

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 02/14/2022

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Michael Norton, Tamar Mathwig, Harold Singstock, Kate Pfaendtner, Elizabeth Jones, Fritz Rudy, Rob Paterson

Members Excused: Jan Olson, Pete Christianson

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler

Others Present: Alana Erickson–Public Health Dept

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

1. Public Comments:

No members of the public were present at today's meeting.

2. Approve Minutes of the January 10, 2022 ADRC Committee Meeting Minutes:

Kate Pfaendtner motioned to approve and **Harold Singstock** seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members.

3. Adapt to Life – Fritz Rudy:

Fritz Rudy shared that he started a 501(c) non-profit organization in Oshkosh called the Adapt to Life Foundation with a mission to bring adaptive training and opportunities to people in the disabled and veteran community. When Fritz became disabled in 2013, he was looking for resources and ways to get back into an active lifestyle including athletics, hunting, and hiking and found few adaptive programs in this area of Wisconsin. For athletics specifically, there are a couple programs in the Milwaukee and Madison areas. The Oscar Mike Foundation works with veterans. The Adaptive Training Foundation, 50 Legs, Wiggle Your Toes Foundation are all organizations that improve the lives of those with disabilities by showing them a different path. Some people who are born disabled do not even realize their options. Fritz stated thus far, his business model is to afford an opportunity to individuals to show them another way. His organization has sponsored a cross fit training program for veterans at a local gym, an amputee with the Phoenix Cup Team through Team USA for adaptive golf at the national championships, and the Midwest Amputee Golf Association at a Chicago golf championship. Fritz is currently working with a local media company to get his organization's website up and running. The short-term goal is to get people to already existing events throughout the country, of which few are in the Midwest. A group called Dare2tri works to get people with disabilities into triathlons. Fritz stated his long-term goal is to bring adaptive events

to central Wisconsin. Fritz stated he also does peer visiting to offer support to amputees and provides encouragement by showing them what is possible in life following the loss of a limb.

Tamar Mathwig asked Fritz whether he has done any collaboration with the local YMCA or similar places to host a local class. Fritz stated that he has worked with the Beyond Limits Veteran Program at the 20th Avenue YMCA. He has not approached the YMCA in terms of collaborating due to their recent shift in onsite management; however, is on the list as a resource.

Mike Norton asked 1) what the ADRC can do to help his organization and 2) whether he has reached out any of the Rec Departments in the county. Fritz stated he does not have a website yet, but will reach out once his infrastructure is in place. Mike stated Fritz can contact him should there be anything that the county committees can do to further the organization's mission.

Kate Pfaendtner asked how long the organization has been in existence and if the organization has a board. Fritz stated that the organization has technically been in existence for two years and has a three-person board. Kate stated she is on the Oshkosh Community Foundation Board and had been on the Basic Needs Giving Partnership who have planning grants available in the spring and fall. Kate will send Fritz the information for Amy Putzer at the Community Foundation who is in charge of grants. Kate stated she is aware of other resources including the J.J. Keller Foundation who is generous in giving out grants to public charities and Beaming who provides equine-assisted services.

Paul Janty inquired on the status of access for disabled individuals at county-owned buildings.

Beth Roberts indicated that all public government buildings are obligated to provide accessibility for the disabled. **Fritz Rudy** stated that in his experience, accessibility has been meeting ADA bare minimums. **Brian Nagler** stated that many street-level approaches in Oshkosh are not being shoveled adequately to accommodate those in wheelchairs. Fritz stated that this happens all over and that the ADA minimum widths are insufficient. **Alana Erickson** stated she welcomes any suggestions on how to improve her "ask" for accessibility improvements; though it often becomes a staff safety issue. For example, when talking about widening a doorway, propping a door, or making ramps, there are often issues of costliness or building security due to active shooter concerns.

4. Scope of Services Updates – Beth Roberts:

Beth Roberts indicated the scope of services had been shared at the last Committee meeting. This entails the very large contract the State has with Winnebago County ADRC services. One of the big differences this year is that many items in the scope of services previously were procedural rather than being contractual. The State has taken out all the procedural aspects of services and put those into a new operational manual for staff to utilize. References have been added to the fair caring form when doing a Long-Term Functional Screening to determine Family Care eligibility. If there is an adverse action (finding of ineligibility or delay in calculation of results), it references regarding how to file an appeal are now included.

Beth stated that she still needs conflict of interest annual forms from some members. Liz questioned if it is a conflict of interest if a provider also does research that they would like to publish at conferences and are convening an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and have asked her to be on the board. Beth responded that employees or those receiving some sort of profit would be considered a conflict. If serving in an advisory capacity, that is not considered a conflict of interest.

