

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 11/08/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

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

Members Excused: Tamar Mathwig and Pete Christianson

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

Others Present: Alana Erickson–Public Health Dept and Larry Lautenschlager

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 October 11, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting Minutes:** Kate motioned to approve and Harold seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members.
3. **General Service Updates – Alana Erickson:**
Alana Erickson reported that the Wellness Plus classes are focusing in on narrowing falls prevention. As there is a slower capacity, Joanne is the only staff person working on this. Beth and Alana met with Joanne regarding the new 2022 strategy of developing what a class budget looks like in order to let places know that want to host it for their employees or residents and build in more sustainability. Due to the current capacity, there is a lighter load of classes and Alana indicated that the hope is to continue to expand that in the future.

Alana stated that the Marketplace is open and encouraged individuals in need to apply for that as well as for promotion by the Committee. <https://coveringwi.org/> is a user-friendly website available for enrollment as well as information. Alana stated that premiums have dropped in that many individuals can sign up for less than \$10/month and asked members to please encourage clients to utilize the website. In addition, the local community health center, Partnership, does a great job helping people navigate the website.

Alana stated work has begun on some of the ARPA funding options and has had a few meetings with the Legislative Committee and county executives. Public Health is anxious to show some of the data they have tracked over the years and help guide where that is going in the future along with the hope that the ADRC is on the same page as Public Health. Alana asked that if anyone

knows of meetings coming up related to either the healthy aging community or the young family and adults, please clue her in so that everyone can be working together on that.

In regards to the COVID situation, Alana reported today to be the first day in a long time with almost 200 cases reported. Although there is always a jump on Mondays because of reporting from Friday to Monday, recently there have been barely over 100. This surge had been expected; unfortunately, the rate is faster than the first two surges. The experts looking at this information see that it is a very critical time. Alana indicated the vaccine that is now approved for ages 5 to 11 and if this population buckles down, this will make a huge impact as the holidays and indoor weather are approaching. Alana reiterated to please encourage the vaccination process. Public Health has some resources for parents and children, if they want to call and ask questions in regards to the vaccinations. Public Health does not want to be forceful; instead to be helpful and accessible wherever possible. A new page has been created on <https://www.wcvaccine.org> for children and teens along with a lot of great resources and promotional materials. The first clinic is being held at one of the Oshkosh Area School District's schools and there is a lot of media flurry around that which will hopefully be positive.

Alana stated that there have been a lot of questions regarding the boosters and third doses and to contact the hotline from 8:15 to 4:15 Monday through Friday. Alana stated that Human Services had a part in this and offered her thanks.

Paul Janty asked Alana if she has the number of deaths by either unit of government or by school district across the county. Alana doubted that would be shareable because there is such a limiting factor for deaths that if municipal information was given, that could be a violation.

Alana talked about Joanne's involvement in referrals made to Public Health and whether Joanne assists in ensuring that a Public Health nurse responds for falls prevention. It is her understanding is that all of the falls referrals are coming in to Karennia and she is outreaching with an educational meeting first and also offering to go into the home for some of those issues. If a nurse is needed, then Karennia lets them know. One of the nurses is unexpectedly out on FMLA, which is putting a crunch on the nurses; however, they continue to make it happen. Melissa Sell asked a question in regards to in-home vaccinators and that she is aware that Hometown is the only one currently providing in-home vaccinations. Alana stated that homebound situations is not an area they have been able to focus on yet. Alana has a list of places doing curbside, including Sunnyview, where vaccinators can come out to the vehicle. Transportation services are also available, so if the person can get into a vehicle, there is always a staff member near the door who is on the watch for individuals needing to be vaccinated within the vehicle.

Elizabeth Jones offered a great big thank you to Alana and her team reiterating how important it is what they do.

