

MIDLAND AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2026

Salem KC Extension, Salem, Illinois at 1:00pm

THOSE PRESENT: Amy Harrison, Susan Elke, Michele Garrison, Sue Heth, Carol Johnson, Sue Kramer, Rosanna Perkins, and Karen Walsh.

ABSENT: Brien Guy and Gerald Herring

Midland Staff: Tracy Barczewski, Executor Director, Lori Cummins, Judy Kleine, Nancy Hinton, Stephanie Hawkins, Heather Fontanez, Jodene Carpenter, and Joni Kroeger.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & WELCOME:

The March Board Meeting was called to order by Board President Karen Walsh. Judy Kleine then followed by calling the Roll Call, and by those in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Tom Walsh, (Karen's husband), and Michelle Barber from SWAN Senior Services were the two guests in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tracy began the Public Comments by reading a Thank you note that had been received from former Board Members Jimmie and Chloe Page, along with 2-Thank you notes, one from Sue Heth and one from Nancy Hinton who both had family members who had recently passed, and had either a donation or a gift given in their loved one's honor from the Midland Staff and Board.

The New Caregiver Advisor for SWAN, Michelle Barber, was in attendance, and she spoke briefly about starting her new position there at SWAN. Michelle spoke on how the transitioning was going, and that she had held her first Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group, along with her Caregiver Support Group. Michelle then answered any questions that the Board had.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS:

Karen Walsh began her report by expressing her condolences on behalf of the Board to both Sue and Nancy for their loss. Karen then had a flier which she shared with everyone regarding a Parkinson's Support Group that is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods in Centralia, Illinois at 2:00pm. She reported that anyone was welcomed to attend.

Board Meeting Minutes - Page #2

BUSINESS MEETING:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary's Report from October 9, 2025 was approved with a motion from Sue Kramer and a second from Rosanna Perkins. The motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The September, October, November and December 2025 Treasurer's reports, along with January and February 2026 Treasurer's Reports were all approved to be filed for audit.

STAFF REPORTS: Heather Fontanez gave an update on how the Audit was coming along, and stated that she hoped to be able to have the Final Draft available to present to the Board at the next Board Meeting. The other Midland Staff Members briefly gave reports as to what they had been doing since the last meeting had been held.

AREA PLAN DEVELOPMENT/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: Tracy Barczewski

Tracy began her report by stating that at the last meeting she had announced that she was honored to be participating in a Special night in Effingham celebrating MamaJo. Tracy felt like it was a success and was happy to see that Board Member Carol Johnson was able to attend the event.

Tracy reported that she, Nancy and Lori had spent a great deal of time in November, December, January and also in February with transferring and setting up the Caregiver Program with SWAN. Tracy reported that the support groups were now set up, that the county coalitions had started, and that Assessments at this time, are being completed. She also reported that SWAN had a new Caregiver Advisor, Michelle Barber, which we had the pleasure of hearing from at the beginning of the Board Meeting.

Tracy reported that the Audit had started, and that Heather, Joni and Jodene had been very busy working on it.

Tracy stated that since the last meeting, the agency had experienced 2 shutdowns, however, as of now, we did have a Federal Budget now., along with a proposed State Budget. Tracy stated that although the agency had not received significant cuts in the budgets themselves, that due to the lack of growth of our PSA as well as additional rural counties being added to the funding formula, that our area did receive a significant decrease in funding for FY27. Tracy stated that while the agency was remaining to look over the budget, that she knew for a fact, that it would be affecting several of the programs Midland had.

Tracy reported that she had just finished the Public Information Document that was due by March 26th and that she would be submitting it within the next few days. Tracy reported that IDOA Regional Coordinator, Stefanie Eisele's had provided them with technical assistance to

Board Meeting Minutes - Page #3

AREA PLAN DEVELOPMENT/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (cont'd)

make sure that we were reporting and defining all the programs, along with the fiscal components and placing them in the correct space.

Tracy reported that we were continuing to provide services in accordance with the FY26 Area Plan, and that we had two Social Isolation events planned, with one being held on May 8th at the Vandalia YMCA, and the other one on August 21st at the Salem Library. Tracy reported that these two events would serve as our County Conversations, however, they were now going to be called "Stay Connected to you Community". Tracy reported that she and others were looking for perspective speakers to speak at both of these events.

Tracy reported that the agency was working on making Mt. Vernon that next Dementia Friendly Community in our PSA and that we had been meeting at the Sunshine Center in Mt. Vernon.

Tracy reported that there had been changes for the SNAP program that would affect our agency in several ways. Tracy reported that due to the new work requirements, it would mean more demands on both our employment and volunteer programs. With this being said, if a person does not follow up and file their redetermination letters correctly or in the timely matter, they could lose their benefits for 3 years.

Tracy reported that as of right now, there was not a waiting list for Home Deliver Meals. Tracy reported the at one time, that CEFS did have one, however, they had a fund raiser which allowed them to eliminate it. Tracy then finished her report by saying that BCMW was back to being open 5 days a week both at their Salem and Centralia locations.

Tracy also added, that one thing she had not mentioned in her Executive Report was that the Department had come down to monitor the Agency, that there was one finding found, however, it had been corrected and the Monitoring was now closed

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

Tracy gave the report for the Advisory Council and stated that a copy of the last Council meeting which had been held on December 4, 2025 had been included in the Board Packet, & had been both mailed and emailed out. Tracy stated that at the time of meeting, there was discussion on the Area Plan, the State Initiative, and on the Needs Assessments.

IDOA REPORT- Stefanie Eisele, Regional Coordinator:

Stefanie reported that the Department had been working on the Area Plans and on the Area Agencies objectives. Stefanie reported on the recent monitoring that the Department had done, along with the different types of reporting that were currently being done. Stefanie mentioned that they were also trying to provide technical assistance to the AAA's the best that they could with the upcoming FY27 reductions. Stefanie finished by saying that at the

Board Meeting Minutes - Page #4

IDOA REPORT-Stefanie Eisele, Regional Coordinator (cont'd)

Department, they were currently working on reviewing next year's grants, and deciding what programs they would be looking at to monitor in FY27.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Elke, Chairperson – Susan reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee had met via: conference call on March 3, 2026, and that she deferred to have the Personnel Committee to give the report on the call.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- Sue Heth- Chairperson-

At this time, President Karen Walsh asked that a motion be made for the Board to go into "Closed Session" to discuss the call that was held on March 3, 2026. A motion was made by Carol Johnson, and second by Rosanna Perkins to do so, and the Midland Staff were asked to leave.

Upon the staff returning, a motion was made by Rosanna Perkins, with a Second from Carol Johnson to return back into "Open Session."

Sue Heth reported that bonuses had been discussed for the Midland Staff during the closed session, and Sue Kramer moved that a onetime Bonus as presented during the Closed Session be awarded to each staff employed, with no Fringe Benefits, using funds from the Discretionary Account. There were no opposed, and President Walsh declared that the Motion had passed unanimously.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Sue Kramer, Chairperson- No Report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE- Rosanna Perkins, Chairperson- No Report

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

AD-HOC COMMITTEE-Sue Kramer, Chairperson- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: No report, just a reminder that the Public Hearing would be held next month on April 16, 2026 at 10:00am at the Salem KC Extension, with the Board Meeting being held that afternoon at its regular time of 1:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Susan Elke, and second by Rosanna Perkins to adjourn the March Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: The next Midland Area Agency on Aging Board meeting will be held on April 16, 2026.