

# LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Arbor Court, 1510 St Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047

Minutes of September 17, 2019

**Attending:** Mary Johnson, Michele Dillon (JAAA), Melissa Williams (Pioneer Ridge), Tracy Harmon (Arbor Court), Vicky Penner (ELERA), Brenda Nunez, Sarah Carnahan (Midland)

Mary greeted the members and introduced the speaker for the day: Michele Dillon (JAAA).

Following is a summary of Michele's remarks:

- Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging has the local office in the Independence, Inc. building at 2100 Haskell Avenue. JAAA is classified as "non-direct service" agency and provides information and referrals to other service agencies.
- A main function of JAAA is to take calls and listen to what is needed. One of the options for counseling to be provided at the caller's home. Often the meeting is an abrupt meeting for the caregiver as they realize what is really needed may be hospice and palliative care for the caller.
- JAAA is an umbrella agency and resource center. Often they need to assess injuries and trauma to the brain. Those may include stroke and other medical issues.
- JAAA has a caregiver support system with some funding available for respite care, in-home services, and tools. There is also a Guardian Angel fund to provide services where the client cannot get anywhere else, i.e. dental care.
- There is a new program called Rx monitoring. All the client's meds are entered into a database to counter mismatched medications. This is important if the client sees several doctors and has prescriptions from each of them.
- The local JAAA office covers Douglas and Jefferson counties. Michele will provide informative talks to educate the public as to what people can do to advocate and speak up for the aging population.
- JAAA also provides administrative case management and assists with Medicaid applications from start to finish.
- JAAA is an unbiased resource for information. The website has a new database to look up information on all types of services. [www.jhawkaaa.org](http://www.jhawkaaa.org).

Announcement from Midland: The Meals on Wheels program is expanding to providing meal sites at the following: Lawrence: Babcock Place and Midland/PACE; Baldwin City: Vintage Park; Eudora senior center.

Special Announcement – Meet and Greet with our own Melissa Williams, the new Executive Director at **Pioneer Ridge. October 18<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6pm. 1000 Wakarusa.** Plenty of friends, appetizers and complimentary wine, beer, and soda.

Upcoming event: **Mistletoe Market on Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at Arbor Court.** Lots of vendors and many unique items to choose from. Plan to attend.

The next meeting will be October 15 at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit. Guest Speaker will be State Senator Tom Holland who will brief us on the proposed property tax bill with relief for senior homeowners. Also, many other legislative issues to learn about.

NOTE: we will be meeting at **ARBOR COURT located at 15<sup>th</sup> and Kasold Drive.**

Respectfully submitted, Mary Johnson, Secretary