

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, December 12, 2022

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: VIRTUAL

Members Present: Paul F Janty, Jan Olson, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock, Tamar Mathwig, Michael Robinson, Michael Norton

Members Excused: Kate Pfaendtner, Elizabeth Jones, Fritz Rudy

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Alana Erickson, Nicole Davis-Dawald, Brian Nagler

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1. **Public Comments** – no public comments.
2. **Approval of November 14, 2022 minutes** – **Jan Olson** made a motion to approve the November meeting notes, motion seconded by **Harold Singstock**. **Rob Paterson** suggested the following revisions / additions:
 - 1) Revision – Revision to Rob's comments regarding Route 10 timeframes to read "and then if taking the bus as far as Appleton, that will be another half hour. Often times you can transfer to Appleton and that is the last bus. When you get to Neenah, the bus goes back for 45 minutes and then another 45 minutes to come back. If you are going as far as Appleton, it is three hours total time rather than 2 hours, though it depends where you are getting off."
 - 2) Addition which is being made as a comment in December's meeting – In regards to the paragraph about the East Central Regional Planning Commission, Rob added that they meet every quarter.
 - 3) Revision – The acronym ARPA will be spelled out.

November minutes were approved with the above two revisions.

3. **Veteran's Services Presentation** – **County Veterans Service Officer Jeff Bucholz** and **Deputy County Veterans Services Officer Lydia Wilz** –
 - Jeff and Lydia are Winnebago County VA (not Federal VA) and are available to help veterans or surviving spouses apply for benefits including disability compensation, pension, burial benefits, VA healthcare, and education benefits. The VA office assists veterans in applying for benefits, submitting claims, are able to log into the system to track forms throughout the entirety of the process, and assist with appealing denials. The VA office does not charge a fee for their services. Jeff and Lydia said information on available services for veterans is disseminated via outreach events, meetings, newsletters, as well as letters and visits to assisted living and nursing homes.
 - Pension – The criteria for pension eligibility includes at least 90 days service during a period of war, liquid assets below \$150K, as well as income / medical expenses requirements. The pension program has three levels of care. If meeting all financial requirements, veterans then qualify for Aid and Assistance.
 - Disability compensation – Disability compensation can be received for partial disability.

