

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** 08/09/2021

**TIME:** 3:05 p.m.

**PLACE:** Zoom

**Members Present:** Paul Janty, Michael Norton, Peter Christianson, Harold Singstock, Jan Olson, Rob Paterson

**Staff Present:** Beth Roberts and Brian Nagler

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** No members of the public were present at today's meeting.
2. **Approve Minutes of the July 12, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting:** Peter Christianson motioned to approve and Mike Norton seconded the motion.
3. **Aging Plan Approval – Beth Roberts:**

**Beth Roberts** reported that a lot of the information that was sent has to do with statistics in the county. Unfortunately, the budget is not back from the State yet, so the plan cannot be fully approved at this time. Beth is proposing to approve the plan as is and then hold an ad hoc meeting later in the month for the sole purposes of approving the budget. Today's focus should primarily be on goals.

Goal 1 – The first goal is to create an inclusive, diverse, and equitable community.

- Mike and Beth have been consistently participating in Diversity Affairs meetings which are held on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM. Bryn had been attending and her replacement will likely attend. The ADRC should be in attendance of at least nine meetings per year as well as promote the Diversity Affairs Committee.
- Brochures have been drafted with the intention of promotion of the Diversity Affairs Committee being in existence in Winnebago County and for those persons interested in participating in it. Mike Norton indicated he would be willing to go to the County Board Chairman to determine if the costs of the brochure could come out of the County budget.
- Development of a measuring tool is being planned in order to look at the success of the Committee. IE: Is our Committee here more diversified, are we more of a diverse population in our community.

- Recordings of a tour of the ADRC will be done in Hmong and Spanish. Enhance community engagement by continuing to have press releases regarding ADA, paratransit, and transportation opportunities.
- Increase cultural cuisine within the county's nutritional program by having cooking classes. There is interest from the Hmong population in serving cuisine they like which will be accomplished by incorporating a second daily menu offering Hmong cuisine.
- Brochures for some of the ADRC's programs are going to be translated to other languages.
- The ADRC's website and online calendars have been translated to other languages.
- Beth stated that all staff are Caucasian and that she has a breakdown which includes all counties in Wisconsin of which a baseline can be viewed. The breakdown by race of Winnebago County's population by percentage is: Caucasian, Asian American, Hmong, black, other. Mike Norton also questioned if there is a plan to address some of the populations in the county.
- At the wheelchair wash, individuals were discussing concerns in regards to the bylaws of the newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. The concern was that one of the statements in the bylaws is to the effect that even if a committee member had not favorably voted in the passage of a resolution or approval of an activity that achieves consensus of the committee, that all committee members need to be supportive and are not counteractive in the community. If a community member does not agree that this should be in the bylaws, the committee can look at amending the bylaw. Bylaws adopted by the Committee were pretty standard and had been discussed at three prior meetings by the whole committee. The individual in disagreement with this bylaw had joined the committee right after passage of the bylaws.

Goal 2 – The second goal is to create a dementia friendly community.

- The ADRC has been working on this since hiring a dementia care specialist. In order to continue those efforts, Purple Angel training is being looked at in which the dementia care specialist goes into a business and trains all of their staff in better understanding how to work with someone with dementia. They are going to create some articles to send out to everyone so that the community is aware that any business can request the training. The Fox Valley Memory Project held trainings in a lot of the businesses in the Neenah area. Some of businesses need a second training. Only a few businesses in the Oshkosh area have had the training to date.
- Attend a minimum of four Chamber of Commerce meetings with the intention of informing of services which can be provided.
- The specific target for Goal 2 is to train at least 12 new businesses.
- Beth, Brian, and several others are working on a dementia crisis response group that is focusing on ADRC staff accompanying law enforcement when a call is received involving an attempt to calm a caregiver. Beth and the dementia care specialist went to the Neenah Police Department three weeks ago and would like to keep making those connections.
- The goal is to have at least 12 additional connections with law enforcement and at least one more training for the Fire Department.
- Memory Screening Clinics – The plan is to offer in-person centered services to ensure memory screenings are available to those who want one throughout the County.
- Making sure that memory care clinics are known by publishing information in the newsletter and articles in the local newspapers.

