

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 09/13/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Michael Norton, Harold Singstock, Peter Christianson, Elizabeth Jones, Kate Pfaendtner, Rob Paterson, Claire Steger, Jan Olson

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler

Others Present: Alana Erickson – Public Health Department

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

1. **Public Comments:** No members of the public were present at today's meeting.
2. **Approve Minutes of the August 9, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting:** Mike Norton motioned to approve and Harold Singstock seconded the motion.
3. **New Committee Member and Future Members:**
Tamar Mathwig introduced herself as a wife and mother of four children. Prior to her handicapped son being born, she was a social worker in Oshkosh at a rehab facility and at the hospital at which time she was introduced to the ADRC. During COVID, she started working at an assisted living. She wanted to get involved after listening to a County Board meeting a couple of months ago where she learned that committee members were being sought. Because of her past use of the ADRC during her work through the hospital and rehab facility, she felt it would be good to be part of the committee.

Paul Janty introduced himself as chairman and his background includes having worked at Winnebago Mental Health and has a passion for social services for the past 40+ years.

Winnebago County Board Supervisor **Mike Norton** of the City of Oshkosh introduced himself as being a member of the ADRC board, Human Services board, and the Health board. He has been on the ADRC committee since the Committee's onset and was appointed due to his interest when the County joined Family Care. Other than a few brief years, he has been on the board ever since.

Future members: Beth reported that Tamar is taking Tanisha's spot on the ADRC board. Replacements are still needed for the positions vacated by Don, Nicole, and Susan. Because of the Committee also serving as the Aging Commission, half of members need to represent the

aging population. Beth has reached out to some individuals who are deaf or visionally impaired but has had no luck yet. Anyone who might have an interest can contact Beth for more information. One of the replacements can be a county board supervisor and the other two represent the elderly and/or handicapped population. Service providers who have a contract with the County and receive payment cannot serve as members. In addition, the County Exec has to do a recommendation. In order to get Older American Acts funding, the statutes for the Commission on Aging dictate term limits as being two 3-year terms.

4. **Aging Plan Approval – Beth Roberts:**

Beth Roberts reported an update that she still does not have the budget but will be emailing the plan for input by the end of the month.

Mike Norton reported he spoke with former board member regarding classes. **Larry Lautenschlager** elaborated that he had spoken with him regarding 15-18 people who are participating in Wellness Plus classes and wanted to ensure that funding is still available. The problem is that once the program is done, there is a gap of a few months before another class is available and Larry questioned whether more trainers could be brought on so the program could be continuous. **Beth Roberts** indicated that there is still funding in the budget at the same amount and programs will continue to be offered every few months. This is done intentionally in attempts to offer all classes throughout the entire county and a yearly calendar of classes will be coming out. Funding for these classes is a partnership between the Public Health, ADRC, and the community including medical providers and the YMCA. **Mike Norton** indicated at last week's Oshkosh Committee on Aging, Jan gave a presentation on classes along with the difficulties in finding trainers. **Mike** offered to recruit for more trainers so more classes can be held. Beth indicated there are students at the University and FVTC who are planning to be occupational or recreational therapists who could potentially serve as trainers during their time as students.

5. **New Aging Supervisor – Beth Roberts**

Beth Roberts stated Nicole Davis-Dewald is going to be the new Aging and Resource Supervisor as of September 22nd. She is currently the executive director of a homecare agency and will be introduced in-person at the next committee meeting.

6. **Vaccination Rates by Demographics – Alana Erickson:**

Alana Erickson of the Health Department screen shared the State's website indicating 85.3% of the 65+ population are vaccinated. This has boosted the confidence in resuming services to older adults in the community. Once vaccinated, a chance of transmission is still possible so prevention models still are to be utilized. A large amount of new infections and hospitalizations are occurring in the 18-24 age range where vaccination remains a big gap. 94% of hospitalizations were from unvaccinated individuals with the average age being 53, which is much younger than this area has seen in the past. There was a little bit of a spike in vaccinations when Governor Evers announced the \$100 bonus for being vaccinated. The recent news of President Biden requiring mandating vaccines across different employers has had an impact mostly of individuals wanting to express their opinion as thus far there are no logistical details of how that is going to be rolled out.

Paul Janty questioned for students at the University or FVTC whether vaccination is reported back in their home county or in Winnebago County. Alana indicated that reporting is done by the address the student uses as their home address. Paul also questioned if the Health Department has some targeted clinics for some of the age ranges which are behind in vaccination. Alana stated

that Sunnyview clinics were held with the ability to get mass vaccinations accomplished. Now that the interest has waned, the Sunnyview clinic remains open on a weekly basis, but there is not enough demand to keep the National Guard and all of the trained experts providing shots on a regular basis. Staff are returning to the disease investigation team to work on how to strategize. In the past months, a lot of mobile vaccination clinics were set up. Currently, there are efforts in place offering vaccinations at the Oshkosh Library, still working with the School District, and shots are available at the farmer's markets on the weekends.

Brian Nagler inquired regarding the 18-34 age ranges and what is being done to educate about concerns regarding wanting to have children in the next few years. **Alana** indicated that there is a lot of funding backing the anti-vaccination stance. Public Health does not have the funding to do an "anti-lie's campaign", rather are just trying to take care of the problem. Public Health has reached out to childcare providers in the area due to often having staff in this age range and provided one-on-one training talking myths dispelling there is no indications of risk. In fact, the data is revealing that many unvaccinated pregnant women have become ill and there is no lasting concern any more. **Beth Roberts** stated there is a great myth buster presentation she had learned of through ThedaCare which gives information backing why some myths are not true.