- Burial benefits – All veterans are entitled to a gravesite marker, military funeral honors, and sometimes a monetary benefit. Some military cemeteries will allow the veteran's spouse to be buried at the same gravesite along with free burial for the veteran and a low fee for the spouse.
- Vets who qualify for VA disability can also apply to receive Social Security disability benefits.
- VA Healthcare – VA Healthcare is not healthcare and has different qualifications. A primary healthcare provider is assigned from a facility in Appleton, Green Bay, or Milwaukee. Veterans can also be on Medicare and still use the VA for some of their healthcare needs such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, and medication at discounted costs. VA health care assigns a ranking of 1-8. 1=50% or more service-related disability, 2=30-40%, 3=10-20%, 5=Vietnam vet. Income can be looked at depending on a means test to determine service location and disabilities. VA healthcare is only covered at a VA facility. The VA will only cover preapproved services in non-VA locations if properly notified within the 72-hour timeframe.
- Q –Give a ballpark number of interactions between ADRC and VA per month.
- A –Estimate is 5-10 referrals occur per month. This is likely to increase with the onset of the HELP Program starting January 16th.
- Q-The County Ex mentioned the possibility of funds going towards Veteran's Park in Appleton. Why would funds go towards another county's programs when there is Parkview in Oshkosh?
- A-The location in Appleton is referred to as Veteran's Village which has 1 to 3-bedroom veteran-specific apartments with subsidized rental fees. The housing was owned by the Outagamie / Appleton Housing Authority. The apartment complex is not considered senior living nor assisted living facilities as no services are offered there. Jeff stated that some sort of transitional housing in the Valley, Winnebago County, or Outagamie County would be beneficial to veterans in need of immediate assistance as the application process sometimes takes a while to obtain benefits. Currently, vets have to go to Green Bay, Chippewa Falls, or Union Grove. Jeff stated that a veteran's village or senior transitional living in Oshkosh would be the most optimal choice.
- **Mike Norton** stated that the prior county exec had discussed potentially putting an assisted living on the land Parkview has. The County Housing Authority plans fell through to turn part of the former Waite Rug Place building into a daycare; so that building might be worth considering. Jeff spoke about properties he had toured that also could work for this purpose and the hope would be for a nonprofit like Fox Valley Veteran's Council to run a facility.
- **Nicole Davis-Dawald** indicated that on the State Dementia Community conversation they talked about the statewide issue of there being no crisis facility or transitional housing. This is affecting every facet of the population including those with dementia, the elderly, disabled, veterans, and those in crisis. Statewide there is no fully staffed transitional housing nor are there openings to accept individuals with a higher degree of difficulty or those who do not have the funding. When Nicole went to the Oshkosh Senior Resource Network, one agency indicated being fully staffed for the past year; however, that is only for private pay clients. Few Managed Care clients are taken on due to reimbursement rates being so low, so private pay is prioritized.
- Q: Does Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton have any programs for veterans to help with tuition costs?
- A: Tuition fees are waived for Wisconsin veterans at Fox Valley Technical College. In addition, there are also benefits available for dependents.
- Q: Are there different categories when filling out applications for those with disabilities, mental health, and physical health?
- A: Yes –There is a spot on the application which asks questions such as if there are service-connected disabilities and the percentages; however, does not get into the specific types of disabilities. One section of the VA application is all about automatic qualifiers so individuals marking "yes" to any of those are automatically enrolled into VA healthcare. One of the questions is whether there is a service-connected disability.

4. **Committee Member Recruitment – Beth Roberts** – The committee is down some members due to there being a six-year limit for Committee members. **Paul Janty's** term expires May of 2023. The committee is seeking members ages 60+ residing in a location other than Oshkosh. Beth stated the county exec's office is willing to appoint people and is looking for the Committee to channel people that meet the criteria, represent all target groups, and ensure half of the group is over the age of 60.

Mike Norton suggested recruitment of Neenah, Menasha, Omro, and other aging committee members to see if there is any interest in serving for a couple months.

5. **Oshkosh Meal Sites Update – Nicole Davis Dawald** – On December 2, Nicole was told that the plan was to open the Senior Center meal site on December 5. Harold confirmed that the Senior Center meal site has been open for a few weeks; however, few individuals have returned due to lack of advertisement. Nicole agreed that there has not been advertisement as she has not received confirmation that the site has reopened. Nicole stated her goal is to get a full list along with any reasons as to why certain sites may not be open yet and upon receiving this, will email it out. After Nicole forwarded that there had been complaints voiced that the Senior Center meal site had not reopened in a timely manner, the Senior Center and ADVOCAP worked together to reopen earlier than originally anticipated. Weekdays meals are served starting at 11:15 and any amount of donation is accepted. Frozen meals are also available for the weekends. The actual cost per meal ranges between \$6 and \$12 depending on the meal. The average donation is around \$2. Meals are made by Canteen in Appleton and delivered to the Oshkosh meal sites. Federal nutrition guidelines are followed and attempts are being made to increase ethnic diversity on meal offerings.

Cultural presentations are being offered monthly from 11:00 to 12:30 at the Downtown Y free to the public. Mara from Mara's Brazilian Cuisine will be presenting on January 10th. The YMCA's marketing team makes posters to advertise the events. Event details can also be found in the ADRC newsletters. The idea for offering different cultural presentations started within the Aging Plan.

Mike Norton stated that he and Beth had heard a discussion at a past ADRC Conference with ideas for meal sites such as on a weekly or monthly basis going to restaurants or food trucks come in, etc.

