

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Monday, February 8, 2021

TIME: 3:03 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Harold Singstock, Paul Janty, Pete Christianson, Michael Norton, Don Hansen, Larry Lautenschlager, Alisa Richetti, Jan Olson, Elizabeth Jones, Nicole Neuhoff, Rob Paterson, Tanisha Alvarado, Alana Erickson, Kate Pfaendtner, Elizabeth Jones

Members Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler, Bryn Ceman

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Public Comments:

No public comments given at this time

2. Approve Minutes of the December 14, 2020 ADRC Meetings:

Pete Christianson motioned to approve and Harold Singstock Christianson seconded the motion.

3. New ADRC Staff – Alisa Richetti, ADRC Dementia Care Specialist:

Alisa introduced herself and indicated she has been with Winnebago County Human Services since 1990. In 2010 when the ADRC started, Alisa became an Information and Assistance (I&A) Specialist which she been doing since that time. She is excited to begin in her new role as an ADRC Dementia Care Specialist and will be touching base with local organizations such as Fox Valley Memory Project and Oshkosh YMCA Caregiver Support Group. She will also be providing ongoing dementia trainings to programs such as Dementia Friends Program, Purple Angel Program, and local law enforcement agencies. In the near future, she will be taking over the memory respite program and providing opportunities for plays that help the younger generations understand dementia.

4. Update and discussion on legislators in March – Beth Roberts:

Beth Roberts stated that Representatives Hintz, Snodgrass, and Cabrera have confirmed attendance at next month's meeting. Beth will be emailing an agenda for the meeting and was seeking committee input on potential topics of discussion. Beth indicated one topic should include special needs transportation funding cuts.

Pete Christianson spoke regarding the concern of low pay and high staff turnover at group homes indicating that this problem simply worsens in time. He was willing to bring this up next week.

Don Hanson indicated that the Alzheimer's Association in Green Bay has an upcoming virtual meeting of which Alisa will check into for guidance.

Mike Norton questioned Beth whether the resolution which had been passed at the Human Services Board regarding ADRC personnel funding will be emailed. Beth indicated that she is unsure whether Bill will have this ready and will bring it up if so. Beth spoke regarding supporting the "White Paper" effort which is currently underway which advocates for increased APS funding to counties statewide. She also shared that they plan to share information on ADRC services to the representatives. spoke regarding the caregiver crisis being an issue even prior to COVID. The impact is that smaller caregiver programs are finding that agencies have been "dictating" rates and how many hours they will allow for a prospective customer because agencies cannot afford for staff to go in for only one to two hours which is bringing about three-hour minimums. This ultimately means less dollars are left available for caregiver services. Beth indicated she also has heard of instances of where individuals do not want three-hours' worth of caregiver services at a time as it turns into having to "entertain" caregivers which is a barrier to those who are resistant to care.

Harold Singstock questioned whether Beth was satisfied with the results she receives when sending questions to Madison as he felt his past question of ADRC effectiveness did not receive a straight answer. Beth indicated that the State had done an ADRC effectiveness study but will not share the study results.

Tanisha Alvarado indicated she has personally experienced issues with care services. The three-hour minimum is not only unaffordable; that much care is often unnecessary. In addition, the services provided by many agencies are only non-medical due to lack of licensure. Governor Evers set up a Caregiving Task Force last year which had a lengthy proposal passed regarding changes in the caregiving workforce and Tanisha indicated the need to reach out to legislators in regards to promoting the implementation of these changes in the county. Tanisha also brought up issues regarding agencies not becoming licensed, not taking Medicaid, only doing private care, leaving lower priority clients without care due to shifting services to higher priority clients, and staff not being trained in medical care services due to hoops in retaining licensure. Beth stated that legislators are aware of Caregiver Task Force changes but indicated the need to stress to legislators the importance of prioritizing those changes. In addition, Beth informed the Committee of Family Care reimbursement rate cuts which filters on down to the service provider agencies.

Beth indicated concerns regarding the impact the reimbursement rates on service agencies which has led to a loss in provider agencies. Agencies cannot afford the funding cuts as well as having to pay for PPE. In addition, there is lack of individuals willing to take the entry level jobs. Liz indicated she is willing to bring this up at the legislative meeting. She will find out what the reimbursement rates are and what other states are doing in this regard. Beth shared concerns that statewide not only is there a decrease in funds as well as there used to be more "lifers" in the CNA field. A shortage of CNAs has ensued due to low pay as most individuals go on to a higher paying field. It was asked whether Governor Evers' effort from a few years back of pay boosts for caregivers at the lower end of their range and whether the effort is continuing in the next two budget years as well. Beth indicated that there had been two increases already and that the next budget is to be released in a few weeks at which time we will find out whether additional increases have been allotted.

