

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE OF MEETING:** Monday, February 12, 2024

**TIME OF MEETING:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Oshkosh Human Services Building. Room 033, 220 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

**Members Present:** Kate Pfaendtner, Jan Olson, Harold Singstock, Rob Paterson, Michael Robinson, Jim Ponzer, Sue Ertmer, Jim Lauer, Brooke Slick, Elizabeth Jones (virtual)

**Members Excused:** Tanisha Alvarado, Tamar Mathwig

**Staff Present:** Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler, Lori Duclon (Public Health), Alisa Richetti, Karenna Jolin (virtual)

**Others Present:** Kristine Hutter from City of Menasha Public Health Director

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Kate Pfaendtner.

1. **Public Comments:** No public comments.
2. **Approve Minutes of the January 8, 2024, ADRC Committee Meeting:** Jan Olson made a motion to approve the January minutes, motion seconded by Harold Singstock. Minutes approved by committee. Members provided self-introductions.
3. **Falls Prevention Program – Beth Roberts and Brian Nagler:** **Beth Roberts** shared information on the Falls Prevention Program which the ADRC started with the Oshkosh Fire Department to look at individuals who experience repeated falls. The Oshkosh Fire Department now charges for providing assistance to an individual who experiences more than two falls. When a fall occurs, paramedics now make a referral to the United Way 2-1-1 Program. 2-1-1 provides information to the individual on fall prevention services, classes, and/or equipment offered in the community through the ADRC, Rebuilding Together, Public Health Department, Oshkosh Senior Center, and Ascension at Homecare. Individuals can avoid fines for multiple falls by engaging in some sort of assistance with falls prevention. Since inception, the falls prevention program has expanded to other local fire departments. **Brian Nagler** shared that all referrals went directly to the ADRC when the falls prevention program began; however, 2-1-1 now disseminates referrals to the proper agency based on the individual's needs. **Lori Duclon** stated that nurses from Public Health can provide in-home fall assessments. Fall statistics are available online or by contacting Beth Roberts.

**Beth Roberts** stated there is a fundraising event being held Friday for Building Together called An Old-Fashioned Tasting at the Timber Rattler's stadium. Cost is \$40/person.

**Dementia Program Updates – Alisa Richetti:** **Alissa Richetti** provided the following program updates:

- **Dementia caregiver awareness campaign** – **Alissa Richetti** reported since the last meeting, the dementia awareness campaign conducted advertising. Traffic on the ADRC dementia website was September-543, October-440, November-406, December-102, January-550. Website topics within the most traffic were caregiver support, caregiver respite, prevention and brain

health, and diagnosis. Only half of the allotted budget has been spent thus far so advertising will continue in the upcoming months.

- Memory Cafes – Memory cafes were moved around in attempts to draw in more people including changing the Menasha location to the Menasha Senior Center. Oshkosh cafes continue to be held at the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue YMCA and the Oshkosh Public Library cafes are now rotating to various locations.
- Dementia Support Groups – Bella Vista has a new support group for dementia caregivers. Fox Valley Memory Project added a new group for caregivers of individuals with frontal temporal dementia. There is a men's caregiver's support group at Café Nutrition. Valley VNA is again hosting various Lyrics and Laughter sessions on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 for individuals with memory loss and their caregivers.
- Caregiver Training – Several staff attended the Savvy Caregiver training focused on educating caregivers on the stages of dementia and finding activities suited to individual's capabilities and interests.
- Dementia Training – New staff are being trained on the four dementia training modules.
- Brain and Body Fitness class – Alissa reported a brain and body fitness class is being looked into being offered for individuals who do not have a dementia diagnosis however suffer from some kind of memory loss.
- Caregiver Conference Planning – Planning has begun for the November caregiver conference to be held in Oshkosh. An idea is to do a caregiver roadmap model with a panel of various community members who would explain how to plan for the future. **Liz Jones** stated that the conference rooms at FVTC could be utilized to host community events such as this for free. Liz shared Teresa Tuschl's contact information as she can provide a tour to determine whether the space suites the needs of this conference.
- Virtual Dementia Tour – In 2023, the virtual dementia tour was attended by 93 caregivers. Staff from Winnebago Mental Health have also been attending. The remaining pot of Alzheimer Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) funding was used to purchase equipment. Sessions are held the second Tuesdays of each month from 1:30-4:30 at Parkview Healthcare with sessions being approximately 30 minutes in length. Contact the ADRC to sign up for a tour.

