

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 10, 2022

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: 220 Washington Ave room 33 and VIRTUAL

Members Present: Paul F Janty, Michael Norton, Elizabeth Jones, Jan Olson, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock,

Members Excused: Kate Pfaendtner, Tamar Mathwig, Fritz Rudy, and Michael Robinson

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Alana Erickson

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM.

1. **Public Comments** – no public comments.
2. **Approval of September 12, 2022 minutes** – **Mike Norton** made a motion to approve the September meeting notes, motion seconded by **Jan Olson**. **Rob Paterson** posed an amendment to the wording contained in the last paragraph on the bottom of the 2nd page regarding the cultural program being held at the YMCA. The amended minutes were approved by all committee members in attendance.
3. **Caregiver Support Program Demographics** – statistics were shared with the committee
4. **Time Banking** – **Beth Roberts** reported that time banking had been discussed at the last meeting as a potential way to help alleviate some of the caregiver shortage. Another idea discussed was hiring of refugees in caregiver positions. Beth stated she had contacted World Relief in regards to this, but has not heard back from them. Beth shared the link for an article that appeared in the Oshkosh Herald about refugees who had been hired as caregivers.

In regards to time banking, **Paul Janty** stated he looked at what is occurring in Wisconsin and there are only two active programs nearby. One is located in Antigo and is sponsored by a credit union. The other program is located in the Milwaukee area. This program appears as though it has been inactive for the last 4-5 months and is not geared toward community support.

Beth talked about a time banking program that she is interested in pursuing and will send the link to committee members. This has a lot of support with this program; however, funding the program locally could pose a barrier as a grant or project funding would be needed. Fees for the program are based on how many people are involved in the time banking.

Mike Norton expressed the concern of who would maintain the program such as tracking how many people are participating. Beth stated that the program is able to do that type of tracking. The program also allows time bank users to "donate" hours to other time bank users. Time is not "weighted" in the sense of the amount of labor, knowledge, or training. Paul replied that the two samples he saw were fashioned in that same manner and that increments under an hour defaulted to one hour of support.

Mike Norton asked how big of an area would we start with? Beth shared her opinion would be to start small with a neighborhood association to establish the program. **Alana Erickson** stated this is on the agenda for the Alliance meeting occurring tonight. Alana stated the Alliance is a representative of each neighborhood association and is led by the City of Oshkosh and Healthy Neighborhoods. Alana will ask whether some sort of platform will be utilized to manage the banking system.

The discussion on time banking was being tabled and Beth will get the link to Committee members. Hopefully by next month, the Committee can learn more about what the Neighborhood Association will be doing as well as find out from **Kate Pfaendtner** about what was experienced in Winneconne. **Jan Olson** stated there are lots of needs out there.

Beth shared that the start-up costs for a small group of users is around \$50 and for the whole county Beth thought the fees were around \$250 which would add up to around \$600 a year. Rate information can be found in the link Beth shared.

5. **Staffing Changes / Updates – Beth Roberts** – Beth reported some progress with staffing:

- The last day for the Oshkosh EBS was last week; however, she will continue as a temporary employee on Fridays due to the open enrollment. Her replacement starts Monday, October 17th with crossover training taking place with the Neenah EBS.
- The ADRC receptionist has transferred to another county position and her replacement has been chosen; however, no start date has been determined yet.
- HELP Program – Part of the Neighborhood Grant that the County received is being utilized for the new HELP Program which is intended to help prevent homelessness. 1) To look at prevention, better coordination of resources/supports that are currently available, and determining what other supports need to be developed. 2) To assist with housing stability by offering actual assistance to people who find filling out paperwork and following through. 3) To do strong promotions that let the community know to contact the program before eviction or homelessness occurs. This will entail looking at how to make the community aware that resources are available. 4) After resources were provided, follow-up at three months, six months, and 12 months to ensure individuals have housing stability.

Mike Norton asked how it relates to what Advocap does. Beth responded that there are already other programs such as ADVOCAP's Bridges Program. When looking at the core reason of why someone is potentially losing their housing, it could be due to the loss of transportation which could lead to loss of employment. ADVOCAP and Forward Health both have programs to help individuals with transportation to employment. There are also programs available to help individuals seeking employment. ADVOCAP runs another program to help with rental assistance. There are programs that assist in avoiding home foreclosure. The HELP program will assist individuals in figuring out and applying for the available resources. A decision tree / graph will be used to determine which sets of resources are appropriate based on the individual applying such as veterans and people with children.

The newly hired HELP supervisor will be starting on October 31st. She is not from this area and will have to learn all of the various resources available locally, will help get the HELP program up and running, will be spending time working with individuals experiencing housing instability, helping with promotion of the program, and hiring of 2-4 staff who will be called HELP Specialists. Beth added when the grant ends in 2024.

Paul Janty asked whether the HELP Program will have headquarters in Neenah and Oshkosh. Beth replied that staff will be available throughout the county. Offices for the supervisor and two staff will be located in Oshkosh on the third floor between the Vet's and ADRC. Space in the Neenah Office is limited so an office space will need to be worked through. Paul asked whether there will be any staff in Omro or Winneconne. Beth said that staff will go to locations across the county that do not have an office as more of a mobile experience. Should referrals grow extensively in outer regions of the county, then Beth said staff will schedule day week at the community center or libraries in those communities.

