

MIDLAND AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Meeting Minutes from Oct. 9, 2025

Village Garden Restaurant, Salem, Illinois at 1:00pm

THOSE PRESENT: Susan Elke, Michele Garrison, Gerald Herring, Carol Johnson, Sue Kramer, Rosanna Perkins, and Karen Walsh.

EXCUSED: Brien Guy and Sue Heth

ABSENT: Amy Harrison

IDOA Regional Coordinator-Stefanie Eisele.

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 October Board Meeting was called to order by Newly Elected Board President Karen Walsh. Judy Kleine then followed by calling the Roll Call, and with those who were in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Tom Walsh, (Karen's husband) was the only guest in attendance.

PUBLIC REMARKS: No Public Remarks were made. The Board Members that were present, however, were each presented with a certificate of Appreciation for the years that they had served on the Midland Board. For those who weren't present, theirs will be presented at a later date.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS: Karen Walsh stated that this was the beginning of a new Fiscal Year and that it was yet a bittersweet day, due to the fact that Board Members Jimmie and Chloe Page would be moving to Kentucky and stepping down from the Midland Board of Directors. Jimmie and Chloe at that time, were presented with a gift for their many years of serving on the Board and wished the best in their new adventure.

BUSINESS MEETING:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary's Report from Sept. 4, 2025 was approved with a motion from Jimmie Page and a second from Sue Kramer. The motion was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The August Treasurer's report was approved and will therefore, be filed for audit. It was stated that September's Treasurer report due to the closing of FY25 would be mailed out by the end of month.

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STAFF REPORTS: Staff members each gave an oral report as to what they had been working on since the last Board Meeting that had be in September.

AREA PLAN DEVELOPMENT/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: Tracy Barczewski

Tracy combined both her Area Plan Development and Executive Directors report into one report.

Tracy started out by wishing everyone a Happy New Year since October 1st is the official start of FY2026 and that it was starting off with a Federal Government Shut Down, so therefore, things were being monitored very closely.

Tracy reported that since Congress failed to reach a funding agreement for FY2026, the government was officially shut down and had halted the release of the federal funding. Tracy went on to report that the Older Americans Act funding was critical in supporting the Illinois Aging Network and that it fell under the federal discretionary appropriations category. Tracy stated that at this time, the gap in funding would have a direct effect on the agencies ability to serve older adults, along with their caregivers and needed of support. Tracy reported that the agency was receiving state funding to support services, but at approximately 60% of our operating budget.

Tracy stated that she had stressed to her staff the importance of self-care during this busy and tough time, and that to remember that we had each other to lean on if needed, for support.

Tracy stated that the agency had received a small grant to do a Falls Prevention Program and that one had been held on September 23, 2025 at new Sunshine Center in Mt. Vernon. Tracy encouraged that if no one had had the chance to go see the new facility, to be sure to check it out, and commented on how beautiful it was. Tracy also stated that at the Falls Prevention Program that was held, there was information from the EMS of Jefferson County on what to do if there was ever a time in which a Disaster would ever hit, along with information on how to prevent various falls. Tracy then stated that she had extra folders that had been made up especially for the event, and that each Board Member was welcomed to take one and if there were any extras. to take to someone that they thought would benefit from the information.

Tracy stated the Statewide Caregiver Coalition had reached out to her concerning an event they were putting on along with AARP. Tracy stated that at this event which was called Mama Joe, a documentary would be shown about the journey of caregiving for a person who had Alzheimer's. Tracy stated that she had information available there at the board meeting to hand out so if anyone was interested, so they could register for the event, because seating was very limited. The event is being held on November 10, 2025 from 6-8pm at the Effingham Performance Center in Effingham, Illinois. Tracy also reminded everyone to keep in mind too, that November was National Caregiving Month.

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

Tracy reported that an Advisory Council Meeting had been held, and that she and Lori had attended the Grand Opening of the Sunshine Center in Mt. Vernon, Illinois that was held on October 1, 2025.

Tracy reported that the Agency had taken part in the Alzheimer's Walk that was held at Kaskaskia College the end of September and that even though there was still time to donate, that at the time of the walk, Midland's team had collected the most in funds. Tracy stated that the crowd wasn't as large as other years, however, it was always great to participate the day it was held.

The last thing that Tracy reported on was the transfer of the Caregiver files, from Heartland Human Services to SWAN. Tracy stated that it wasn't exactly an easy process, and that it would take some time to get things set up, and that client needed to be patient.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Advisory Council minutes were handed out at the Board Meeting. Tracy proceeded to give the Advisory Council report and stated that at the last meeting which was held in September that there was discussion regarding the Pearls Program. Tracy also reported that there was discussion in regards as to how the Wellness Fair that had taken place in July had gone, possible changes that could be made, and the where to possible have the next one. Tracy finished with stating that Lori had recently been on a call about the Farmers Market Coupons for FY26, and there was talk about the program being totally electronic this year, instead of dealing with the issuing of coupons as in the past.

IDOA REPORT- Stefanie Eisele, Regional Coordinator:

Stefanie reported that the Department was getting the grant agreements out and that the Cash Requests seemed to be going smoother than usual. Stefanie also stated that the Department encouraged the Area Agencies to draw down from their State funds at this time due to the Shutdown. Stefanie said that the Department was busy currently working on Close-Outs for FY-25 and getting ready to start on FY26. Stefanie stated that within the next two months, the Regional Coordinators from the Department, would be going to all the Area Agencies and doing their Monitoring, and that she, along with Chuck Miller would be at Midland on November 24, 2025 to do theirs. Stefanie then finished her report by saying that she would be attending the IDOA conference the following week that was being in Peoria.

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STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Elke, Chairperson – No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- Sue Heth- Chairperson- No Report

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:

Tracy at this time read the two resignations from Jimmie and Chloe Page. The acceptance of their resignations was as follows: For Jimmie, a motion was made to accept his by Gerald Herring, and seconded by Rosanna Perkins. For Chloe, a motion was made to accept hers by Sue Kramer, and seconded by Carol Johnson. Both of these motions were carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Carol Johnson, and second by Rosanna to adjourn the October 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 March 19, 2026.