4. **Agenda and questions for Legislators in March – All:** Several state assemblymen (or someone representing their office) are planning to attend the March ADRC Committee meeting including Lee Snodgrass, Lori Palmeri, and Michael Schraa. The following ideas were suggested for discussion and additional ideas should be submitted to Beth by Friday:

- Caregiver shortage – caregiver stories, Parkview staff shortage in spite of position funds. Long waiting list for residents to get into Parkview.
- Restarting CNA training programs for new immigrants such as the one FVTC had at one time.
- Increase wages for caregivers.
- Increase awareness of resources available to those in need and their caregivers – including AFCSP and NFCSP funding, resources in the community, support groups.
- APS worker stories, increased APS funding.
- Updated AFCSP income level, perhaps institute a sliding fee scale.
- Staff questions.
- ADRC and surrounding communities to becoming "a voice as one united" to work together on issues.
- Efforts to assist individual families with direct caregiver funds, supports for individuals, transportation, meal programs, etc.
- Assistance with removing barriers to individuals/families seeking alternative solutions for caring for loved ones with disabilities (i.e. large out-of-pocket upfront costs to family for placement of disabled individuals in nongroup home housing setting).

Suggestion – Inform providers that legislators are coming to March meeting in case they are also interested in attending.

5. **Wheelchair Wash – Beth Roberts:** Planning has started for the wheelchair wash scheduled for either August 10<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Committee members are welcome to join the planning committee which will likely meet four times prior to the event.

6. **Reports - Committee Member Updates:**

**Kate Pfaendtner** – No updates to report.

**Jan Olson** – Jan shared information on her meeting with the manager of the Highlands Senior Apartments in Winneconne and Neenah. The Winneconne location has a senior center located within the complex however attendance at the center is low. Event information is printed in the Winneconne News which is only posted once a month. Fliers on additional events were shared with the manager who will post those at the Winneconne Senior Center. The Strong Bones Program is well attended. Events being held at the Winneconne Senior Center will be added into the ADRC monthly newsletter. The manager would like to add events on falls prevention, Lifeline, and a monthly health chat on a variety of subjects followed by BP checks. The center is open 8-5 Mondays through Fridays.

**Harold Singstock** – No updates to report.

**Rob Paterson** – No updates to report.

**Michael Robinson** – No updates to report.

**Jim Ponzer** – Jim has been attending meetings such AFL-CIO and steelworkers, Oshkosh Truck to share ADRC information. Jim questioned whether he could relay information on federal programs such as reduced phone service and urban housing loans.

**Michael Robinson** – Michael stated that 1) Fox Crossing does not have a committee on aging as all activities are done through the Park and Rec Department 2) City of Neenah wants to be added to the mailing list, 3) Menasha Committee on Aging offers a lot activities.

**Brooke Slick** – No updates to report.

**Liz Jones** – No updates to report.

**Beth Roberts** – No updates to report.

**Brian Nagler** – reported 61 enrollments to IRIS/Family Care and 79 individual functional screens.

**Lori Duclon** is looking for more Tai Chi trainers. Strong Bodies was well-attended. There has been a downtick in numbers for RSV, COVID, and the flu.

7. **Community Beat:**

Kristine Hutter from City of Menasha Public Health Director shared that she found attending the meeting helpful and will be added to the mailing list.

**Kate Pfaendtner** adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Next meeting: March 11, 2024