

**ECOA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 29, 2022**  
**8:30am**

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:34am.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from March 18, 2022. Nancy Ignaciomade a motion to approve the minutes as written and Marvene O'Rourke seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

**Budget:**

Lyndsay reviewed the budget and reported that there was no notable activity to report. Lyndsay reported that at Town Meeting, the voters approved our FY23 budget, which includes a line item for the ECOA van expenses (gas, repairs, insurance). Lyndsay also noted that the warrant article passed to have the exterior of the building painted.

**Administrator's report:**

Lyndsay reported that we continue to meet with MVH and other COAs about ways to build a relationship between the two entities. Progress is happening, including the formation of a new role of senior liaison for older adults at MVH. Lyndsay shared that there are two new PCPs at MVH, so that many people, if not all, are expected to be assigned a doctor and taken off the waitlist.

The ECOA van program is beginning to take root, but we're still in need of more participants and a back-up driver (volunteer). Tisbury and Oak Bluffs COAs will now be using the vehicle that the MV Center for Living operates to take people on weekly shopping trips. Lyndsay reported that there is a talented group working on off-island medical transportation supports, and she's hopeful that there will soon be more options available for residents to use those services.

Lyndsay asked the board to consider the mask mandate in the building and whether it should continue. She also asked the board to weigh in on whether we might be able to begin serving meals in the building again.

The board discussed this issue and gave their approval for the mask mandate to be lifted, and for the staff to resume in-person meal service at a date that they decide upon.

**Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair of ECOA Board:**

John Dropick nominated Rosemary Cunningham for Chair of the ECOA Board and Marvene O'Rourke for Co-chair. Each position will be in effect for one year. The votes in favor of these nominations was unanimous.

**Five Year Planning Committee Report:**

Marvene shared that the committee has met twice since the last board meeting, and a smaller group of committee members met with James Hagerty, Town Administrator.

Marvene reported that Mr. Hagerty is in support of our efforts to investigate the future needs of the population we serve. He will ask Town Counsel to weigh in on how the current building can be used and whether the Town can sell the building, should that become a desired outcome. The committee will continue to research data to compile an informal needs assessment. Committee members will consult with current staff and participants, as well as professionals at other COAs and at MCOA.

#### **Director of Senior Services Report:**

Meris is out today, so Lyndsay gave a report on upcoming events at the ECOA, including a trip to the MV Museum and a walking tour of Edgartown that will end at the Carnegie building, where people will enjoy a tour. Lyndsay shared that the ECOA van could be used to pick up participants for these events (and others). Meris is hoping to plan future excursions with our participants, and perhaps some off-island trips for smaller groups. As a result, she is researching smaller vans to transport guests to several locations that participants have expressed an interest in visiting.

Lyndsay shared that Meris has partnered with MVH to host a weekly group for people and loved ones dealing with chronic illness. The group is called "My Life, My Health" and it will give participants tools for managing life with a chronic illness or other significant health challenges.

#### **Outreach Report:**

Victoria Haeselbarth is out of the office today, but she gave a written report for Lyndsay to read.

Temporary outreach support worker Gabrielle Nash will be joining us in person next week. Gabrielle has been helping us to update our caregiving lists just in time for the summer season. Victoria reported helping four residents to get connected to new medical providers at MVH. She shared the good news about the new providers at MVH and how this will better serve Edgartown's older residents.

She reported that she is supporting two residents to get financial support for their water bills, as the town's low-income program for water bills has ended. Victoria reported that residents can utilize assistance provided by Fuel Assistance, and that she is hopeful this program will help to bridge the financial gap left by this change.

Victoria's report included mention of our having welcomed a new client of Brazilian descent who did not speak English. Victoria worked with a family friend of the woman to understand her needs and try to offer assistance. She hopes we can look for ways to expand our offerings to this community in the future, possibly by partnering with other island agencies.

#### **Friends of the ECOA Report:**

Janice brought up the possibility of inviting the Friends to join the next ECOA board meeting so the two groups could acquaint themselves with one another and feel more comfortable working together on the future plans for the ECOA.

Rosemary Cunningham suggested that we invite the Friends to join us after she speaks with Lyndsay.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:27 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2022 at 8:30am.