

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 10/11/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Elizabeth Jones, Michael Norton, Harold Singstock, Peter Christianson, Claire Steger, Jan Olson, Tamar Mathwig

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Brian Nagler, Nicole Davis-Dawald

Others Present: Zachary Zabel–Fox Valley Veterans Council, Alana Erickson–Public Health Dept

Paul Jantry called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Beth Roberts introduced **Nicole Davis-Dawald** who is the ADRC's new Aging and Resource Supervisor. Nicole stated she had been the executive director at a homecare company for the last five years. Prior that, she had supervised social workers in child welfare in Chicago and Milwaukee.

1. **Public Comments:** No members of the public were present at today's meeting.
2. **Approve Minutes of the September 13, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting Minutes:** Mike Norton motioned to approve and Harold Singstock seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members.
3. **Fox Valley Veterans Council (FVVC) – Zachary Zabel:** **Zachary Zabel** is the Community Engagement Manager for the Fox Valley Veterans Council. The FVVC is a 501(c) non-profit agency serving veterans in the Fox Valley primarily with basic needs of housing, food, and transportation. FVVC has recently signed a MOU with the Winnebago County Vet Office and now has officially expanded to operating in Winnebago County.

Zach reported that the FVVC started as a small group of individuals who wanted to build a veteran's memorial to honor Outagamie County veterans who had passed while on active duty. This memorial is located in the Outagamie County Courthouse. After the memorial was complete, remaining funds sparked the origin of the council. Now, the council has grown to include relationships with government entities and national non-profits in an effort to serve veterans in the Fox Valley. Food car drives are held funded through the Bob Witter Foundation.

Zach shared that FVVC recently received a grant from the AT&T Foundation to expand a new program entitled the Veteran's Education and Training Program. The purpose is to provide fully funded IT training to veterans who are unemployed, underemployed, or looking for a transition. There are two candidates currently enrolled who are both pursuing Security+ certifications.

Paul Janty inquired to Zach whether he had a sense of how many veterans are currently considered homeless in the County and their geographic distribution within the county. Zach stated he did not have any figures to address that question and indicated that the Veteran's Office as well as state funded veterans' organizations may have more information.

Zach was asked whether the FVVC serves all veterans or only the veterans with an honorable discharge. He stated that their definition mirrors the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of active duty outside of training and the character of discharge as discharge other than dishonorable conditions. Generally speaking, a lot of the veterans served have a discharge of honorable or better. He was unaware of their record of serving those with a dishonorable discharge. Each case is treated individually as their bylaws are structured to allot some flexibility.

Beth Roberts shared that part of the reason that the ADRC Committee had invited the FVVC to present was due to a past discussion on homelessness and housing for veterans. Zach responded that with their mission being veteran's basic needs, housing is the issue they most often help with. Many of the veterans that reach out to them are either experiencing or are facing homelessness. Zach stated that if the Committee is aware of any veterans who have served that are facing any type of housing dilemma to refer those to him in order to determine if they can help out.

Brian Nagler stated that the ADRC's team of information specialists has an upcoming meeting on Tuesday, October 26 at 10:00 AM in which the Winnebago County Veterans Services will be attending to talk about programs and asked whether Zach wished to be included in that meeting. Brian's intention is to have questions ready for discussion. Zach expressed his interest in attending and stated they work very closely with the Winnebago County Veteran's Office.

Paul Janty inquired about where is the best place for veterans to go who are facing eviction. Brian indicated that those individuals should contact the ADRC. Beth Roberts asked Zach if their Council makes referrals to the ADRC. Zach indicated that their process entails that when a veteran reaches out, a form is submitted to their case manager and team of volunteer case workers who are trained on available services. The ADRC is on their radar and Zach is aware has been a part of that case work. Brian Nagler stated he is more than happy to reciprocate attendance at a meeting and offered to present information regarding the ADRC to Zach's staff.

