

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 06/14/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Michael Norton, Harold Singstock, Kate Pfaendtner, Claire Steger, Peter Christianson, Don Hanson, Elizabeth Jones, Larry Lautenschlager, Jan Olson

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Bryn Ceman

Others Present: Alana Erickson of Public Health Department

Mike Norton called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** Bryn Ceman stated that today there is also public hearing notice for the aging plan which has been posted in the local papers. There may be some community feedback as the committee goes through the aging plan goals.
2. **Approve Minutes of the May 10, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting:** Harold Singstock motioned to approve and Kate Pfaendtner seconded the motion.
3. **Aging Plan – Bryn Ceman**

Bryn Ceman shared the Aging Plan goals with the Committee (see attachment).

Elizabeth Jones provided a suggestion in regards to Strategy 1 is that the demographic information she has seen in teaching classes is that a lot of caregivers who are caring for people from the traditional generation (Boomers and Gen-X) utilize Facebook. She stated Facebook might be a good way to engage more participants. Bryn stated their Facebook page along with the YMCA's Facebook page is utilized for this purpose so she will add that this is being utilized for recruitment efforts.

Mike Norton questioned whether they are encountering challenges to finding volunteers and/or participants in certain parts of the County. Beth stated that one of the sessions in Omro was canceled last year due to lack of participants. Bryn stated that they have amazing memory cafes, respite programs, Wellness Plus classes, good relationships with the public libraries in the cities of Menasha, Neenah, and Oshkosh. In Omro and the western part of the county there are sometimes difficulties finding volunteers and participants. In good news, at

a world elder abuse awareness event held today, a reporter from the Omro Herald was present of whom is very active in trying to capture ADRC events. In addition, the Omro Community Center has a new board and executive director. **Bryn** believes this will enhance some of the recruitment in the Omro area once classes are put together.

Elizabeth Jones stated that Fox Valley Technical College's Occupational Assistant Program recently rolled out a program for recreational assistants. Students in this program have to do an internship and could potentially volunteer as well as promote activities.

Bryn indicated there has been some connection with the Winneconne community as their newspaper runs a lot of the free information. They have had participants from Winneconne attend the Welcome to Medicare presentations virtually as well as had successful Wellness Plus classes. **Bryn** feels that they do have a good connection but is definitely open to ideas. Prior to COVID, classes had been at St Paul's; however, the instructor has passed away and there is uncertainty as to whether she has been replaced. **Bryn** will make sure that Siri, Alisa, and Joann are made aware of this. **Jan** also indicated that another potential connection is Heritage Community at River's Crossing. **Bryn** shared that she believes Heritage has been expressing interest in getting classes started.

Mike Norton stated that someone had been asking on Facebook for assistance and if there is a list of food pantries in Winnebago County that could assist people to obtain food along with what the requirements are to qualify as. **Bryn** stated that the toll-free number should be shared for anyone inquiring. **Beth** stated the link to the website should also be shared.

Mike Norton questioned what the next steps are regarding the Aging Pan, whether the Committee needs to provide approval of the plan, and if the committee periodically reviews progress of the plan. **Bryn** stated that the plan is due by November 23. Parts of the process of building the plan are ensuring that community feedback is incorporated throughout. The plan will be submitted to GWAAR mid-July. In August or September, committee members will receive a copy of the proposed plan at which time the plan will need final approval from the Committee. **Mike** also asked whether other government agencies are required to submit aging plans. **Bryn** stated that any county or tribal agency that receives Older American's Act funding would have to submit an aging plan.

4. Housing Update – Paul Jantry and Beth Roberts

Beth Roberts stated she and Paul met with Mark from the City, Karleen Grabner from the Foundation, and a lady from UW-Oshkosh to discuss the housing assessment the City is currently conducting. This assessment is similar to what the Committee has been discussing. The City will be sharing the results of their study with the Committee. **Beth** will be working with the man that the City has contracted with and has already met with him once. She is working with him on what Committee needs and how he can present it to the Committee. This report can be utilized for a big chunk of what is needed in terms of determining available housing and what the housing needs are. **Beth** stated that the lady from UW-Oshkosh indicated she had an individual from one of their departments who could pull together the additional data along with the needed information and have the Foundation pay for it. **Beth** summarized that they are going to work with what the City already has, work

with their contractor, and then have someone from the university look at the additional information the Committee needs and present the information to the public.

5. **New Committee Members – Beth Roberts**

Beth Roberts indicated the upcoming need for two new committee members. Tanisha is moving out of state in August. Please forward names of interested persons to Beth so she can contact those individuals and then will pass on the information to the County Executive.

6. **July Meeting Format - Beth Roberts**

The last couple months, the Committee has talked about when to resume in-person meetings. One idea is to do partial in-person/partial Zoom. **Beth Roberts** shared that her experiences with that have not been good; however, there are ways to conduct an in-person meeting and have some members call in. **Beth** is open for suggestions. **Mike Norton** suggested he was in favor of finding out how many members want to resume in-person meetings as well as how many are uncomfortable or are unable to attend in-person. If most prefer to return to attending in-person, then having only a few attending remotely should not be an issue.

Beth stated she will send an email to Committee members to vote for in-person meetings or if not ready for that. When responding to the email, additional comments can be included. Mike stated another potential option would be to meet in the Coughlin Building or somewhere comparable where there is ample space to meet. Beth indicated that vaccinated individuals can go without a mask and a distance between people is still being maintained. If any one person within the group wants masking, then all need to be masked. Once meetings resume to being held in-person, it would need to be determined how notes will be taken.

Mike Norton stated that Advocap just put out a survey asking whether individuals feel comfortable with meeting in-person, continuing with Zoom, and includes the voluntary question of whether the person has been vaccinated or not. Beth indicated she had just sent out the email to Committee members and next steps will depend on the results.

7. **Reports:**

- a. Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances – Alana Erickson thanked ADRC staff who took the time to write a very personalized thank you for Nurse's Day and included the rest of the staff. These personalized Thank You's really made a positive impact on staff.

Alana shared that a lot of the community is stabilizing. It is exciting to look back and know that some of the biggest challenges are going to be getting over what we just went through. A lot of isolation and inequities have been pointed out. So far, there were 192 confirmed COVID deaths in Winnebago County. Some are still in the process of being reviewed and may take two or more months to actually confirm, as there is much diligence in classifying a COVID death. COVID has made a huge community impact and remains a time of transition. There are many conversations taking place about allowing individuals inside buildings, knowing whether people are vaccinated, and what can be done in regards to employees. They are focusing on the positive message that those who are vaccinated do not need to wear a mask once the series is complete.

Although vaccination costs may be run through insurance, no one should be paying for a vaccine. No ID should be required to get a vaccine as it is available to every resident, citizen or not. In addition, transportation is free including multiple options of transporting people to clinics. She requested this information be spread throughout the community as some are unaware that they can get a free vaccine and transportation to get there.

As far as staff responses to referrals and returning to full services, this summer they are light staffed. After this busy year, they are making sure that nurses are getting at least one full week of vacation. Many staff have much more time to use and she is attempting to honor that as much as possible. Many of the public health nurses that stepped in to assist with COVID are a bit stretched over the summer due to this.

Alana promoted a free six-week all virtual course starting June 30th entitled *Aging Mastery Program* through Wisconsin Institute on Healthy Aging (WIHA). Information and registration are available by clicking on the ADRC's event calendar.

Beth Roberts elaborated that the ADRC and Public Health partnered by printing fliers for distribution at local grocery stores. The goal is to get fliers out to people who do not necessarily use social media for Walk-In Wednesday Vaccine Clinics and transportation.

Beth reported that a wheelchair wash is tentatively planned for 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 7th one block North of the farmer's market. She is waiting to find someone who can do the wheelchair inspections before starting to advertise the event.

Mike Norton stated that anyone who can provide any sort of help at the wheelchair walk should let Beth know. Beth added that those who are interested in being on the planning committee should let her know. The committee will be meeting twice between now and then with relatively brief meetings on how to do advertising and coordinating.

Beth stated that the County Executive came by today and signed a proclamation that this is elder abuse week for Winnebago County. Several reporters were in attendance of the event so there should be something in the newspaper about it. Information can also be found on their Facebook page and on the website. In addition, the State has declared that the month of June is elder abuse awareness along with a National elder abuse awareness tomorrow. Purple can be worn in support of elder abuse awareness.

Lastly, Beth reported that the State has been working on Return on Investment in terms of measuring the success of ADRCs. The State has devised a formula based on people being admitted and readmitted to hospitals and nursing homes by comparing those who did not go through the ADRC and those who did. There was a dollar amount determined as having been saved when people go through the ADRC which includes the cost of the ADRC. Once she verifies the data's accuracy, Beth will be sharing the data with the Committee. Mike stated that was interesting as he and Larry Lautenschlager were informed by State Representative Mike Schraa of an upcoming audit of the Family Care organizations to gather data.

b. Committee Member Updates

Claire had no updates to report.

Kate had no updates to report.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Don Hanson had no updates to report.

Jan Olson gave a shout out to the Public Health Department. Since she has been involved as a vaccinator, they have done an awesome job of getting sites organized in different ways depending on the site. The leaders, organizers, and processes have made it easy for those who stepped in to volunteer.

Elizabeth Jones stated that she is following up on looking at Fox Valley Technical College's certificate program for an advocate type of role – maybe an elder advocate or expanded disability advocate. **Claire Steger** shared that the Huntington's Disease Society has a pretty sophisticated advocacy program which is more than just a certificate with a lot of expectations including going to hearings, etc.

Peter Christianson stated that he has been elected as the supervisor of the medical lockers with the Lions so he will be busier than ever. He likely will be unable to assist with the wheelchair wash. He is also in the midst of trying to build a library.

Mike Norton reported that Human Services is holding budget hearings on Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and Thursday at 8:30 AM for individuals to provide testimony. The budget will be provided by five division heads, a vote will occur on the budget, and then be presented to the County Executive. The link to the Zoom hearings can be found on the county website under the calendar of meetings. In addition, there is an opening on the Human Services Board for a citizen member. Contact the County Executive's to submit a letter of interest. **Beth Roberts** reminded the committee that the ADRC is part of Human Services and are included in the budget that is being discussed and voted on this week.

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

No items to report.

9. **Next Meeting – July 12, 2021**

Mike Norton adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Roberts