- 4. Presentation on Autism – Vivian Hazell: Beth Roberts** stated that at previous meetings there had been a request to learn more about autism. **Vivian Hazell** began by stating her relationships with individuals with autism have taught her that they are no different than any other individual experiencing life. Since working with people with disabilities and aging, she has come to understand that is really human beings and how they are experiencing the world, which is the

same as autism. Perception is so vitally important. Vivian relayed a story about a young man she worked with who had very little ability to communicate, so she always matched what he was doing. For some reason, he liked to be in his front yard and to run away from his house, look up in the sky, run forward, and laugh. She matched this behavior and he revealed that "the tree is hiding from us" because when getting further away from the house, the tree could be seen; however, when close to the house, the tree disappeared. This taught her to understand even the sense of play in people who have a unique understanding of the world.

Vivian asked if anyone had questions as to specific behaviors clients are exhibiting which are perplexing to families or gets in the way of success. **Liz Jones** stated that there is a mix of individuals in attendance and some do not work directly with autistic clients. Liz asked Vivian to share what autism is. Liz elaborated that in regards to autism, some people identify autism as "part of who they are" and some see it is "something they have." Vivian has experience with individuals in all areas of the spectrum. Vivian shared that as she neared retirement, one of the things she specifically looked at rather than specifically autism, is neurodiversity. She had been consulting with libraries who would talk about how to support people who have autism to which Vivian stated that they do not know if someone has autism so, instead asked what challenges there may be of any person who comes into the library. An example Vivian would give libraries is to assume that giving specific guidelines is not insulting because a lot of times people worry about not wanting to hurt feelings, so they do not know "how to tell them." What she has found, especially with people with a neurodiversity in the spectrum, is they just like to know what is expected and for it to be clear to them.

Paul Janty questioned Vivian if she has an approximate number of the population in Winnebago County who have autism. Vivian stated that she believes that the birth records for people in the spectrum is 1 in 49. Vivian went on to state that the word "spectrum" is so helpful because it shows the same label is used for all individuals with autism; however, they may be nothing alike. There is no generalization about autism because it is so uniquely individual to each person and can individually change throughout the day and throughout time. There are a lot of people in Winnebago County who have been identified as having autism and some younger children will not be identified until they get in school and the uniqueness is more evident. Girls are often under-identified as they are more likely to be quieter and it is through behavioral displays that identification of autism typically occurs. Beth Roberts questioned Vivian how identifying or diagnosing autism is typically accomplished. Vivian stated there are clinical definitions of the areas of uniqueness in autism. So, usually, there is a communication component where the ability to speak or speaking in a reciprocal manner may be limited. In addition, there is often a stilted range of interest. High interest is typically in only one or two things; however, not really synthesize interest into a broad range. There may be sensory components in which seven senses are experienced in which there is also a vestibular sense (how you feel in space or how you feel moving). Vivian stated she tries to give people an understanding of what it feels like when the sensory system does not give accurate information to the moment by talking about how it feels after a boat ride and the feeling of still being on the boat remains. This is an example of the sensory system trying to acclimate to change. Often times, people in the spectrum may have one of their senses profoundly skewed. For example, their sense of hearing may be so sensitive that they might look upset because of hearing something others are not hearing such as a lawn mower three doors away. So, there is often a component of either vestibular or proprioceptive experience

(which is the sense of moving one's muscles). A lot of times children on the spectrum who are trying to learn how to write will have difficulty determining the amount of pressure to put on writing utensils. When looking at diagnosis, there is no physical test that can be taken; instead, these components are looked at on an observational basis. Additionally, the misnomer that autistic individuals "cannot look you in the eye" has recently been disproven.

Beth Roberts asked Vivian if she could provide an explanation as to what "spectrum" means. To diagnose autism, five out of seven of the criteria has to be found. Even within that diagnosis, the intensity of each category may differ. When thinking of autism in terms of the arc of a rainbow, the persons on the left side are nothing like the ones on the right side, but still come under the categories of diagnostic criteria. For example, there are individuals on the left side of the spectrum who are totally non-verbal, unable to dress themselves, unable to communicate their needs to the right side of the spectrum where individuals have profound verbal skills but not fluent communication skills.

