

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 04/12/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Tanisha Alvarado, Peter Christianson, Kate Pfaendtner, Harold Singstock, Jan Olson, Nicole Neuhoff, Claire Steger, Don Hansen, Michael Norton

Members Excused: Rob Paterson

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler, Bryn Ceman

Others Present: Alana Erickson of Winnebago County Health Department

Paul Janty called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** None made.
2. **Approve Minutes of the March 8, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting:** Kate Pfaendtner motioned to approve and Nicole Neuhoff seconded the motion.
3. **Follow Up from Legislative Discussion with Representatives:**
Beth Roberts questioned whether there were any follow up comments or questions in regards to the legislative discussion with representatives from last month's meeting. **Paul Janty** indicated that he sensed there is a segment within the Republican Party that wants to start over from scratch which is of great concern to the robust Human Services infrastructure.
4. **2020 Caregiver Statistics by Region – Brian Nagler:**
Brian Nagler reported that there were 100 total people enrolled to the AFCSP and NFCSP Programs. 54 percent of the budget went to individuals from Oshkosh, 21 percent Menasha, 19 percent Neenah, 4 percent Omro, and 2 percent Winneconne. Prior to COVID, the possibility had been discussed of doing awareness campaigns in the smaller communities including Winneconne, in specific. Possibilities include a Lunch and Learn at the library to talk about caregiver support as there is need support for people who are informally caregiving for loved ones. Brian expressed awareness campaigns are a goal once COVID is over. Brian indicated he would distribute program pamphlets to committee members to be put in public locations. In addition, these pamphlets have been translated and are available in multiple languages. A suggestion was made to put program information in the town

newspapers for Omro and Winneconne by doing an editorial or an article. Bryn and Beth will follow-up by submitting information on the programs to the two town criers. Suggestions were also to make submissions to the Post Crescent, Northwestern, and Oshkosh Herald as many elderly individuals in the area still read the paper editions of these newspapers.

5. Housing Update – Paul Jantry and Beth Roberts:

Paul Jantry reported that he and Beth wrote out a draft of what a "scope of services" could look like for a potential consultant. The first bullet point looks at Specialized Housing by bed capacity across the county using 4/1/2021 as a starting point. The second bullet point looks at barrier-free housing. The third bullet point reflects the population across the county by age-group with two data sources to include the Department of Administration and UW-Madison. The fourth bullet point is potential consultants who know housing to this level. The fifth bullet point is that three public meetings would be needed to talk about this effort including the ADRC committee, Human Services Board, and another meeting with developers or providers. Beth added that further clarification needs to be made on several aspects of barrier-free housing. First is identifying the gaps in regards to individuals who wish to remain in their homes but need some type of services in order to do so. Second is to look at the current 55+ housing to determine whether needs are being met.

Don indicated he resides in the Henrietta Apartments at a monthly rental cost of \$850. This type of apartments can be a viable alternative for those 55+ who do not need any services provided to them. However, he felt that there should be something in between the 55+ apartments and the typical assisted living. He also stated he checked on the new assisted living facility being built on Witzel and was informed that the rent is \$5400 per month.

Beth Roberts questioned whether **Brian Nagler** knew the cost of an RCAC (Residential Care Apartment Complex) in the county. Brian indicated the RCAC costs are less than assisted living facility costs by a couple grand per month. Beth explained that these are apartment complexes which also provide some level of care. These are in the step between a typical 55+ apartment complex and an assisted living facility. There are several HUD subsidized RCACs in our county; however, some individuals are ineligible due to asset levels.

Kate suggested that Karlene at the Community Foundation should be contacted before proceeding to ensure other initiatives on this same topic are not currently underway.

Nicole Neuhoﬀ inquired whether a determination has been made as to how much CARES Act funding would be available and whether the funding received should be utilized towards housing. Beth indicated that a specific amount has not been published yet; however, a significant amount of funding will be available between the City of Oshkosh, City of Neenah, City of Menasha, and Winnebago County. Parameters of utilization also have not been published; however, this funding cannot be utilized to replace current funding and is one-time funding.

