

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 01/10/2022

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Elizabeth Jones, Harold Singstock, Jan Olson, Michael Norton, Kate Pfaendtner, Peter Christianson, Larry Lautenschlager, Rob Paterson, Tamar Mathwig

Members Excused: Fritz Rudy, Claire Steger

Staff Present: Brian Nagler, Nicole Davis-Dawald, Karena Jolin, Alisa Richetti, Alana Erickson

Paul Janty called the meeting to order.

1. Public Comments:

No members of the public were present at today's meeting.

2. Falls Prevention Program – Karena Jolin, Nicole Davis Dawald, and Brian Nagler:

Karena Jolin reported there have been changes to the way falls referrals are received and that she now receives direct reports from EMS containing the full details. Karena reported from the end of September to December, around 70 fall referrals have been received. Referrals as of late seem to be more responsive than before. She reported that even though people do not always feel the need for resources, having a conversation about "who we are" and "what we can provide" is helpful as well as having a friendly voice call them to chat for a bit has been beneficial. The new more detailed reports Karena receives help because if the person does not answer the phone call, the information relayed can be tailored to the situation. For example, if the report indicates the person had laid on the floor for a lengthy period of time due to not having an personal emergency response system (PERS), then the information on PERS is mailed to them. If the fall was due to weakness, then information on Wellness Plus classes is sent. To be able to provide information specific to each situation is much better than sending out a general letter with resources on the ADRC.

Paul Janty asked Karena if she is working with only Oshkosh EMS. Karena reported mostly working with Oshkosh and that she receives an occasional referral from Omro. In addition, there have been talks about moving the falls program to other cities. Brian stated that Neenah-Menasha is interested in some fashion, but they have not gotten there quite yet. The Regional Trauma Advisory Committee from Theda Clark meets once a quarter and were interested in partnering.

Nicole Davis Dawald stated that the Falls Prevention meeting is on Thursday. Before Christmas, one of the goals was to have placemats printed which contain a falls risk assessment and information on who to contact when a fall occurs. In order to get the word out, these placemats are to be handed

out to restaurants where people go to breakfast. Theda is printing the placements. In attempts to get the information out to more people, Nicole reached out to the Herald to have this posted in the newspaper around the holidays; however, did not get very far as the Herald wanted \$600. The hope was to have the information printed in the newspaper when all of the Christmas ads are printed because that is when people are really looking at the paper. So, if \$600 is going to be spent on putting this in the newspaper, then it should be printed at a time when people are again looking.

Alisa Richetti stated that regarding falls prevention, she had spoken with Chuck Hable to schedule a dementia training for EMS staff. In May, Alisa will be holding a three-day training for EMS staff regarding working with and responding to falls for people with dementia.

Pete Christianson asked if he could get a full-size copy of the information Nicole has on falls prevention as he would like to see if he can get that information printed in the Winneconne News. Nicole stated she will send him a copy.

3. Aging Plan – Nicole Davis Dawald:

Nicole Davis Dawald reported that the aging plan had already been approved by the Committee. Nicole was finally able to get the budget approved by the state. The difficulty is that prior to October, the claim form for the state looked like different, so claims were never delineated as specified as the State wants and Nicole was doing a budget based upon claims that were never tracked. It is a little more difficult because there is no history with how much money should be put into the categories. Nicole stated that Beth had sent out the budget and asked if everyone had a chance to look it over. Nicole reported approximately \$131,000 in IIIB funding which generally goes into the admin of ADVOCAP for the meal programs and transportation. In Title IIIC, right now there are no congregate meal sites open so likely will be transferred into the home delivered meals funding as due to the huge increase in home delivered meals. There are counties that have their meal sites open; however, it looks very uncertain that local meal sites will reopen in 2022. Everything claimed in IIIE used to be under one category; however, now the State wants everything specified. The amounts are generally the same as last year. There are additional ARPA funds that need to be used by 2024 and have not been used yet and can be used to help people with things that could not be helped out with in the past.

Paul Janty asked Nicole the total amount she is seeking approval for. Nicole indicated that the grand total is \$1,637,440. Paul Janty made a motion as the chair for \$1,637,440 for the 2022 Winnebago County Aging Budget and the motion was seconded by Mike Norton. **Harold Singstock** asked what amount the county puts in for 2022. Nicole stated that the levy amount is \$508,000 dependent on receiving the in-kind match of \$11,000 or \$519,000 if the in-kind match is not received. This year because of the extra federal money received, the transfer saved about \$300,000 in county levy. A vote was taken and all committee members were in favor of the budget.