In response to a question in the chat asking if Vivian has any advice, activities, or strategies to assist in working with children with sensory overload, Vivian recommended a book which is written for parents entitled *The Out-of-Sync Child* by Carol Kranowitz. This book contains a checklist to look at behavioral displays. A child with a vestibular compromise may always want to spin and move and circles without ever getting dizzy or they may avoid anything that has movement where their feet are not firmly on the ground. For example, when looking at sensory overload, it means they have run out of the ability to filter what is coming at them leading to protective behaviors such as screaming to help block the overload in auditory input. In regards to sensory overload, take cues from autistic individuals and take steps to keep them safe as well as decrease verbal input, expectations, and give identified ways for that individual to calm. For example, give them a starburst because chewing can help in recalibration. Vivian stated that depending on the individual, different types of strategies help them "come back to center".

Vivian described neuromodulation as identifying whatever vector is being affected and giving what is needed. Whatever neurons are firing that are giving the experience. It might be the sense of sound that is too much or it may be a combination in the sense of sound and light. For example, if you have ever experienced a migraine, you know what you have to limit as far as input to be able to weather that migraine such as limiting light to a darkened room, eliminating sound, as well as inability to move at the time. Any of the vectors that have become too much is where to put the modulation. Vivian shared that fighting gravity is one the hardest skills. When a newborn baby is developing, the first thing celebrated is when the child lifts their head, then rolling over, crawling, and standing up. Over time, all these achievements can be easily forgotten and taken for granted; however, can pose difficulty for those who are compromised. Knowing what the particular individual's tendencies are in becoming dysregulated, can help in predicting how to be supportive to prevent an overload for occurring. In a sensory experience, get the individual ready for the task that is coming. For example, when a neurotypical child is relaxing by lying on the sofa you can say, "Time to get your shoes on. Come on." After a couple prompts, the child will likely adhere. However, for a child with sensory issues, it may be necessary to come closer, help the child organize their body by maybe some deep pressure starting at their shoulders, legs, and feet, and then get them ready to receive the shoes. There is much understanding about our experiences not just as an intellectual brain, but a brain of

senses/sensation and movement. When helping those who cannot express needs, read those signs. Vivian stated she has three grandchildren in the spectrum who are entirely different from each other. Her youngest grandson will lie totally flat on the floor and want to play with things within arm's reach. Vivian discovered he had a profound difficulty with balance, movement, and fighting gravity. Even when playing, he was not able to manage the task of fighting gravity and play at the same time. Once achieving an understanding of what the individual is dealing with, there are all kinds of ways to help. Often times, this behavior could be misinterpreted as laziness or that the individual does not care. Because of this, a lot of Vivian's last 20 years had been working helping people understand the neurological and physiological part of being a human that is so often compromised with people on the spectrum. The book *The Out-of-Sync Child* talks about children; however, is appropriate for any age.

Beth Roberts commented that she has been hearing more of individuals who are diagnosed in their adult-life who look back and realize that was what was going on with some of their past behaviors. Vivian elaborated that these individual often have a lot of trauma from growing up, not knowing what was getting in the way, and then having attribution on them of being lazy, antisocial, rude. One of her granddaughters is gifted in writing, poetry, and music, however, shuts down when she has to interact with human beings. She is an adult who is now able to recognize where her trauma points were on her self-image and come to terms with who she really is, rather than who people thought she was.

5. Presentation on World Relief – Susie Brekke:

Beth Roberts stated that there had been a past request for someone from World Relief to present to the committee about some of the distinctions about people who are coming from Afghanistan versus refugees who have been placed here before, along with what is involved with becoming a refugee. **Susie Brekke** stated it is unprecedented of what they are seeing with welcoming people so quickly after what was witnessed in Afghanistan. World Relief has two offices in Appleton and Oshkosh, but are one group. They provide refugee resettlement services as well as immigration legal services, community programs, a learning center, and community engagements.