6. **Frequency of Meetings – Beth Roberts** – The ADRC Committee currently meets on a monthly basis. Given that the Committee is still having difficulty recruiting new members, the committee considered whether to continue meeting monthly. After member discussion, the preference was to continue monthly meetings.

7. **Reports:**

- **Committee Member Updates**

Beth Roberts – no updates to report.

Brian Nagler reported the ADRC has been very busy with 48 enrollment packets to Family Care / IRIS in November and December has been even busier so far with 3-7 enrollment packets per day to approve. Brian reported being fully staffed and all FMLAs are now over. Having an additional Neenah office staff has lowered the frequency for each staff to be on-call. At team meetings, staff are being refreshed on AFCSP and NFCSP to ensure proper program utilization so caregivers are getting necessary respite and for staff to understand their caseloads specifically.

Nicole Davis Dewald provided the following updates:

- The virtual dementia trainings officially start in January 2023 and open free to the community on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 to 12:00 at Parkview. Information on registration is available in the ADRC newsletter and a link is available on the Facebook page. In total, the training takes about an hour of which the experience itself specifically takes eight minutes. The hour includes additional time to prepare individuals prior to the experience as well as debrief afterwards. The goal right now is for Nicole's team to get good at hosting the trainings and then may possibly hold trainings at other locations or events where it would be beneficial.

- In collaboration with the Senior Center and the Oshkosh Public Library, a World Elder Day event is being worked on for June. Monthly meetings start in January to begin planning the walk to promote community education on the topic.

Alana Erickson reported the following updates:

- The Public Health Director participated in DHS's Chronic Prevention workshop held in Madison. There have been a lot of gaps as nurses had been pulled into COVID over the past two years. The Aging Plan remains in line with what Public Health does.
- Teresa Paulus will be retiring in Spring. She is a nurse who works with the Housing Authority and the elderly adult population. As her position becomes vacant, Public Health will be looking at all programming to determine if focus should be on direct services or strategy and prevention of chronic illness. There are a lot of gaps in family planning with the high rates of SEIs and STDs, so a nurse may be focusing on prevention.
- Lori Duclon may resume attendance at ADRC Committee meetings. Otherwise, if another health strategist is hired, then they will attend future meetings.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Rob Paterson shared he has been taking the Stepping On classes with five people and there have been different speakers. Classes are two hours with different exercises to do.

Michael Robinson had no updates to report.

Jan Olson reported that starting in January a new support program through NAMI and the Oshkosh YMCA is being officially started entitled Brighter Days. The program has a three-pronged approach that just went through a pilot program in fall to determine what the needs are. The program is for ages 55+ who have experienced a loss of their partner and will be rotated weekly between the two Oshkosh YMCA locations. The three-prong approach consists of: 1) a weekly support group through NAMI, 2) group trainings to zero in on wellness and fitness, and 3) a socialization enrichment session for people feeling isolated because of loss of their partner. A foundation is providing funding for the program.

Tamar Mathwig had no updates to report.

Mike Norton inquired about the following topics:

- Clarify if the County is funding the new Route 10 and whether the request has been made to expand that to be more than Neenah and Oshkosh. **Beth Roberts** responded that County Executive Jon Doemel will be making the decision whether or not to utilize county funding for Route 10 as well as the amount being funded by the County. The City presented to the County Executive last week and at this point, the request would only be a route between transit centers.
- Could Caravel Autism be invited present prior to May so a resolution could go the County Board for National Autism Awareness Month in April? Beth responded being unable to fulfill this request as the board has to remain unbiased which would require inviting all autism providers in the opportunity to present at that meeting as well.

Paul Janty reported having seen a city bus earlier today wrapped in an ADRC and dementia services advertisement.

7. "Community Beat" – Sharing of Compliments / Complaints from Community, Consumers, providers – No updates to report.

Meeting adjourned by **Paul Janty**.

Next meeting: January 9th