Beth Roberts stated that the new COTS transitional housing for women and children only has started in Oshkosh and has been greatly utilized. This is different than homeless housing and has been doing very well in the Appleton area. Another building is being purchased in Oshkosh which will be more universal. They are currently in need of start-up funding and

Beth indicated her hope to be able to help out with that. Beth indicated that she and Paul will revise the second bullet point to provide further clarity and will then present it to Karlene.

Bryn Ceman indicated that Winnebago County's aging plan is coming due and offered to put this housing initiative in as part of the plan. In May, the committee will further discuss the initiative including possible incorporation into the upcoming aging plan.

6. Reports:

a. Manager Reports

Bryn Ceman introduced two new ADRC staff members. Karena Jolin is the new ADRC Assistant and Tari Otradovec is the new ADRC APS Specialist. Tari shared that she had been with Winnebago County Human Services for the past 17 years in Child Welfare as a case manager and conducted investigations. Prior to this, she had worked at St Paul's Nursing Home. She is excited to begin her new role in the ADRC. Karena Jolin shared that she has a lot of prior experience in assisted livings and long-term care. She had been a CNA, activity aide, and then assistant manager of an assisted living. She is excited about the role she has just started in at the ADRC.

Bryn Ceman stated that outreach in the community is continuing with presentations and education. An upcoming "Welcome to Medicare" is being provided virtually. There is an opportunity to meet with customers if they need to face-to-face as well as APS is doing welfare checks at people's home as necessary. Otherwise, they are still maintaining telephonic and virtual support. They have some good partnerships through the Neenah-Menasha YMCA as well as the Oshkosh Senior Center in their ability with their programs to assist individuals in connecting with technology.

Bryn Ceman reiterated that the aging plan is coming due in August of which the County will have to set forth anywhere between 8 to 20+ goals and to be worked on in increments through a three-year period. She is working with program directors to come up with some goals. This year there is special focus on diversity, inclusivity, equity, and person-centeredness. Bryn will share the proposed goals at May's meeting for the committee to hear the goals and to assist in making changes as needed. Bryn stated she has heard that some counties are offering the opportunity for ADRC and County Board members to be a part of the outreach. Bryn indicated she is currently gathering the outreach information in the AARP surveys that are coming through for the Age Friendly Initiative. There are 180 surveys completed thus far. The survey is being kept open until May. The benchmark goal is 1000 completed surveys.

Brian Nagler reported that they are fully staffed and are having more requests for home visits. It is good for staff to get back in the field and do long-term functional screens in-person rather than telephonically. Staff are viewing this as a positive and are utilizing safety measures of hand sanitizer, masks, and social distancing. Brian reported they are getting very busy and it is definitely a good feeling that people know they are "opening up" and are ready to help.

Beth Roberts shared that prior to this meeting, she had been a call with people from the State regarding falls prevention. There is a partnership with the Oshkosh Fire Department in which an automatic referral is made to the ADRC when the Fire Department responds to someone who has fallen. This is being rolled out to the rest of the County in sending automatic ADRC referrals. Interestingly, there has not been a decrease in falls locally, although statewide there was an increase during COVID. Beth reported there is some exciting energy out there regarding falls prevention including ideas such as billboards targeting those who are higher risk of falling before an incident occurs. Rural areas and diversity in population needs to be looked at when doing this. Beth feels that next steps would be working with Public Health to see if Joanne could do a falls prevention class at facilities of which the Fire Department is repeatedly getting calls for assistance.

Beth Roberts reported that **Alisa Richetti** has been doing great with the Dementia Care Program. Alisa held a training on Saturday for staff at Beaming in Neenah who provide equestrian therapy for autistic children. In addition, they are doing a nation-wide pilot program for people with Alzheimers.

Beth Roberts indicated they have reached out to every school district in the area with a learning opportunity entitled "Grandpa and Lucy" which is intended to increase young person's awareness and education regarding dementia.

Alana Erickson provided an update from the Health Department that 35 percent of Winnebago County residents have received at least one COVID vaccination dose and 25 percent of residents are fully vaccinated. For the 65+ population, over 84 percent have received their first dose. As there are still a lot of individuals needing to be vaccinated, a new website is being shared and promoted of wcvaccine.org which provides the latest access to vaccination appointments. Currently, hundreds of vaccination appointments are available this week. More partnerships are being brought out in order to promote awareness to those individuals experiencing "vaccine hesitancy." It is important to encourage the sentiments that "any vaccine is good" as well as "the one you have access to is the best." She also suggested for individuals to consult their primary care provider.