Susie screen-shared graphs including one of the languages represented being Dari which is currently number five. Susie shared another graph summarizing what happens when first hearing of someone coming to the area. World Relief is given two to three weeks notification at which time housing is frantically looked for. This is the most difficult chore on the list without having any financial background as well as the difficulty of finding partners willing to work with World Relief on signing for the apartment lease, which will later be signed off to the family. She shared a lot of scheduling is done by teams of volunteers who help with getting the apartment ready. The most thrilling part are family notifications as half of all resettlements are typically reunifications of family. There have been times in Appleton when clients arrive there are 50 people there and it is like a huge party because they are welcoming someone to the United States. After arrival, there is usually the first night of getting them to their apartment; showing them they are safe; where they are going to be, and a few simple things like "here is the water", "here is the stove"; and the next day returning to do an intake as well as signing them up for benefits such as Social Security, Forward Health, etc. Later on, they are signed up for employment services and English language classes. By day 30, a doctor's appointment is completed in order to conduct a health screening and all children must be enrolled in a school. By day 90, all eligible services should be signed up

for services such as WIC, Social Security, insurance, etc. For individuals with disabilities, a referral is made to the ADRC. There are many orientations done within that first 90 days, which can be a lot to take in as this is all done through an interpreter and while getting used to a new culture as well as a new country. After that, an agency called Preferred Communities comes in to provide intensive case management for one to two years. Typically, the eligibility is people who have been in the country five years or less that have refugee status. There are a few other statuses World Relief is able to help with such as asylees and humanitarian parole. The vulnerability is typically elderly, single parents, long-term physical or mental health challenges, or caregivers for a child or elderly parent. Usually, she has a few secondary migrant families who have moved from somewhere else. These families settled in a different location; however, come to Appleton or Oshkosh due to a family or friend who had moved here. When these families arrive, they need to be resettling all over again and be connected with resources.

Susie shared she they are able to take about 25 clients total per year. At this point, they do have some openings. Even with a full list, there are some things that can be done with the waitlist and are always open to new clients.

Susie shared information about the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA) which started this summer. Currently, the Department of Defense is offering temporary housing for SIV and humanitarian parolees at eight military bases called Safe Havens across the country. Fort McCoy in Wisconsin has hosted up to 13,000 individuals. At the bases, Afghans are having medical screenings and vaccinations. Hopefully by the time they are ready to leave, employment authorization paperwork will have arrived so they can work. Individuals are matched with a resettlement agency. World Relief and other resettlement organizations in Wisconsin will not be taking all of the individuals at Fort McCoy as it depends where they go based on family connections, etc. World Relief in Appleton has said they will only take Dari speaking individuals as that is the primary language that the community here already speaks. The base has volunteers providing daycare as well as opportunities for children such as English classes. Once individuals arrive to the World Relief office, they are given a one-time fund to help with housing, food, clothing, and other needs. World Relief services also include cultural orientations, enrollment into ELL classes, school, and referrals to other social, medical, and employment services.

Susie addressed the question of how to know what an individual's status is. There is a program called Special Immigrant Visas (SIV). These are Afghan nationals that are employed by or on behalf of the US Military. These programs were created by Congress for specifically Iraqi and Afghan people after the wars happening in those countries and is managed by the US State Dept.

Susie reported that there are a couple of visas that break down as follows:

- SIV – SI visas are for translators and interpreters who were helping US troops at military bases.
- SQ – SQ visas are other Afghan nationals who are employed by or on behalf of the United States Government in the region.
- Humanitarian Parolees – The term Humanitarian Parolee was enacted right around the Cold War when people needed to leave their country due to what was and should not be confused as having done anything wrong. Congress gave the President the authorization to declare an emergency or natural disaster related to a war so that humanitarian parole

could be granted to a certain number of people. This term usually means not having an SIV status or a visa of some sort, but being in urgent need of escaping where they were at. Right now, the examples Susie has used were in the media as being doctors, lawyers, and educators. A lot of these are women because they had freedoms in Afghanistan within the last 20 years that were changing rapidly with the Taliban taking over.

The most difficult part of the Humanitarian Parolee status means that their status here is not permanent. When an SIV or refugee comes here, they have permanent residency, work toward a Green Card, and eventually attain citizenship. With Humanitarian Parolees, this is a two-year program going until March of 2022. This means if for a new family coming in under Humanitarian Parolee status, they will have to automatically be looking for some immigration legal services help to claim asylum in the United States. There are some individuals who have a family member who can support them for citizenship. There are other avenues Susie is still learning about which entail a lot of work and time-consuming material to go through.