Mike Norton commented that people will think that the HELP Program will help people with homelessness. Beth responded that is not the intention of the HELP Program rather to look at

housing instability and preventing homelessness. It could involve working with landlords, understanding tenant rights, and helping people who have not yet been evicted.

Paul Janty asked if there are other programs in the state similar to the HELP Program. Beth stated she has not found any other programs in the country like this. Most of the existing programs in the state deal with individuals who are already homeless, so Beth will be gleaning some ideas from them. In addition, she has already partnered with some homeless coalitions in the area. Beth noted that the program is modeled a lot after the ADRC stance of "come to us before you need us; help us prevent you having to leave your home."

Beth stated that once the program begins, data will be tracked for certain data points in order to track the success of the program.

6. Reports:

a. Committee Member Updates

Mike Norton shared the following:

- Next month he would like to invite the Vets Office to learn more about their services.
- There are two open slots on the committee and Mike commented that the County Exec should be impressed upon to appoint two new members soon as a quorum was barely met for today's meeting. Beth replied that this morning she did leave a message for a woman in Neenah who could replace the geographic area that Claire had vacated. Beth has not heard back from the woman yet and should they connect in the next day or two, this can still go on the agenda for next month.

Jan Olson had no updates to report.

Liz Jones had no updates to report.

Rob Paterson reported as follows:

- Rob went along on a bus ride with several ADRC staff and is pictured on the fourth page of the monthly ADRC newsletter. The group went on three bus routes including to Aurora Hospital, Walmart, and the Senior Center to become familiar with some of the obstacles taking the bus entails and to gather feedback from riders. Beth stated that when Walmart first opened, the bus stop was right in front of the door. Now, the pick up is on the street outside of the parking lot which is difficult as there is no walkway to the pickup location. Rob shared that he learned how to take the bus by doing and has developed strategies for taking the bus by first considering where he is going as well as any mobility concerns. Rob stated the only places where the buses go into the parking lot are Aurora and Mercy Oakwood. Beth stated that bus riders have to walk across a busy street in order to access some of the area medical clinics. **Mike Norton** asked what time the group rode the bus. One of the challenges is during the times when some of the buses are being occupied with children being bused to and from school which can cause buses to be running late. The policy at some clinics is that patients who show up late lose their appointment. **Larry Lautenschlager** stated that in the past, the ADRC had fought for the busing to go into the hospital parking lots. **Liz Jones** inquired whether the bus riding experience was recorded. Beth stated that it was not recorded. Liz stated that some school staff will kick students out of their class upon being late twice. Recording the difficulties experienced with the riding experience could be a powerful tool to educate those in positions of authority
- Rob reported he attended a very interesting Memory Café presentation on a variety of reptiles and attendees were able to touch. Beth stated that Memory Cafes are held

throughout the county and are meant to provide new experiences which are very engaging, especially to those with dementia.

- Rob shared an article he found regarding the younger generation not wanting to keep jobs as long. He commented that employers have to be more in tune with the dynamic of what will keep the person doing the job. Beth added that providing regular feedback along with instant gratification needs to be looked at so employees feel their work is meaningful.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Larry Lautenschlager had no updates to report.

Alana Erickson reported the following updates:

- Alana and **Nicole Davis Dawald** participated in a workshop that AARP put on to introduce different types of housing options. They met with other agencies who are working towards livable communities and learned what others have tried in order to bring awareness to the issue. Most communities are thinking about how the AARP funding really plays into the livable communities. Alana brought back some templates on ordinances. Due to current ordinances, some areas of Oshkosh are not set up to readjust the housing structure. The housing group will need to start by talking to the City to see if there is resistance to ordinance changes. Recently, there was little resistance when the tiny house village was put up as the council was very supportive of trying new options. **Beth Roberts** added that nationwide, the zoning and ordinances are part of the barrier. Getting municipalities to change these will open up opportunities. Alana shared that the AARP website has a livable communities library where free pamphlets and booklets can be ordered.
- Alana reported they are receiving a \$100,000 grant which will be utilized for the parent resource hour which just started in July. During parent resource hour, parents can come into either the Neenah or Oshkosh office to get their kids caught up on vaccines, talk to someone about breastfeeding, parenting classes, developmental screenings, immunizations, free car seats, etc. There is a concern; however, as the quality and equity position was pulled from the budget as well as a larger grant was turned down because of having the word "equity". Alana stated she can be contacted for more details regarding this.

Mike Norton stated that the ARPA commission in this county is working very slowly and wondered if the Human Services Department has been approached with what can be funded. Mike stated he would like the Committee to look at what can be funded in the next month or so and suggested the Committee submit ideas.

Beth Roberts stated the agenda for the November meeting will include:

- Follow-up to the time banking conversation. This may be a suitable project to suggest for ARPA funds as this would only require a very small amount of money.
- Beth will talk to **Jeff Bucholtz** at the Vets to see if he can join the next meeting.
- **Sara Brown**, the new HELP supervisor, will be introduced at the meeting.
- Beth will check to see if **Alisa Richetti** can do a dementia care update at the meeting.

With no further business, **Mike Norton** made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by **Liz Jones**. **Paul Janty** adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: November 14, 2022