Beth Roberts indicated that there have been questions brought up about varying efficacy. Alana stated that the "one and done" shot holds a major advantage for those individuals who are fearful of needles, homebound, have transportation issues, or live in rural areas. Johnson & Johnson one-dose shot provides only a little over 50 percent protection whereas the two-shot doses of Moderna and Pfizer end up with in the higher 90s efficacy. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine had 100 percent prevention of hospitalizations and deaths. Alana reported that the number of COVID caused deaths has plummeted. Last week was the first week where hospitalizations have started to rise again as that is a lagging factor.

Paul raised a question regarding the remaining 16 percent of the 65+ population who have yet to be vaccinated and whether it is known who those individuals are. Alana indicated that most individuals with an established health care provider have been

reached out to as have those individuals receiving services through the Human Services Department. The assumption is that the remaining unvaccinated 65+ individuals are the more vulnerable population including those who have a fear or mistrust of government as well as individuals with language barriers. Alana indicated that would amount to an estimated 11,000 65+ individuals who remain unvaccinated throughout Winnebago County. Alana also responded to a question from Beth indicating that they have worked with World Relief to connect refugees to their healthcare system through a visit from one of the public health nurses.

Alana Erickson stated a large amount of Pfizer vaccine is available in our area and is approved for use to individuals aged 16+. There is a major issue of spread among young adults in high school and college and this spread is likely to expand as summer approaches. Please encourage any individuals you are aware of in this age group to obtain vaccination.

Phoenix is using the minority churches to have ministers encourage individuals to vaccinate by holding immunization clinics right at the churches. This allows individuals to can come to a place they are comfortable with to receive their injection. They have had some creative thoughts in this regard including Father Carrs, Christine Ann, and other congregated settings where they are aware of people who do not have healthcare or transportation or are not stable.

Mike raised the question to Alana if they project taking clinics to the smaller communities such as Winneconne, Omro, and Winchester. Alana indicated that they are doing so and that Public Health has 9 Public Health nurses as well as 45 nurses employed for vaccinations who are part of their team though some are technically working for other partners in town. CARES funding and other funds are being utilized to support the vaccinators and give guidance on how to best run clinics. Alana indicated working with the Hometown Pharmacy has been great. The school has done a lot of mobile testing with Public Health so they might consider using the National Guard to perhaps do some similar mobile sites that would be vaccinating instead of testing. Alana stated that the partnerships are there, some of the logistics are worked out, and as summer approaches it will be much easier as there is no worry about ice, snow, and having to hold people in a warm place for 15 minutes of observation.

Jan stated she has just started as a temporary vaccinator and has heard concerns from people that "this seemed to come out so fast. Is it really safe?" To this, she provides reassurance that the FDA has felt it is safe as well as enough time has now elapsed. In her experience of working 10-12 years of oncology, she saw two drugs that got fast-tracked by popular demand of the oncology field and those drugs introduced saved cancer patient's lives. She indicated using this story to encourage wary individuals. She related that the RFDA is encumbered with bureaucracy and this is one of the reasons other drugs are not fast-tracked, taking a long time to come out. **Beth Roberts** shared that *60 Minutes* aired a segment last night on how the FDA was able to fast-track COVID vaccinations. Interestingly, samples from people who had immunities to the Spanish flu were used as part of their research.

Paul shared that he has a 28-year old nephew who is vaccination hesitant and claims to have had COVID twice and asked whether Alana had any suggestions on how to handle this. Alana stated that the data shows us that the vaccine is much safer than COVID as well as the data shows that COVID is extremely vibrant.

Don shared neighbors of his do not use computers and ended up getting their shots by having a relative from another state take care of setting up their shots. He felt it is likely others in his building do not have capabilities to go online to get information and set up their shots. Alana indicated the hotline can now help individuals who do not use a computer to sign up for an appointment and to feel free to share the hotline number. Claire shared that she does have a computer but had many difficulties with scheduling online. She ended up hearing that some individuals had received the Pfizer vaccine at Walgreens on the west side of Neenah. She contacted them and was able to be vaccinated within two days of calling. She suggested that individuals without computer access can directly call Walgreens or Hometown Pharmacy to receive their vaccinations. Others shared similar concerns of trying to go through the website or their doctor's offices encountering difficulties with scheduling for vaccinations including having to drive out of the area. Beth Roberts stated that she has heard that people have had pretty good luck with getting vaccinated through local pharmacies.