Susie shared that the resource Switchboard helps a lot of refugee resettlement groups with information including benefits people are eligible for. At this time, it is clear that SIVs are eligible for everything that refugees are eligible for. This means receiving a Forward Health card as well as Medicaid. Humanitarian Parolees, at this point, pregnant women and children will have the ability to have some health insurance along with Medicaid. At this time, men will not be covered and are welcome to explore health insurance coverages through employment. There are quite a few changes happening rapidly. Congress typically needs to act and there is a bill being pushed by advocates to give permanent status as well as to not have to immediately work so hard to figure out how to stay here.

Beth Roberts asked Susie for individuals who are actively working on their status, if they can stay in the US or whether they have to leave if they have done nothing by the March 2022 date. Susie stated that when all of these individuals come through, they do have assistance through a resettlement location who would connect them to immigration services. Because there are communities around the country that have heavier populations of Afghans who have arrived throughout the last 20 years, some people will be come to Appleton and will choose to live in a different community where their family members have already settled. Susie went on to state she hopes that Congress will act and that there will be some leniency. All of the federal resettlement agencies will have some sort of tab on their website with information about either the Afghan situation or advocacy. World Relief has a group, Women of Welcome, that do a good job of keeping updated information on what is happening. For instance, this week there is a lot of talk regarding talking with Congressman to advocate for longer status here. Susie stated there are always people who will slip through the cracks, showing up as a secondary migrant having been here for two years, only to find out that there are many unmet needs. She has to remind herself and coworkers not to take on the trauma that the individuals had endured, as well as maintaining a mindset that they are alive despite having endured so much, and they are incredibly strong people.

If anyone wants more information, Susie left her email in the chat screen. She is happy to give presentations to groups, churches, or anyone who has questions.

Paul Janty asked Susie if she has a sense of the number of individuals who have humanitarian status and the range of their professional backgrounds. Normally the process for refugee status takes several years to attain, so this is unprecedented. If an individual already speaks English, that will obviously help with their job and resettlement. Official numbers are unknown; however, the majority of individuals resettling are women and children with a Humanitarian Parole status. For approximately the last six years, the program that does SIV applications was very dismantled. Employees were lost that complete the applications for people who were in Afghanistan or Iraq. The images from the news of Afghan people waving paperwork are those who are waiting on applications that should take a matter of months to a year instead it was now taking four or more years. There are a lot of people that were waiting and knew this was coming as well as the US was pulling out. There has been much criticism in regards to so many people waiting for the SIV status. From a few of the families that are already here, it is really clear that the women are thrilled to be here, that they have had some independence and a life that is different the last 20 years. They are excited for the educational opportunities here in the United States for themselves and their children. In addition, there are also people coming while family members are still in Afghanistan. There is a single father with children whose wife, mother, and sisters are still in Afghanistan. Thinking about the immigration services team, there is a lot of weight on their shoulders to help reunify these families and it is a lot of trauma for folks coming. She has been pointing out that the level of trauma will be different than some of her Congolese clients. Some of her other clients were at a camp for a number of years, gone through the process, and then come here. These folks have been ripped out of their country in a very quick way and left everything behind. The expectation is for PTSD and depression, including coming to Wisconsin where it is winter from a totally different climate. Susie stated to also know that the stigma of mental illness exists for these traumas. People will not want to talk about this nor want to get the care that they need. She stated they are trying to be informed on how to best provide trauma-informed care.