5. Housing:

Paul Janty shared that Kewaunee County conducted a county-wide assessment of their housing inventory in attempts to anticipate future population growth/decreases and upcoming housing needs. He argued the review of Kewaunee's study as this mirrors baseline housing issues that Winnebago County faces as well.

Beth Roberts stated that the Fair Housing Market could potentially be helpful and they could be asked to attend an upcoming meeting to share their role and provide details on whether there is adequate housing to accommodate the various upcoming needs.

Harold Singstock stated that according to a recent newspaper article, Evergreen has a \$10 million housing project that they are starting. Mike Norton questioned whether that was "affordable" housing for seniors and recalled a conference he attended with the theme of neighborhoods comprised of homes for seniors, a convenience store, beauty shop, etc. He probed the idea of potentially providing an incentive to developers for building "pocket communities" around the county.

There was discussion about the importance of first finding a way to determine whether there is actually a need and stated concerns that those who are currently indicating there is a need are typically not the ones who actually have the need. **Beth Roberts** questioned what the next steps should be in determining housing needs. Brian indicated that at the next meeting he could provide ADRC data regarding housing issues including number of calls received and the primary challenges callers are presenting. **Alisa Richetti** shared that since COVID, a high volume of I&A calls are related to people encountering various challenges with housing. This is in spite of the new housing units in the area which have recently gone up, as these are filled up due to the overabundance of need. **Beth Roberts** shared that many of the new affordable housing opportunities that rely on housing development funds often come with perimeters which disqualify some individuals from being able to utilize that housing.

Tanisha Alvarado stated the Oshkosh / Winnebago County Housing Authority has a committee which has been working on housing solutions in the community and suggested

contacting them regarding receiving information on applying for funding as there is a "lottery" system in place for determination of who will be the recipients of State funding. Tanisha also shared numerous agencies affiliated with the Housing Authority and other agencies that she is aware of in the community that offer what is termed as affordable housing. She expressed an interest in starting a specialized housing committee that will work with the Housing Authority, ADRC, and the aging population and to find solutions to offer affordable living to all populations. **Beth Roberts** agreed to find out more about the Housing Authority's committee in order to ensure there is not a duplication of efforts and to explore the potential of enhancing their work.

Harold also questioned what the committee's role is when questioned about housing. He also expressed concerns regarding duplications and the overabundance of committees. **Beth Roberts** stated that when individuals come to them with housing needs, they are being referred to other programs such as the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program.

Larry Lautenschlager expressed he agrees with Tanisha and questioned whether the right types of facilities are being built to address current housing needs. He shared that the housing on Jackson Street will not accept individuals who have any sort of skilled nursing needs. He stated that the complex going up behind Fleet Farm is intended to be for seniors, assisted, and memory care. Larry reiterated the question whether the new Evergreen complex will be affordable. The building going up on Witzel will be providing all of those services; however, will only accept private pay as they are not government backed projects. He indicated many of the people he lives with actually should be in assisted living but remain where they are due to not wanting to pay the additional costs at an assisted living facility.

Elizabeth Jones shared her interest in the "pocket neighborhood" concept comprised of a mix of individuals from various age groups, abilities, and needs. She shared that Madison already has some of these blended neighborhoods in their community and felt the concept of having nearby supports may be helpful to those living in these types of neighborhoods. **Beth Roberts** shared an article in which Goodwill is working with neighborhood associations on trying to enhance the concept that people are not just "neighbors" and to work together to help one another. Beth stated she will see if Goodwill would be willing to talk to the committee in regards to this.

Bryn Ceman offered that the survey she presented on last month may be a good way to gauge the committee's local priorities and the data may help to pinpoint what their focus should be on. It was suggested that Brian and Bryn come back to the committee in April with a presentation regarding the information they have gained. Beth indicated she would present on this in April.

6. Reports:

a. Manager Report- Beth Roberts

Beth shared an update on COVID that many ADRC staff have received their first vaccination and some staff are getting their second vaccination this week. This is great due to the anticipation that soon staff will be going back into client's homes. No plan has been announced yet for reopening of the office building. PPE practices will remain in

place. Mike asked if staff will have a vaccine card to present to individuals prior to going into their homes to provide services. Beth shared that there has been discussion on this topic with the thought that the card given at the second vaccination might be utilized for this purpose. Another potential Beth shared is that the State sent out a form that might be modified for this purpose.

Mike Norton indicated that he had shared with Beth paperwork from Friday's NACo's Healthy County meeting in which a doctor from a national foundation presented information regarding COVID vaccination misconceptions and the safety of the COVID vaccinations. Beth questioned their role with promotion of those materials and shared that the ADRC website does have materials on FAQ from the CDC.

Bryan Nagler stated that they are in the process of hiring for another I&A. A new staff member named Jill is starting and is coming with experience from Vilas County. Rebecca Groleau has started working on-call and is doing very well in the position.