Alana shared that she and Bryn held a podcast regarding the new AARP initiative for healthier communities and are trying to promote the survey. She stated it is nice to have a "breather" to reflect on some of the things they have worked hard on over the past year and their partnerships. She shared that there has been a deep partnership between departments over the last year and hopes that it can "shine" when it comes to the County Board making some decisions as they both have been working with the community and see the need. She shared her appreciation for all the work that everyone does.

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

Tanisha Alvarado had no updates to report.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Claire Steger had no updates to report.

Peter Christianson shared that the Lions are coming up with a management problem and may be slow for a few days. The heads of their ramps department and medical locker are both moving. One of these individuals is also the secretary for the club doing likely 80 percent of the work for the club. It may take a few days to determine who is taking over.

Kate Pfaendtner had no updates to report.

Nicole Neuhoff had no updates to report.

Don Hansen had no updates to report.

Jan Olson had no updates to report.

Michael Norton urged members to contact supervisors requesting them to vote for a resolution to allow the Health Department accept to \$700,000 because it is unknown what it will take to cover the epidemic.

Beth Roberts reported that it has been brought up by Michael and Larry to have the ADRC do a presentation for the County Board so she and Paul put together some highlights containing that information and will be presenting at the County Board meeting on the 20th.

A few weeks back Channel 2 News had a segment about the significant increases in numbers during the COVID timeframe. Beth reported that financial is the biggest form of abuse and self-neglect second.

Because of the isolation during COVID, there was absolutely an increase throughout the state. Beth was appreciative of the newscast and also stated that the DA is prosecuting cases. It is unfortunate that abuse continues to occur; however, they are much better prepared to address it at this time. Bryn shared that in 2020, there were 111 court actions for individuals in need of guardianship or protective services. The average age of those individuals was 60 ½ years old. There were 35 financial exploitation investigations with the average age being 74 years old and the average amount stolen was \$29,256. These numbers were tracked by APS staff via internal spreadsheets. Per Wisconsin Incident Tracking Reports System (WITS), vulnerable adults ages 18-59 have the highest investigation of self-neglect cases which certainly is the case with COVID, self-isolation, loneliness, and not having access to services. Unfortunately, there was one subsequent death as a result of self-neglect. In the 60+ population, self-neglect and financial exploitation cases tied in 2020. So far in 2021 tracking, there are already 56 court actions which is on trend to far surpass last year which had been a high year for cases. Beth shared that there is a training provided by a national speaker scheduled for all of the District Attorneys in the state in regards to that these cases are considered crimes and on the related Wisconsin Statutes.

Beth Roberts shared that there was a previous request a few months back to have someone from the Committee on Aging present because there was a question related to figuring out what the Oshkosh Committee on Aging does. So, Judy from the Oshkosh Committee on Aging will be at the May meeting. Beth also indicated that Bryn will be talking about the aging plan at the May meeting.

Michael Norton stated that at the committee meeting two months ago, Tanisha Alvarado had brought up some interesting ideas about caregivers and Michael felt that the committee should support her in following up that to see what can be done. He stated his willingness to contact Representatives Snodgrass and Hintz if their committee came up with a concrete proposal in this regard. **Tanisha Alvarado** shared that she is considering writing up a proposal to address some of the issues that she has had and to take it to that level where she can talk with someone from the Department of Human Services here to work on creating a

program for families who have children who support adults in their home. Tanisha stated she has a 13-year-old who uses her lift. In Wisconsin, children under 18 are not supposed to be able to use any kind of mechanical lifts on anyone unless they are in their direct home. Tanisha stated that there are some gaps in programming with the Family Care Program that are yet to be developed and that she may be the kind of person that can help make some of those programs come to pass if she pushes hard enough. She states this was not something that was brought up when the Caregiving Task Force was created by the State of Wisconsin. Tanisha is trying to find a way to get that to Governor Evers' office.

8. Next Meeting – May 10 12, 2021 via Zoom.

With no further business, Paul Janty adjourned the meeting at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Roberts