Liz Jones stated that she teaches an intercultural relations class and a critical thinking class called "The Global Child" in which there is a full unit on refugee status in migration for children. A couple months ago, Liz had seen the president of Manufacturers Association of Wisconsin on the news requesting more refugees from Afghanistan be sent to Wisconsin so they could be placed as workers. Liz shared that a significant number of the people that graduate from the FVTC programs to become LPNs or the like are frequently either immigrants or refugees. Liz questioned if partnerships are being formed to help these people with employment placement. Susie shared that some strong employers have partnered with her organization and there are a number of openings. One of the programs that World Relief has which falls under community programs, is Preferred Communities group that is helping specifically with employment such as job club, where employers come in and talk with the group that is looking for employment. Also, information is provided on resumes, interviews, paystubs, paychecks, and those types of questions. As there are many Help Wanted signs, it is very clear that many individuals could help by working in the community. Susie shared she wanted to highlight there are groups that are significant in the community. In Green Bay, a great partner is JBS, which is a meat packing plant. JBS sends a van to Appleton and Oshkosh to pick up employees and offer college at NWTC. Pay is \$19-\$26 an hour and there is promotion within. Employees do not need a high school diploma. There are also a few other employers that will work with refugees with disabilities or help with onsite English classes. Interested employers can reach out to World Relief as partnerships are always being sought and as new employees will be taking on the role of

the job club and connecting further. Very quickly after family arrives, the weight of all the expenses and expectations can hit the father hard. In response to this, Susie stated they work very hard to give families the three months to try to get English and other skill. However, many are jumping right away to employment because they know the importance. After six months at a good job, many families move out of their initial apartment to a larger place, and then within a few years are buying their first home. In their learning center, one of the classes is home buying because that is something that is going to become a reality. Susie stated there are really great things they are watching happen because of locally good employers.

Susie stated she did not have the stats right in front of her; however, was aware there are a lot of women and children at Fort McCoy. In addition, she is aware that there are some men who have come over that were specifically SIVs that were working and were unable to bring their families.

Melissa Sell shared that she had attended a conference led by Sheng Yang from Us 2 Behavioral Services which correlates to some of what Susie has been talking about. When talking about asylum seekers looking to get out of a situation, they have up to a year to get a Green Card or be approved to be here. These people do not have the right to an attorney nor interpreter, so may not understand the process nor the language. Humanitarian parolees are not financially eligible for Food Share, Medicaid, any long-term care programs like Family Care, IRIS. Unfortunately, if there is someone who has any type of disability or aging related functional issue, they are not qualified for those programs. Melissa indicated she is glad to see that Congress is looking at that status. In addition, Melissa stated she was also astounded at how expensive it is to become a citizen. At the conference, the price was indicated to be \$1000 to take the citizenship test. Questions are very difficult such as the amendments and branches of government which was likely learned about in fifth grade social studies. Her understanding is that a book is given out to study from, which is only in English, and the book has to be purchased. In addition, every ten years, the green card has to be renewed at a cost of about \$800 and she has that customers have come into her office and do not have the money to renew. She shared thinking that at any point our President could say that population is not welcome anymore citing enough help has been provided to them, and make them leave even with a green card. Susie stated that Sheng has done some trauma-informed care and knows exactly how to meet the specific needs of clients.

Susie stated that they have only had a few asylees so she knows less in this regard. Susie did have a reunification in Appleton of a daughter with a mother who was finally able to come after years of work. It is legal to come to a port of entry of the United States seeking asylum and to present yourself at the border. That gets so confusing because with every administration, policies can be change which complicating everything. In addition, this puts everyone into a media-frenzy making it unclear what is happening and gets everyone confused. Susie stated asylees are eligible for her program and some of the services provided at World Relief. 80 percent of asylum-seekers attend their court date as they know that is their opportunity to be able to stay in the country. Reasons for missing include language barriers as notifications are not provided in their language, or the individual may have possibly changed addresses. There is a large book of policy changes, updates, and forms for asylum seekers. The citizen test is about \$750. Barriers for some people include the test being unaffordable, being elderly, or significant language barriers. Right now, green cards and citizenships are backlogged. In Wisconsin, there is only one place people can go for those special appointments – Milwaukee. Before getting a green card, individuals have to see

a specific doctor called a civil surgeon. There are few civil surgeons in the State of Wisconsin as it not a very rewarding job; not being able to establish a rapport with people as they are "in and out" sometimes. There are a lot of delays to the system right now and a green card is taking two or more years and can be very hard when waiting. If there is a problem in which not enough information has been provided, sometimes the forms need to be redone. Lastly, Susie pointed out that all of the resettlement organizations locally and across the country are always asking for locally raised funds and are raising funds specifically for situations like her client's. ILS questions what clients can pay as it is usually anyway from \$1000 to \$1500. Susie always points people towards World Relief and other organizations that are helping with this.

