Kramer regarding the start time as she is the chairperson on that committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Gerald Hearing, and second by Brien Guy to adjourn the April Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: The next Midland Area Agency on Aging Board meeting will be held on May 15, 2025 at the Salem Marion County Savings Bank Annex. located at 301 W. Main St, in Salem, Illinois.