Beth indicated the scope of services now contains a new section with information about equity and inclusion. Details on how to formally describe the expectations of an ADRC in equity and inclusion-related wording will soon be added to the operational manual. The statement reads as follows: "ADRCs empower customers to make informed decisions about options to live with dignity, security, independence, and a high quality of life. In order to achieve this mission in an equitable way, ADRCs must identify and consider disparities that affect each unique customer. The ADRC will actively work to build capacity in space of equity and inclusion. Health equity is reflected in the mission of the ADRC throughout advocacy and services provided to the people who face marginalization due to ageism and ableism. ADRCs must also consider how age and ability identities intersect with marginalization identities such as race, equity, religion, travel membership status, gender identity, or sexual orientation which are not inherently part of the ADRC mission. Additionally, ADRCs will center the voices of these marginalized communities through the hiring practices and recruitment of governing board members. ADRCs will promote an inclusive environment within the staff, agency, and community."

All references to the Program Participation System (PPS) were removed from the manual as PPS is now obsolete for reporting of ADRC services.

5. **Next Meeting – All:** At the end of last year, the Committee identified potential items for discussion at upcoming meetings. Beth asked the Committee to prioritize which item to discuss at the March meeting from the following possibilities: Caregiver crisis, transportation, feedback from individuals utilizing transportation services, quarterly dementia care updates, information on dual diagnosis, and information on housing will eventually be coming. As committee members were in favor of discussing the caregiver crisis, Beth will present statistics at the March meeting as well as local and state efforts towards resolution. **Paul Janty** stated he is interested in an update on the current status of compensation in recent legislature for both caregivers and providers. **Liz Jones** asked if providers could be surveyed regarding compensation. Beth has listings for nursing homes and other providers and will send out an email asking for information on: the number/percentage of staff facilities are typically running low, average pay, etc. **Brian Nagler** stated that managed care organizations should also be contacted as he is hearing of individuals experiencing delays because contracted homecare agencies cannot provide the hours.

6. **Reports:**

a. **Manager Reports:**

Beth Roberts provided the following updates:

- Two new Elderly Benefit Specialists are onboard and are starting training.
- Two interns have started who have a lot of energy, are technical savvy, and are ready to dive in with supporting staff.
- Beth and **Paul Janty** have a preliminary meeting on 2/25/2022 from 12:00-12:50 PM via Zoom with the representatives from UW-Oshkosh who are working on the housing study. This meeting is to review information gathered thus far and to determine what the next steps are. Paul stated that interested committee members are welcome to join the meeting and should contact Beth for the Zoom link. Paul will share information from the study at an upcoming meeting and is interested in hearing feedback from Committee members.

- Beth will be scheduling a meeting sometime in March to begin planning for the June 25th wheelchair wash.
- In March, all DHS staff will receive a half-day training on Cultural Humility.
- The Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) is hosting a speaker series beginning on March 3rd from 3:00-4:30 PM with a presentation from Lynn Halmar. The DAC has invited various speakers for this series who are diverse community members to share their perspectives and experiences as a supportive learning opportunity.

Brian Nagler provided the following updates:

- Karena Jolin has accepted Rebecca Groleau's position as an ADRC Specialist. Karena has been working for about a year as an ADRC Assistant. She is working to complete the State-required module trainings, meeting with Brian, and is job shadowing staff. Karena will start with some on-call responsibilities at the end of the month.
- Kayla Ross has been hired as a replacement for Karena Jolin's position as an ADRC Assistant for adult protective services and the caregiver's programs. Kayla has a lot of prior experience with Family Care.
- The replacement for Amy Schneider's Medical Assistant position is posted. Brian and a staff member from Economic Support are helping out while this position is vacant.
- 48 packets were submitted to Family Care / IRIS last month which is consistent with past months being in the upper 40s to low 50s range.

Paul Janty asked Beth and Brian to share their current staff vacancy rate. Beth reported there are currently no vacancies.