6. 2022 Goal and Agendas – Beth Roberts:

Beth Roberts stated that next month, Committee members should come prepared with thoughts and ideas on the goals and specific agenda items members would like to see the Committee accomplish in 2022.

7. Reports:

a. Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances:

Beth Roberts stated that she will be contacting members to verify term limit information for Committee members.

Nicole Davis-Dawald shared that for 2022, they are working on engaging in community events such as the Business Expo and a Caregiver Expo. They have had a huge increase in the ADRC assistant working with people in the community regarding falls prevention.

Brian Nagler reported it has been busy and calls are up from where they were. There were 54 enrollment packets submitted to Family Care, IRIS this past month. This is up from 43 the prior month. Most calls were for staff to assist in finding housing and there is a great economic need in the community. This can be particularly stressful on staff as there is not always a great answer due to not a lot of housing options and affordable housing being available. Even though this is being worked on in the community, this cannot happen fast enough. Brian reported continuing to spend caregiver dollars. Staff is working very hard to be able to find creative ways to utilize the money to support informal caregivers in the community. Brian continues to talk with staff about having a real big propensity to help this year due to the additional COVID funding; however, 2022 may not have as much funding.

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

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Kate Pfaendtner had no updates to report, but stated she really enjoyed the presentations.

Jan Olson had no updates to report.

Rob Paterson raised a question about the minutes on Page 5, second to last paragraph basically stating those having access to money and healthcare are getting vaccinated. Rob stated he did not

recall ever having to pay to get vaccinated and asked what that referred to. **Beth Roberts** agreed that health insurance is not needed nor is there a cost to get a vaccination. Beth clarified that what Alana was referring to at the time is that people who have access to money likely have transportation easily available or internet services to know about where to get vaccinated. There are people who are limited with their ability to learn about the vaccination due to their financial situation or, even though transportation can be provided, might not even know that. So, when looking at demographics of those who have been vaccinated, people who are more affluent and/or more connected have easier transportation/easier means of getting vaccinations are getting them more than people who are at a low income level. It could be that these individuals work a shift in which their schedule does not allow versus people who have more flexibility to leave work to get a vaccination. Rob asked if this was a result of a communication problem whether people think they might have to pay and they do not. Beth agreed that this is the case for some people who do not understand that for reasons such as a language barrier, people with literacy problems and potentially cannot read the Public Health websites, as well as for some individuals who do not have access then it is possible to not necessarily know it is free.

Rob Paterson also indicated he appreciates the monthly newsletter and finds it very informative. In addition, he appreciated the information on World Relief. Beth commented that staff members who do the newsletter take this on above and beyond their regular workload.

Mike Norton had no updates to report.

Claire Steger had no updates; but, thanked the staff and stated appreciation for the presentations.

Paul Janty stated that he, Beth, and Mike met with UW-Oshkosh in regards to the county-wide housing study which is slowly moving forward. Early 2022, more details will be coming. Paul thanked Beth for setting up today's presentations.

Larry Lautenschlager asked Beth if she has been briefed on the county exec's new committee agenda preparation procedures and if there are any problems foreseen with it. Beth stated she was unaware of any updates. Agendas now need to go through the county exec's office. Beth stated she currently puts the agenda together based on what the Committee is asking for. Larry stated that the County Exec also wants more intense discussion put into the minutes than just brief highlights. Some committees only give very brief summaries. Beth stated that because ADRC Committee meetings are recorded and transcribed, detailed minutes are already done for this Committee's meetings. **Mike Norton** explained that on specific agenda items, the County Exec wants more detail so that the public is aware of what will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Beth indicated she felt this was a valid request as today's agenda is very brief and that committee members are aware of what is being discussed; however, the agenda is public and may not contain enough information for the public to know if they would want to log in to listen to the meeting.

9. **Next Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.**

With no further business, Mike Norton made a motion to adjourn and Liz Jones seconded.

Respectfully submitted: Beth Roberts