- Dementia services will continue to be enhanced as the ADRC is looking at having a virtual dementia opportunity in the county. Virtual dementia allows individuals to experience what it is like to have dementia.
- Mike Norton asked if the trainings for law enforcement are being incorporated as part of the curriculum for new officers. Law enforcement videotaped the last training that had been conducted and this is being utilized for new officers. Trainings will continue to be offered in-person but one was taped for Oshkosh and Neenah police so their new officers can view it. Brian Nagler indicated that a lot of times when trainings are done for the Fire Department others join via video.
- Regarding the nutrition program, the goal is to address food insecurity in the County. A specific way to accomplish this is to enhance volunteer driver opportunities.
- The other part of being a volunteer driver is bringing a meal to individuals and checking on their status. The plan is to provide drivers with training on signs of malnutrition. In addition, another training on dementia will be provided to volunteer drivers.
- Ensuring drivers have been trained on advocacy and have the knowledge of when to speak up if they see something wrong.
- Monthly tracking of numbers to ensure that the number of participants is not going down. ADVOCAP sends the numbers monthly to the ADRC as well as quarterly meetings in regards to this. There is not currently a requirement of being homebound in order to receive a home-delivered meal. Volunteer drivers are not as busy as people are not going out as much and those volunteer drivers; however, now the pantry is allowing volunteer drivers to pick up items to take to those who normally would have gone to a site.
- Continue to look at grant opportunities to enhance the quality of meals being provided.
- Increasing referrals to the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). One referral came in at the Wheelchair Wash at which time a brochure was given out.
- Looking at enhancing ongoing community engagement by news releases in local papers at least once per year regarding the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- **Mike Norton** shared an idea of reaching out to different neighborhood associations in the city regarding matching older individuals with younger ones in neighborhoods as a way to reduce social isolation and also to provide information on resources available. Individuals who know each other are more apt to take to suggested resources.
- Transportation is another component of social isolation. Press releases will be done at least once a year regarding transportation and travel trainer programs that are available. Highlights will be how to access and learning how to utilize transportation services. Mike indicated that if the infrastructure bill passes, there are significant dollars for urban and rural public transportation and expressed the need to press the State for transportation assistance in our rural areas.
- Promote inclusion, diversity, and equity within nutritional programming by recruiting presenters to offer cultural cuisine demonstrations. Ideas include the Omro area wanting Hispanic cuisine and Oshkosh offering a second menu consisting of Hmong cuisine. Promotion of this programming will be done in local newspaper, radio, and newsletters.
- In regards to multi-generational activities, looking at maximizing control by soliciting input from current nutrition participants regarding the types of activities that are of most interest. This will be accomplished by reaching out to local school districts, camps, daycares to potentially partner in an activity. For example, a baseball team dressed up in uniforms and took old baseball cards to the Memory Clinic which was well received. A

daycare across the street also sang songs to Memory Clinic participants. This would be promoted through local media.

- Another program that was in the works before school ended but did not get up and running was a play called "Lucy and Me" that had been purchased. Schools can show the play which is about a little girl learning that her grandpa has dementia. The intent of the play is to help people feel less fearful of dementia. A conversation goes along with the play. This is getting rolled out to grade schools.
- The ADRC will continue work with Public Health on promoting evidence-based classes. The goal is making sure all needs are met. In the past, classes had been set up but canceled due to not enough attendance. Now, attendance has grown to where most classes are full. These are being offered now in at least five different locations throughout the County to include Omro, Winneconne, and Fox Crossing. Winnebago County Public Health does a health assessment on trends on falls, disease, and other needs. The strategy would be to look at the health assessment and to review that along with the Age-Friendly Survey which had been done through the AARP to assess for interest in classes within rural communities. The Omro Stepping On class had been canceled, so there is a need to talk to some of the individuals to determine if there is a better location to hold the class.
- Advertise for class leaders, which are typically volunteer or individuals who can do so through their job. Determine ways to incentivize class leaders, such as with a gift card or a gas card.
- A new person has been trained on Powerful Tools for Caregivers. The goal is to keep enhancing that.
- Work on identifying diverse community groups. For example, determine if there is interest in partnering on any classes by contacting existing ethnic groups such as the Mosque in Oshkosh, the Hmong Service Center, and Casa Hispana in Menasha.
- Continuing to work on ensuring calendar of upcoming classes is up to date and available in multiple languages.
- Looking at additional funds to support all of the above goals and connecting with faith-based organizations to see if they are interested in offering a Wellness Plus Class.
- Post-COVID rebuild of the Oshkosh YMCA older adult outreach program by enhancing ongoing community engagement by actively recruiting participants and their caregivers to the Memory Café occurring there. Reaching out to all local newspapers to do at least two articles per year about this. Looking at local media channels to do some of these promotions. Making sure that the calendar of events includes memory café information in different languages. Partner with other community entities such as the YMCA to ensure transportation is available. The Menasha Senior Center has been a partner on this too. Providing in-person classes to be held weekly or monthly at assisted livings.
- **Mike Norton** questioned if the ADRC plan includes housing and keeping seniors in the area and having senior friendly areas. Beth felt that more may come out regarding this in AARP's age-friendly assessment and will likely become part of that plan.
- There was question about how much senior subsidized housing is in the county. Beth indicated she is in the process of getting those numbers from the City of Oshkosh who had paid to have that survey done. The Community Foundation is backing the efforts of the survey being county-wide. Oshkosh and Winnebago County Housing Authority, ADVOCAP, and others offer subsidized housing.

In terms of approving the plan and budget part of the plan that is not yet available, an ad hoc Zoom meeting is scheduled for August 24. Beth will send out the budget ahead of time.

**4. Recognition of Tanisha Alvarado and Don Hanson – Paul Jantry and Beth Roberts:**

**Beth Roberts** stated she will be sending Tanisha and Don certificates in recognition of their involvement. Committee members discussed their dedication and that they will be missed by all.

**5. Future Meeting Agenda Items and Format – All:**

**Beth Roberts** indicated that due to uncertainties at this time regarding rising COVID numbers, she will hold off on setting the format of future meetings.

**Mike Norton** questioned whether the ADRC Conference will not be held again this year. Beth indicated she had not heard anything about the conference, thus assumes it is off.

**Paul** stated some future agenda items could include vaccination rates for different categories and whether specialty clinics are being held for individuals with disabilities. Beth indicated she will have Alana from Public Health put together numbers on this.

Other agenda items for future meetings include the new supervisor, the housing study, and possibly a presentation from AARP on the age-friendly study.

**6. Reports:**

a. **Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances – Brian Nagler**

Brian shared that they have been staying busy with 43 referrals in July to Family Care and IRIS. There have been approximately 45 referrals each month. This afternoon, Brian received direction from the State who had been posturing for getting back to in-person screenings and were not going to allow virtual any longer. This has been recanted as of this afternoon due to the rising number of COVID cases. Verbal signatures had been allowed over the phone in which a box could be checked on the State forms. As part of the functional screening which determines physical eligibility for programs, staff are supposed to witness participants doing some of the things that they are deficient in such as getting in and out of the tub, getting on and off the toilet, etc. Staff have been unable to do this for some time and it appears this is being extended due to the Delta variant. Staff tries to do as much as possible with family members and doctor's offices providing input. They still are doing the job and are meeting requirements. Referrals range from youth transitioning to the adult waiver to elderly individuals needing services. Brian will report back on the breakdown of ages for referrals.

Brian stated that some of the funds that had been historically difficult to utilize have been used this year without difficulty. Beth had run some numbers and it is pretty impressive what is being done to help people in the community. She will update those numbers and report back next month on this. At times, NFCSP and AFCSP funds are being used as a stop gap when it is an emergency to get services immediately as the Family Care process takes a while for participants to get hooked up with Medical Assistance. Participants who are not ready for Family Care or IRIS due to having too much money to qualify for MA and still have needs when a spouse is having difficulty providing care can be assisted through these programs.

b. Committee Member Updates

**Peter Christianson** reported being critically short of wheelchairs and needs beds and scooters. He has less than ten wheelchairs and none over 18". Peter asked if anyone knows someone who has one that is not in use, please let him know. An article about this is being put in the newsletter as well as on the Facebook page.

**Mike Norton** reported he has been appointed as chairman of the aging subcommittee for Health and Human Services and may be calling on Beth and Brian for information.

**Harold Singstock** questioned what the current situation is regarding rental evictions. **Mike Norton** replied that evictions for overdue rent are going to occur shortly unless something can be worked out with that landlord or depending on if funds were applied for assistance with back rent. The moratorium had been scheduled to end July 31<sup>st</sup> but has been extended to October. Many tenants stand to face eviction which is expounded by the issue that no housing is available. Referrals can be made to ADVOCAP for those needing assistance with this. Although there is a waiting list, they still have funds available. Currently for evictions, there is a process including notice being given. Law enforcement has deemed this to be more a civil matter between the landlord and tenant and do not get involved unless there is a court order for the tenant to be removed. **Rob Paterson** stated there was an article in the Post Crescent about a gentleman who was evicted and ended up living in his car and went to the Y to take showers.

**Jan Olson** stated an issue came up in the Winneconne area in which a facilitator is holding classes which are at least 10+ people over the limit. In addition, there are participants with varying degrees and abilities. Jan noted that she is a member of Anytime Fitness which is a great facility for those who wish to be a solitary exerciser. Currently there is no programming offered there; however, there are lots of work out machines. She asked about approaching the manager to see if, as a community give-back, he would allow some classes to be moved over to his building as there is a spacious room currently not in use. Beth gave her Joanne Murphy's contact information to look into this possibility.

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

No items to report.

8. **Next Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021 at 3:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Beth Roberts