Committee Member Updates:

Alana Erickson reported the following updates:

- Even though COVID hospitalizations are declining, hospitals still are feeling a lot of pressure as many procedures, surgeries, and routine care have been displaced for so long.
- Public Health is in a better state due to changes in guidelines earlier this year for contact tracing. These changes removed a lot of the bureaucracy so the new strategies can be focused on of: vaccination, getting information to local providers in order to educate people, catching up on "normal routine" vaccinations due to not going to pediatricians, and there has been a lot of sampling and communication only to find there is little public confidence in the childhood vaccine compared to the past vaccines such as polio. The COVID focus for Public Health will be for more education on vaccines, who it is right for, and how to get it to public.
- Public Health is continuing to keep 10-15 of the temporary staff who were hired two years ago. These staff will be officially moving into a subset of the Health Department to assist with daily processes and some of the outreach clinic sites.
- The 30-40 Health Department employees who had switched to working on COVID will be doing some self-care, strategizing, and looking forward. Alana shared for those interested she has a good article from an epidemiologist who has helped the public understand how the data has worked throughout the pandemic, how misinformation starts, how the pandemic turning to an endemic means a switch in the strategies, how this can be frustrating, and how to get better in the future.

- For services that are partnered with ADRC, Public Health hopes to be back at meetings, Healthy Aging Committees, and aging plans. Towards summer, a few nurses will be resuming devoting time towards healthy aging efforts.
- The Falls Resource Guide is being reordered by the Falls Prevention Group. Cassie is asking whether there are funds that could be put in towards these costs. Work is also being done on the falls preventions kits.

7. **“Community Beat” – Sharing of Compliments / Complaints from Community, Consumers, Providers – Committee Members:**

Liz Jones reported that April is Autism Awareness Month. Support World Autism Awareness Day by wearing blue on April 2. The Fox Cities Walk for Autism will not be held this year due to the passing of the executive director. The hope is that some local organizations will put together a walk for autism. **Mike Norton** asked if the agenda for March would include a resolution for April to be recognized as Autism month by the County Board, whether Liz would be willing to speak in favor of that at the 03/15/2022 County Board meeting. Liz stated she and her son would be happy to speak to the County Board in this regard. This will be added to the March agenda.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Tamar Mathwig had no updates to report.

Kate Pfaendtner had no updates to report; however, expressed an interest in being part of the housing study. Beth will send the information on this to her.

Rob Paterson commented that he missed the beginning of the meeting; however, pointed out an error in the minutes on Page Three on the third line from the bottom reading "Alisia stated her energy has been is" should read "Alicia stated her energy has been in." Rob stated he attended the housing study meeting on Monday, January 17th.

Fritz Rudy had no updates to report.

Mike Norton reported as follows:

- Mike is currently at a NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC. Rather than having a mask ordinance in Washington DC, there is a vaccine ordinance requiring proof of vaccination to enter bars or restaurants.
- Mike reported he attended a forum yesterday for Healthy Counties where he heard of some good ideas being done elsewhere in the US that the Committee might be interested in having as future topics of discussion:
 - A county in Florida sends a physical therapist, nurse, and a handyman to senior residents for the purpose of helping seniors remain in their homes. This can be done by partnering efforts with local universities.
 - The idea of a mobile food pantry or grocery store which could take food to people in difficult locations was discussed. **Paul Janty** stated he believed that in the past the Community Food Pantry had been delivering to the Omro and

Oshkosh Senior Centers. **Beth Roberts** added that due to COVID, anyone over 60 can still receive a home-delivered meal without having to meet the criteria of being homebound and volunteer drivers are picking up items from the food pantry to deliver to homes. As the pandemic ramps down, criteria for these types of services needs to be reviewed. **Fritz Rudy** stated that Lac du Flambeau has a food truck that delivers to every household on the reservation and suggested reaching out to places that already provide these services to learn of the necessary logistics. **Beth Roberts** stated she is meeting with the Oshkosh Area School District about a food truck for the area and she had met with the Hayward School District as they have a similar program in place. Mike stated a way needs to be found for individuals with EBT food stamp cards to place orders for food in the same manner as can be done with a credit card. **Liz Jones** stated there is a for-profit called Farmers Best Delivery (Brian Gronski 920-857-8199) that delivers food from local dairies, farmers, and businesses. Liz believed Farmers Best accepts EBT. Beth stated that Older Americans Act Funding can be utilized creatively and perhaps this could become another contracted partnership. Mike stated the committee could also look at ways to make obtaining groceries easier for those who live further away from stores.

- Mike stated another idea he heard at the conference was from an area who takes buses to the park areas so the general public can engage in activities.
- Mike encouraged fully funding of the Older Americans Act. Congress is being asked to appropriate funding above the level of \$2.64 billion to support the Older Americans Act of 2020. Mike indicated it would be beneficial to contact Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Glenn Grothman who are on the committees in Congress.

8. Next Meeting – Monday, March 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

With no further business, **Paul Janty** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Beth Roberts