

**ECOA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 25, 2021**  
**8:30am**

**Present:**, Marvene O'Rourke, Heidi Boyd, John Dropick, Jay Sigler, Nancy Ignacio, Stephen Miller; Administrator Lyndsay Famariss. **Absent:** Janice Belisle

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:38 am.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Rosemary asked if there were any amendments, questions or additions to the proposed minutes of May 21, 2021. Upon motion to accept the minutes by John Dropick that was seconded by Marvene O'Rourke, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Budget:**

Lyndsay gave a report on the end of the fiscal year and the spending taking place for building/office supplies and programming. She noted that there is still quite a balance left in the heating and electric line items, and that she plans to look into this to see if our usage was down considerably in the past winter, and/or if any adjustments should be made to these line items in upcoming budgets.

Lyndsay inquired whether there were any questions or comments, to which the Board answered that there were not.

**Administrator's report:**

Lyndsay thanked the Board for their support and their commitment to the center through the tough year that is behind us. She reported that since our last meeting, there was a breakthrough COVID infection that affected our plans to open the building for programming. Lyndsay shared that she worked with Town Hall and the Board of Health to make plans for a safe but delayed re-opening, and that it was a pleasure welcoming people back into the building beginning June 7.

Lyndsay shared that the Town mandate for mask wearing in Town buildings has caused some consternation among ECOA participants. She asked for the Board's support in helping to spread the word that mask-wearing is a way to support our continued programming and the general health of our staff and our participants.

Lyndsay reminded the Board that Outreach Worker Katie Vieira will be leaving us June 30, when her grant funding comes to an end. She noted that Katie's impact on the COA and its meal program in particular, was significant and we're disappointed to see her go. Lyndsay joined the Board in wishing Katie every success in her next steps.

Lyndsay reported that the Formula Grant may be less next year due to state cuts, so this may impact the COA's ability to fund this position again.

Lyndsay reported that the Friends continue to be a great source of support, and that they funded a Rinnai heater for an Edgartown older adult in need. She encouraged the Board members to contact her if they have any questions or concerns.

**Director of Senior Services Report:**

Meris reported to the Board that programming has started in the building again, and that she has been pleased to see so many people enjoying the camaraderie and activities they used to know at the ECOA.

Meris shared that a Men's Card Group started at the request of a resident, and that she's excited to give a space for men to get together and enjoy some social connection. Meris announced that she is planning off-island trips to the Whaling Museum on Nantucket (a collaboration with the Saltmarsh Center) and the North End in Boston. Meris reported that the plant swap program has been hugely successful, and it has brought several people to the building for some of their first post-COVID Anchors experiences.

She shared that the walking group will take a pause until the summer season ends, as people are finding it to be too busy/hot/difficult to park.

Meris noted that she has been going to a networking group with Provincetown and Nantucket, and they are not currently serving meals inside their buildings due to COVID precautions.

**Outreach Report:**

Victoria Haeselbarth outlined that there has been an increase in services we're providing to people, including medical equipment rentals and caregiving resource lists. She shared that in the first two weeks of June, she and Katie Vieira provided over 250 units of service to the Edgartown older adult community. She shared that while our stats are still rather high, she expects they will drop off as the summer season gets in full swing.

Victoria shared that three of our participants are moving off-island to get the increased level of support and care they need. This is a reality that she feels happens because we don't have many options for the continuum of care. Victoria echoed the staff's feelings that this is a loss to our community to have to say goodbye to people who, in some cases, have lived their whole lives on MV.

Victoria reported that transportation issues remain a challenge to some of our older residents. She shared that Healthy Aging MV is exploring a pilot program with GoGo Grandparent to offer rides for older residents. This program, if successful, may provide more accessible and economical on-island transportation options.

Victoria relayed that her recent workshop on the Affordable Care Act has improved care for patients, and she felt that she gleaned helpful information that she'll be able to use to help serve our older population more effectively.

Marvene asked if Victoria has seen an increase in physical problems since the pandemic. Victoria answered that she has seen an increase, especially in those residents who were most housebound and unable to leave their home as things opened up. She offered that Meris' new discussion group will be targeted to those people who have been most isolated by the pandemic.

Victoria reported that she has been a part of a statewide effort to create a new manual for outreach workers at other MA COAs.

Katie Vieira expressed her gratitude for being able to work at the ECOA for the past year and a half. She thanked the staff for their mentoring and their dedication to Edgartown's older adults.

She reported that her past month has been spent helping the clients she serves to transition to other people and organizations for support.

Lyndsay shared that she was very appreciative of Katie's efforts to help Edgartown residents, in particular her work to get a vulnerable sibling pair of adults the heating and hot water assistance they required.

Victoria echoed her appreciation of Katie's wisdom, compassion and grace and her hard work, especially on the food program during the pandemic.

**Friends of the ECOA Report:**

Janice was not present today, but Lyndsay reported that the Friends have purchased a Rinnai monitor heater for an Edgartown resident in need, after several months of work to get this project accomplished.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:16am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 17th, 2021 at 8:30am.