Bryn Ceman reported that Heather Cherry is departing from her position as an adult protective services worker as she is moving to Minnesota. Heather's position is posted along with a project position involving APS case management. Benefits specialists are continuing their *Welcome to Medicare* presentations virtually.

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

Alana Erickson shared a link to the Public Health website. She reported that close to 10 percent of Winnebago County residents have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination dose. 41.4 percent of adults 65+ have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination dose. Unfortunately, no doses were received this week. She reported great success in setting up mass vaccination clinics including one at Sunnyview where over 1200 doses were administered Thursday. The hope is that the Sunnyview vaccination clinic could deliver up to 1500 in a day once "fully oiled". She shared how overwhelming this has been on staff with clinics running into the nights and weekends. Alana requested the community to remain patient at this time and to consult the CDC and DHS websites when seeking factual vaccine information. Alana also indicated that vaccine clinics will be happening for the rest of the year. Beth shared that ADRC and Health and Human Services staff have aided in providing assistance to individuals with mobility needs. In addition, several compliments were made regarding how well things went for those receiving vaccinations at local vaccination sites. Mike questioned if individuals who are 1A have not been vaccinated, can they still receive their vaccination? These individuals can receive their vaccinations once doses are available. The group was reminded that the vaccine is free to everyone and posed the question of whether individuals must receive their dose in their local area? Alana indicated that is no residency status requirement for those receiving vaccinations at this time along with that there is no fee to vaccine recipients. Some health care systems are billing insurances for the doses but the \$50 cost should never fall on the patient as COVID care funds should be picking up the cost if insurance does not pay. Alana shared that the federal government

announced that they will ship doses directly to pharmacies which will be helpful in the disbursement of the vaccine to the public. This should be happening in another month or two. Jan questioned whether signing up on the waiting list at multiple locations is helpful or a hinderance. Alana indicated that this practice bombards the system and hinders strategizing efforts. Alana was asked to speak in relation to what the State is doing in regards to Microsoft having a common portal for obtaining doses. Alana informed the committee that the State paid for a scheduling platform of which Winnebago County has identified that they wish to utilize. Some staff are learning this platform which contains appointment system data which is updated daily such as: All of the locations doses are available, what doses they have available, and what group/s they are willing to vaccinate. Some large metropolitan areas across the country are having scheduling issues to include individuals receiving notification of being scheduled after the appointment should have already occurred. There were no issues heard of at the Sunnyview clinic site and credit was given to the staff in setup of the local clinic.

Don Hansen expressed his appreciation that the committee had addressed the area of dementia in today's meeting and stressed the importance of spreading information about dementia to the public.

Harold Singstock had no additional updates to report.

Jan Olson had no updates to report but thanked the committee for an interesting, informative meeting.

Nicole Neuhoff had no updates and thanked the committee for all that she had learned at today's meeting.

Pete Christianson reported another 16-foot trailer of excess equipment was sent to Orphan Grain Train, a park bench from plastic collections, he indicated they are a little short of beds right now as 25 were sent to Ukraine, no shortage of mattresses at this time, and reported two new volunteers in the last month.

Rob Paterson gave a reminder that there is voting Tuesday, February 16.

Michael Norton questioned whether there is assistance available for elderly in moving. Beth indicated that there is help available. Mike also questioned how the nutritional sites are doing in regards to providing home delivered meals.

Bryn Ceman reported that close to a year ago when all of the meal sites were shut down, all of the meal site participants were offered home delivered meals. Since that time, the requirements of what is considered "home bound" have been relaxed. ADVOCAP has been providing excellent services to the community in this regard. The Oshkosh Senior Center is open for some programs and it was questioned if that is the only senior center open in the county for programs at this time. Bryn stated that she believed that Pickett has been open for some small groups with masks and social distancing practices being followed. Menasha Senior Center is not open but are providing mobile services of

outreach, check-ins, and various interactive activities. Oshkosh has limited scheduled appointments with helping people become more familiar with technology. Beth Roberts indicated that \$2000 has being given to each of the senior centers to aid in COVID related expenses.

Alisa Richetti had no updates to report.

Kate Pfaendtner shared that the Community Foundation may be helpful resource in regards to housing.

Larry Lautenschlager spoke about many patrons in local stores not wearing masks citing their contention that there is no current mandatory mask mandate in place. There might be something coming up in relation to this on the County Board. In addition, the City Common Council will be addressing a resolution in their meeting tomorrow urging the Public Library Board of Trustees to open the Oshkosh Library to in-person services insuring that all necessary COVID-19 safety measures in place. The mask mandate is now in the hands of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

8. Next Meeting – March 8, 2011 via Zoom

With no further business, Mike Norton moved to adjourn the meeting and Elizabeth Jones seconded. Paul Janty adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted: