Advisory Council Minutes

Area Agency on Aging, Region X
July 7, 2026
AAAX Central Office: 531 E 15th St, Joplin, MO

Council Members Present:	Jerry Williams	Sherry Lawrence
	Alicia Edens	Victoria M. Nash
	Edith Triplett	Kathy Sandridge
Council Members on Teams:	Barb Ittner	Hillary Bokker
AAAX Staff Present:	Kim Schlegel	Charlotte Foust
	Bill Chase	Jennifer Shotwell

Meeting Opened: 3:58pm

Agenda Items:

I. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
Sherry Lawrence motioned to approve the minutes. Alicia Edens seconded – motion approved

II. **CEO Report**
a. Jennifer Shotwell spoke about total units of service for FY26 – 406,069 total units across meals (including meals NOT eaten alone), transportation, information & assistance, fitness, and recreation services. It was down about 100,000 units from the previous year due to DHSS changes in data reporting, the going from seven meals a week to five, and about 250 fewer people receiving services. There was an increase in I&A and material aid units, though. This proves the agency provides "More Than a Meal".
b. Jennifer asked for Conflict of Interest forms to be completed by August 6, 2026.
c. Fiscal Year 27 started July 1, 2026. The agency is planning for a government shutdown in October. Some transportation funding has been moved from OATS to CARS, however CARS federal funding was cut by 50%, so we'll need to watch how that affects that program. The agency on aging has been level funded for almost a decade now, so the need to cut programs and implement wait lists has become a necessity.

III. **Outreach Events**
a. The fans and food you see in the conference room is an example of how we do outreach to those who need these items. Economic Security Corp and the Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity donated funds to purchase fans that will get our older adults through the heat of summer.
b. Pepperfest at the Joplin Empire Market will be August 8 from 10am-1pm.

i. We are not counting on Macadoodles to provide alcohol, but if they do, we'll gladly have them help.
ii. If there is no alcohol, we will provide a drink of some kind – bottles of water or lemonade, perhaps.

c. First Community Church on 15th Street was unable to do a breakfast fundraiser, but they did give the agency a sizeable donation July 3, in addition to the Joplin Police Department's Silver Shield Initiative.
d. Grapes and Grog will be October 3 at the Scottish Rite.
   i. We have $23,500 in sponsorships as of today.
   ii. We need to get more sponsorships and sell more tables.
   iii. Hillary Bokker will continue to work with the Gaskill family for a large sponsorship.
   iv. Alicia Edens said she might have Fastenal as a sponsor, as well.
   v. Kim Schlegel asked for gift cards for the live auction gift card wreath.

IV. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

V. Next Meeting

The next Advisory Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, at 4:00pm.

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 4:43pm

Alicia Edens, President

Sherry Lawrence, Secretary