

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

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

**PLACE:** Oshkosh Human Services Building, Room 33

**Members Present:** Paul Janty, Susan Locke, Harold Singstock, Claire Steger, Pete Christianson, Kate Pfaendtner, Rob Paterson, Elizabeth Jones, Don Hansen, Michael Norton

**Members Excused:** Tanisha Alvarado, Jan Olson

**Staff Present:** Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler, Bryn Ceman and Julienne Gohde

**Others Present:** Anne Schaefer, Alana Erickson, Jim Godlewski

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** No public comments to report.
2. **Approve Minutes of the February 10, 2020 ADRC Meetings:** Mike Norton moved for approval of these minutes as written; seconded by Susan Locke and carried.
3. **Accessibility Input- Neenah City Attorney Jim Godlewski:** Jim has been the Neenah City Attorney since 2002. Neenah developed a committee to oversee the process of Adopting of Accessibility- Title II implementation in the community. Jim was appointed as the ADA coordinator. The first step that they took was to adopt an ADA policy that allowed accessibility for people that needed access to city programs that they were currently unable to access. In 2017-2018, they identified facilities and programs that were not accessible according to the ADA. They were assisted by an outside consultant which made a facilities audit and how they were not accessible and what they needed to do to bring them into accessibility. The list has now been completed and they are now reaching out to ADRC as to what they might be missing and what kind of things communities are looking for cities to provide. Beth suggested push lights for pedestrian crossings in round-a bouts and family restrooms in public places. Beth also offered to collaborate with the Neenah police department to contact the ADRC for individuals with dementia, as they have done with the Oshkosh Police Department. Please contact his office if more suggestions come to mind.
4. **Oshkosh Senior Center Technology Grant- Anne Schaefer:** Anne met with Beth in fall to write a grant for an opportunity to bring technology to seniors to address social isolation and loneliness. Loneliness is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes per day in relationship to a person's health. Anne is looking to partner with The Helen Daniels Bader Philanthropy group located in Milwaukee, which is going to be funding more healthy ageing initiatives across the state. Beth and Anne are looking for community contacts to make this partnership and grant stronger. The Senior Center is looking for opportunities to collaborate with the ADRC and has also partnered with the neighborhood associations. The Senior Center has hired Stephanie Carlin as a Community engagement advocate.

They will start offering technology classes that will help connect seniors with devices to connect with family and friends. Currently they have a class called Senior Connect which connects seniors with high school students helping them with the technology. This not only teaches the seniors but has been providing a generational connection. Initially a visitor will complete an assessment and establish a goal, for example, how to use a smart tv, how to use Facetime, or how to operate the technology in a new vehicle. They will be running a PR campaign with the Oshkosh Herald to include the ADRC and other community partners to announce the classes that will be offered. The courses will have a very minimal cost, potentially \$2 per class, so that they can continue offering them. Measurements for outcomes will be taken to see if this type of program is effective in people's lives. Right now, the Senior Center offers 3-4 classes per month and they would like to double that number.

## 5. **Reports:**

### a. Manager Report – Beth Roberts

Wheel Chair Wash- scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-1:00pm at J&R Auto during the Farmer's Market.

Survey data for ADRC is available. Beth is aware of a "Calculator Program" to show Medicare claims data and the comparison of cost of care for individuals who've been supported by the ADRC and those that have not. More info will be available in May (a return on investment report).

State Elder Abuse Hotline with one phone number will be set up and the call will then be routed to the correct counties.

### b. Complaints / Grievances – Beth Roberts

One complaint that is being looked into regarding a denial of transportation from Advocap.

## 6. **"Community Beat" – Sharing of Compliments / Complaints from Community, Consumers, Providers – Committee Members**

- Bryn reported on the 2019 numbers for the benefit specialists. Monetary impact numbers from 2019. These numbers are the total dollars, annually, that the Benefits Specialists have assisted individuals in accessing. **\$1,015,162** - over one million dollars in disability benefits for 2019 and **\$2,899,209** approaching three million dollars in elderly benefits for 2019.

Joan and Julie continue with their FREE Welcome to Medicare presentations (fliers) and are available for appointment for those who call seeking additional information. On March 5<sup>th</sup> Act 144 took effect. The Act creates a felony enhancer for mail theft of an elder adult or adult-at-risk. Allows for stiffer penalties for those convicted of mail theft of an individual 60 or older or an-adult-at-risk. Assembly Bill 480 highlights:

1. Overall provides penalty enhancers against elder persons. For the purposes of the bill, elder persons are individual 60 years or older.
2. Under current law, a person seeking a domestic restraining order must appear in person in the courtroom to obtain a restraining order. Under this bill, an elder person may appear in a court hearing by telephone or live audiovisual means.
3. For purposes of preserving the property for future payment of restitution to an elder crim victim, a prosecuting attorney may file a petition with the court to freeze the funds, assets, or property of the defendant in an amount up to 100% of the alleged value of property involved.

Working on an Age Friendly Community group where the group is focusing on efforts to reduce social isolation. Likely, some of the technology opportunities will be incorporated. Also reducing physical barriers in environments, transportation and accessibility will play a role in the application and Action Plan submitted to AARP.

Mike Norton wanted to give a shout out to Larissa Gruenwald, Disability Specialist with the ADRC. She answered questions for Mike that the State could not do for him!

- Brian Nagler reported on Options Counseling, a part of the Return on Investment grant. This helps people access public programs to help themselves or to utilize their own funds to pay for their care. His staff is required to complete online testing on this area of focus. More information to come in future meetings.
- Alana Erickson, Winnebago County Public Health Department, reported that department heads met to educate other facilities on best practices and have internal emergency preparedness plans ready in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Rob Paterson shared that he attended the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation meeting on February 11. He reported that in 2019, 930 rides were provided in Winnebago County utilizing the specialized transportation. He also shared that there was an article in the Oshkosh Herald on February 12 about the Catch-a-Ride program.
- Mike Norton shared that it will take an estimated \$52 million over the next 10 years to take care of the older population. He stated that there is a new medical transportation provider that just started, and also heard that there is a new taxi provider named Star, as options for transportation.
- Kate Pfaendtner wanted to give a shout out for sharing the good information about the Able legislation.
- Elizabeth Jones shared that the Fox Cities Walk for Autism is April 18<sup>th</sup> at Tanner's in Appleton. They are exploring options for a virtual walk in case the need arises.
- Claire Steger questioned if there is any progress in specialized transportation going across county lines. Beth shared that the Make the Ride Happen can go across county lines if a ride originates or ends in Winnebago County. The state just awarded a new company, Veyo, as a new Medicaid non-emergency transportation provider.
- Don Hansen is wondering why the lifesaver program, monitoring anklet for those with dementia that wander, is not more widespread in the area. He is also still interested in the Falls Prevention program and statistics.
- Pete Christianson shared that a doctor said that some people that are on more than 5 medications that are mimicking Alzheimer's. The Lion's pancake breakfast should be the first Sunday in April.
- Paul Janty would like Alana to give a monthly update on COVID 19 and its effect on the ADRC.

~~7. **Next Meeting—April 13, 2020—Neenah Human Services Building, Room 008, Downstairs**  
**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19**~~

With no further business, Paul Janty adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Julienne Gohde, Recorder