4. Dementia Services Update – Alisa Richetti:

Alisa Richetti provided the following updates update on the dementia programs:

- Alisa stated that even with COVID, some great community resources and programs are available that have been slowly opening up. In Winnebago County, the Neenah respite program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is two days a week for two hours a day. An Oshkosh church has approved opening for respite one afternoon a month starting on January 25th.

This is a collaboration between Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Valley VNA, and the ADRC where caregivers can drop off the loved one with dementia. A CNA is there as well as planned activities. This provides caregivers an opportunity to run errands and provide a break in some way. Alisa stated these programs are open with precautions of masking and social distancing which has been monitored very closely. The feeling of social isolation that people have, especially those with dementia, has been very difficult for caregivers, so Alisa stated they want to make sure there are ways to give the caregivers support.

- Alisa reported a new program is being opened up at the Oshkosh Public Library. A Mindworks Program will be starting in February which is run by the Fox Valley Memory Project. This program is already running in Menasha and Appleton and is for people who have the early stages of memory loss and early dementia. This program provides an opportunity for people to come together for three hours with a meal along with cognitive and physical activities. Alisa is excited to offer another respite opportunity geared towards those in the early stages of memory loss. Precautions and social distancing will be in place.
- All memory cafes are in-person with two in Oshkosh with locations at the YMCA on 20th and the Public Library. The Menasha and Neenah Library hold their memory cafes monthly.
- Alisa reported she held presentations at the Oshkosh and Menasha senior centers on memory screens and brain health. Alisa is starting to slowly roll out some time at the senior centers where people can sign up to meet with her to have a memory screen or to just talk about a caregiver consultation or questions about dementia. Alisa reported it is nice because people have attended the presentations that then come back asking to talk with her about their situation. Alisa feels headway is slowly being made in reaching people in the community who are unaware of a lot of the resources. This will continue in 2022.
- Alisa reported that the Fox Valley Memory Project was awarded a nearly \$1 million grant for three years and are gearing up to start in Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca Counties. The grant entails providing support for people with dementia who are living in the community and their loved ones. This evidence-based program will have care navigators working with people to get linked up with supports in services and resources in the community. Fox Valley Memory Project is in the early phases of getting up and running. Alisa stated they are working to collaborate with the ADRC and other entities to get lots of referrals to start helping to connect with people. There will be a presence in the libraries as well as the ability to meet with people in their home, over the phone, via email. The project has a dementia focus along with a component for people who have intellectual disabilities that commonly end up having some type of dementia. A lot of outreach and education is being done related to that population as well. Alisa wanted to make sure everyone at the ADRC is aware of this program so these resources can be well used in the community.
- Alisa reported there are 12 different memory cafes in the Fox Valley. A sheet goes out monthly with Fox Valley Memory Project's calendar of all the different cafes and activities that are planned. This information is also available on the ADRC website.
- **Paul Janty** asked Alisa whether there was interest in Winneconne or Omro to hold a memory café or something similar. Alisa stated she has not had anyone reach out from that area; however, this has been in the back of her mind to do so since starting her position. Alisa stated her energy has been rebuilding Oshkosh again since closures. Alisa indicated she is unsure what the need is in Winneconne and Omro; however, plans to start connecting in order to establish some partnerships to begin networking in the future.

- **Mike Norton** requested Alisa to email him general information on resources in the community regarding the memory cafes and other topics spoken about in today's meeting for the purpose of promotion via social media and with the county board. Alisa is in the process of updating a sheet with all of the Winnebago County programs and will get that out.

5. Reports:

a. Manager's Reports:

- Brian reported being busy at the ADRC and had done 48 enrollment packets to Family Care and IRIS this month, which is consistent with each month being in the high 40s to mid-50s. There is considerable need out there and staff are receiving a lot of financial needs-based calls. As mentioned, Karenna has been able to assist with the NFCSP and AFCSP caregiver programs. Brian stated that case workers had the caregiver programs above and beyond their regular caseload. The advent of having Karenna work on these referrals that has helped to utilize the dollars at a higher level.
- Brian reported being in the process of hiring a replacement for Rebecca Groleau. Brian reported there is a strong group of interview candidates. New staff receive extensive job shadowing with the team who has a lot of expertise. Existing staff in the Oshkosh office have had to cover some on call responsibilities and are doing double-duty right now. Brian reports they keep on going, but it is difficult sometimes for staff.
- **Mike Norton** asked Brian whether he has toured Caravel Autism Health on Main Street which had been highlighted in the Oshkosh Herald. Brian reported he is not familiar with this facility; however, thought **Beth Roberts** would have some knowledge in that regard.

Alana Erickson reported as follows:

- **Alana** shared links with a lot of information and background details with a situational update containing bullet points of what is new. A lot of the previous processes that been put in place had already been at max burden to respond to the COVID cases that were coming in daily and now it is quite impossible. As an example, Alana reported this morning having over 1,000 letters to get in the mail before 1:00 based on test results that had not been processed on Saturday, Sunday, and then into today. All the staff got up, started folding letters, they then ran out of envelopes, had to go to other departments, and it is a very chaotic type of responsive action that is being taken. Alana stated her big hope and wish is that the State makes a change on the category of COVID soon. Being Category 1 requires Public Health to follow up individually with patients reported to them. If this get recategorized as a Category 2, then Public Health will only be tracking reported hospitalizations, trends, and outbreaks. No individual connect with regular COVID patients would be needed and it would become more like the flu. Stressing vaccinations is needed as is helping people understand that vaccination was never a cure to COVID, rather a protection for ourselves, hospital systems and the economy.
- Alana reported that boosters are now approved for ages 12 and up and would like to see more uptick at the vaccine clinics. Even with the expansions of eligibilities for boosters, no rush has been seen to get boosters nor pediatric vaccinations since November. Alana stated she is hoping for the change in category status as that would divert 10-20 staff away from working on those individual calls all day long that are not being very successful. Staff could focus work on supporting hospitals and long-term care facilities.

- **Paul Janty** asked Alana whether the number of shots listed in the weekly report is only the vaccinations Public Health is giving. Alana reported the vaccine data is cumulative; meaning that all locations providing vaccinations are included. Every person who uses a residential address in Winnebago County is counted in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). **Pete Christianson** commented that the VA; however, is not included in the numbers as "they do not talk to anybody." Alana stated there are a few antiquated systems out there and that is one thing that COVID is teaching government about being behind on electronics and technology.
- **Brian Nagler** asked whether there is any validity to reports that omicron is easier to catch, but not quite as difficult to deal with as previous strains that have come through. In addition, Brian asked whether there is any pervasive thought out there that "I am going to have a little snuffle. I am going to get the antibodies and that is going to help me with the next thing that is comes along." Alana stated that some are wanting to fight the disease on their own to build up antibodies and this is an informed health decision. The issue with omicron typically having less symptoms cannot be separated from the fact that most people are vaccinated who have way less symptoms, if any at all, and are not hospitalized. As omicron is coming in, it is looking weaker and not as threatening due to ½ to ¾ of the population being vaccinated. The problem with people not taking the vaccine and then chancing it on their own is the way that the virus can mutate and start attacking those with the vaccine thus negating all the work that has occurred so far. The vaccine created works around many of these variants, but the virus keeps staying ahead of us because of how rapid mutations occur.
- **Nicole Davis-Dawald** asked when a person can receive a booster. Alana stated boosters should be given after five months from the time of the second vaccination dose. The hotline can be called for questions about vaccines and boosters.
- **Harold Singstock** asked whether another booster will be needed at some point for those who have already had a booster now. Alana stated the hope is for the vaccination to combined at some point with the yearly flu vaccine as they are similar in seasons and populations who are at risk (which goes along with being a respiratory disease).
- **Harold Singstock** asked whether the county has a "game plan" regarding this mandate issue. Alana Erickson stated based on the history of our administration, no local mandate is likely. Mike Norton asked Harold if he was referring to a mandate where all county employees are to be vaccinated or whether he means everyone in the county has to be vaccinated. Mike agreed with Elizabeth and Alana that requiring all county employees to be vaccinated is a very big issue. Unless the Federal Government, the Biden Administration, and the Supreme Court declare a mandate, Mike did not believe it would happen. Harold clarified he has been wondering if the County has had any discussion or planning regarding requiring county employees to be vaccinated. Alana stated there has definitely been discussion, however, has not moved forward with any likelihood.

b. Committee Member Updates:

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Jan Olson asked if Alana is aware of any research or pharmaceutical firm that is looking at a typical vaccine for COVID that is like the flu with an attenuated virus vaccine. Jan shared those

take years to develop and believes that is how the MRNA technology came about with the research and development a few years back being ready to roll out, even though it was called experimental for a long time. **Alana Erickson** has not seen anything within the last month. The last time she had looked into this topic and the MRNA history, its 10-year development was determined to be better than a live virus vaccine. MRNA is easier and safer to manufacture. She does not see this going "backwards" towards a different type of vaccine unless the virus mutates completely to something beyond a respiratory COVID-type look which would then be dealing with a different virus pandemic.

Rob Paterson had no updates to report.

Kate Pfaendtner had no updates to report.

Mike Norton reported that next Monday, the City of Oshkosh housing study will be released at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

Tamar Mathwig had a question regarding Beth's prior meeting request for particular focus areas that any committee members want to address. From a family caregiver perspective, Tamar shared she is wondering how other families are doing in the county who are caregivers for elderly parents or children with disabilities. Personally, COVID has posed a real hardship and she is unsure of all the resources and supports available and is concerned if other families are uncertain as well. **Nicole Davis-Dawald** stated she is an internship coordinator and is hustling to get everything ready for the two interns coming February. One of the interns will be creating a better resource database by going out and connecting with people in the community as well as finding new resources. The other intern will be focused on adult protective services.

Paul Janty asked whether there was a caregiver's conference as there had been in the past. **Nicole Davis-Dawald** replied the Committee is talking about holding a conference in May; however, the Committee has to wait due to COVID. Nicole stated the Caregiver Expo may be connected with something in the fall. Nicole asked to get a couple people to participate in the age-friendly committee to assist with planning goals in the area of transportation and housing. If anyone is interested, email Nicole.

Pete Christianson had several topics to report:

- Pete reported that another 16-foot trailer load of excess medical supplies is being sent to Orphan Grain Train – which is one a month for the last three months. Pete reported that people keep donating which goes to a good purpose.
- Pete reported in regards to falls prevention that he had fallen for the first time in 1 ½ years and managed to break a rib so he was not at work on Tuesday. The next day, someone called in to report having tested positive for COVID after being at work the prior day. A major panic ensued, so a call was made to one of the Winnebago County Public Health nurses who completely relieved his mind of what should be done. On Saturday, they were half-staffed and opened up for emergencies only. Several more people showed up and by the end of the two hours was taking care of all the people.
- Pete reported information for the resource book and website, that Mobility 4 Vets has a new address of 700 Industrial Drive in Waupaca. Mobility 4 Vets rehabs and sells

wheelchairs at cost, usually about \$200-250. Pete verified that Mobility 4 Vets is in the resource listing and stated they send most of their wheelchairs to them.

- Pete reported once again trying to get together with Appleton New Lions to have a sub-medical locker there. There continues to be a struggle with finding heated real estate with running water available to start a medical locker. Pete invited committee members who have not been to the medical locker to view it. The locker is located in Larsen. Pete reports continuing to work hard; although at times last year they were closed. **Paul Janty** shared that for those who are interested in seeing the locker, it is one of the most inspiring things ever done and is an absolutely amazing operation all run by volunteers. Paul stated he and Beth will make some arrangements for an April or May tour to occur.

Paul Janty shared that he, Beth, and Mike have been having regular conversations with the UWO. A UW-Oshkosh sociologist has been contracted who has experience in the field of numbers, data gathering, and data modeling and will be compiling the following for:

- 1) A census of living situations across the county. I.e. Number of people who live in supervised apartments, group homes, community based residential facilities, memory care, assisted living facilities, etc.
- 2) Looking at the aging population of the county, anticipated needs in terms of housing.
- 3) Present findings first to this group. The hope is to talk with various groups and make presentations. In May, June, or July there should be a pretty good feel for that. The City of Oshkosh's study is more high level and this is more tailored to what the needs are.

Paul Janty stated one of his interests would be for dementia beds with memory care and how the Committee can target that area in particular. Paul hoped for solid information that is not based on the outdated systems that Alana had talked about earlier in the meeting.

Mike Norton asked when conflict of interest forms need to be turned in. **Paul Janty** stated that Committee members should have all gotten packets of materials including a conflict of interest statement which needs to be signed, dated, and returned to Beth Roberts soon.

Tamar Mathwig questioned that the form indicates there should be a statement about the conflict of interest and asked whether there is a statement in the 30-page packet. Paul suggested to give Beth a call in this regard as each person's situation may be a little different.

Jan Olson stated that she felt the whole packet was well put together and loved the diagram on the Long-Term Support Division which helps put names with actual positions. Jan stated her address is wrong as she moved a little over a year ago.

Kate Pfaendtner also noticed that some of the expiration dates for committee members were incorrect although Beth said she had emailed out an updated copy. **Paul Janty** stated that updates had been made to expiration dates but will need to get out to Committee members.

6. “Next Meeting – Monday, February 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.”

With no further business, Mike Norton made a motion to adjourn and Kate Pfaendtner seconded.

Respectfully submitted: Beth Roberts