Beth Roberts inquired about the third vaccination. Alana stated that the booster shot was labeled as available for immunocompromised individuals. Clinics are being held on Wednesdays at Sunnyview where the booster is available to those self-proclaimed as immunocompromised. There is a short questionnaire to fill out. The CDC and DHS has not fully opened up availability of the booster shot to the general population and a rush is expected once an announcement is made. It is helpful to bring the prior vaccination card along to speed up the time spent getting vaccinations. However, staff can double-check the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) to view vaccination using name, Social Security number, or birthdate to determine the date of the last shot in order to ensure the eight weeks in between for effectiveness.

Pete Christianson asked if the booster shot was the same as the first two shots and how long after having the second shot is the wait until getting the third shot. Alana indicated it's identical to the first two doses and wait time is at least eight weeks to make sure the body has fully responded to the two-dose series. <https://www.wcvaccine.org/> is the website to learn more about vaccines, locations, testing information, information on childhood vaccines, and FAQs. Information has been translated into different languages and this is a great resource to send to people.

Liz Jones stated that prior to the vaccine coming out, there was a lot of coverage on individuals with developmental disabilities being significantly more likely to die than any other group and raised the question of whether someone with a developmental disability falls into the category of being immunocompromised at this stage. Alana indicated that at this stage due to the short supply, the booster is only intended for individuals with more medical health concerns. Data supports that the vaccines are working as 94 percent of COVID-related hospitals in Winnebago County are individuals who are unvaccinated.

Jan Olson questioned if there is any place to get antibody testing. Alana indicated individuals should check with their primary care providers first.

7. Current Caregiver Respite Numbers – Brian Nagler and Beth Roberts

Beth Roberts indicated numbers are up a little bit as there are currently 110 individuals approved to receive caregiver support services. In past years, the numbers at the end of the year were in the 90s.

Brian Nagler stated NFCSP and AFCSP programs can be utilized in the gap while awaiting enrollment into Family Care. These programs exist solely to keep informal caregiving systems free of burnout by providing some sort of respite to caregivers. There are few requirements to receive these services. As there are other options in the community, other efforts are to be exhausted first prior to these funds being utilized.

Brian stated that under the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), there is a program subset program where assistance can be provided as Relatives as Parents Program (RAP). The State has identified that in our society today, there are many grandparents and aunts/uncles providing care in their homes. This informal caregiving system is crucial to maintain and Brian reported having started to utilize this part of the program a little more than in the past.

8. Reports:

a. Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances – Beth Roberts

Beth Roberts reported to operating pretty much the same as last month as far as being "open for business". The preference is to not meet directly with people because of having the ability to do verbal signatures; however, staff will meet in-person if someone requests that.

Beth said there is not an ADRC conference this year, the next conference will be Fall of 2022.

Beth stated that Zack from the Fox Valley Veterans Council will speak next month.

Mike Norton inquired to Beth if there are any updates on housing. Beth stated she is still waiting for the City of Oshkosh's report which is anticipated by the end of September. Once the City's report is received, a sociology professor from UW-Oshkosh is going to be collecting the additional information needed county-wide. Sometime early next year the information will be presented. **Mike Norton** reported that a lot-full of tiny homes are being built on the northern side of Oshkosh and that senior-friendly areas such as this are needed. **Liz Jones** commented about a book that Mike Norton had brought up at a prior meeting entitled *Pocket Neighborhoods*. **Liz** stated she ordered the book and learned that there are several pocket neighborhoods being planned around Wisconsin.

Alana Erickson shared the link for AARP, stating information was helpful when working on the Aging Plan for Oshkosh area. <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/> has information on livable communities including tutorials, tool-kits, and creative examples from communities.

Brian Nagler shared that an increasing number of nursing homes and assisted living facilities are not allowing visitors. This has not had a large effect on completing the eligibility functional screening as it can be done virtually, though the best option when feasible is in-person. Last month, there were 51 enrollments to Family Care, which is above average.

Harold Singstock suggested to not be in a hurry to return to in-person meetings. Paul Janty was in agreement to this given the variants.

Jan Olson stated that she put the owner of the Winneconne Anytime Fitness in contact with Joanne Murphy Spice to see how they can help out the community. The owner has had a difficult time finding a qualified trainer and felt this might be a very good idea.

Beth Roberts inquired to Alana about whether the booster can be a different product than the initial vaccination. Alana thought they will learn a lot more about mixing boosters and indicated that right now all of the data is all in trials and there have been no suggestions to mix those yet. She thought if it becomes something like the seasonal flu vaccine, that it may not matter what brand of shot individuals had the prior year and rather to look at timing to be updated. Johnson & Johnson is very different in make-up from Moderna and Pfizer; however, she does believe that is where this will go. Again, the data is not there from the FDA yet.

Liz Jones stated that prior to the pandemic, there had been the consistent question about the difficulty to find staff to work at assisting living and nursing homes. **Liz** stated she is curious about effort in Winnebago County to tap into the refugees coming into the area. Her understanding is many manufacturing organizations are using many of the Afghan refugees for employment and she questions if the older children and spouses could be recruited to work in nursing homes or assisted living. This may be a pool of potential employees for those positions and could be a potential topic for next month's meeting.

Mike Norton stated this last week, World Relief stated that Winnebago County will be getting 100 individuals from Afghanistan. There will be a need to help those individuals obtain employment and it is unclear whether those individuals have been vaccinated. **Alana Erickson** stated that there is a refugee program when refugees are brought into the area, Public Health introduces them to the healthcare system, walks them through mask guidance, and has found that most individuals have been trusting and want to be vaccinated.

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

No items to report.

10. **Next Meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.**

With no further business, Paul Janty adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Beth Roberts