Liz Jones questioned if there were specific barriers that could be addressed which would make it easier to help veterans. Zach stated fundraising can be a big issue; although actually finding the veterans in need of their assistance and those veterans being willing to accept help is probably their biggest issue. Regardless of age, many veterans have an idea that they are a strong veteran who should not have any problems. Liz followed up by asking if an increase in public awareness by spreading the word that this is a healthy and strong thing to do would be helpful. Zach agreed that publicizing the types of services available can help address some of the lack of awareness. However, there have been instances of veterans who are not willing to come forward to seek

assistance due to being discouraged with issues they had ran into past. Beth Roberts stated that no matter how much outreach is done, the ADRC continues to experience that there are individuals who are unaware that the ADRC exists.

4. Aging Plan Approval – Beth Roberts and Nicole Davis-Dawald:

Beth Roberts indicated at the last Committee meeting that the Aging Plan was approved; however, budget information was not available at that time. Nicole stated she had met with Bryn to review the budget. Most of the budget numbers are complete to the exception of a few grants which need to be confirmed yet. In addition, the budget has been submitted to the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) for their review and Nicole will be meeting with them shortly. Beth indicated that the reason the budget is submitted to GWAAR prior to the ADRC Committee's approval is to ensure that budget items are put into the correct categories

5. Diversity Update – Beth Roberts and Mike Norton:

Beth Roberts reported that for approximately the past three years, a group of people had been meeting on an ad hoc basis to discuss ways the community can be more inclusive to people from diverse backgrounds. That committee became a County Board appointed committee where the County Exec appoints a steering committee. The committee continues to meet the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM to learn about and discuss the diversity of the community and ways to improve connections. The steering committee meets the second Wednesday of the month to discuss the next steps and to coordinate efforts. The committee has accomplished some of their efforts including the entire county website is now able to be translated by Google Translate. In addition, the committee has done some brochures and other outreach as well as the internal outreach committee is continuing to look at ways to improve connections with diverse populations. Last Thursday, there was a presenter who lives in Milwaukee and works in Child Welfare in Milwaukee County. She is Hispanic and had been born in America, but her parents were not. Beth shared that she there were a lot of assumptions in her life as she works in a diverse area, probably had a lot of people to connect with in that area, whereas she grew up in Waupaca and there were a couple of points during her heartfelt presentation where she teared up.

Mike Norton added that the Diversity Committee meetings are open to the public and shared the hope of more people getting involved. Last week Thursday, the Committee had brought in someone to share the Hispanic experience. Other speakers are planned for January and February. There are currently two openings for community members, so please let Beth know if aware of anyone who is interested. The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) will be having regional meetings about these issues and Mike hopes one will be held in Oshkosh. Mike reported he had spoken with the Milwaukee County Chairman and Wednesday Mike will be sharing more of what had been learned the workshop in which they heard from people all around the State that this is a hot topic statewide. Mike is working on how to get private corporations in this county to become involved in this effort. Oshkosh Corporation has put a lot of effort into this in order to help this community grow. The government, community, and business sector are coming together in hopes of making the area more diversified and a place of inclusion so people from various backgrounds can find reasons to come here. Mike expressed gratitude towards Beth Roberts and Nikki from the Health Department for being big drivers in this effort.

Beth Roberts stated that the strategic plan is still being developed with hopes of being done very soon. The strategic plan has to be developed prior to working on the many opportunities out there. Beth is particularly focused on who is being served by the county, but also these individuals are prospective employees with the potential to solve some of the workforce shortages. Interested persons can also check on Winnebago County's website under "Commissions and Commissions" to learn more about this.

Paul Janty stated that he had heard there is anticipation of 10,000 Afghan individuals coming into the Fox Valley area and questioned Alana whether this has been confirmed and what is being done to be ready for their arrival. She stated that number of Afghan refugee families coming to Winnebago County is assumed to be around 20. Preparation-wise, the State has not reached out regarding grant contracts. In the past, Public Health had done the refugee health screenings. In spite of the State not informing Public Health until five days after it has been done, a few of the nurses are ensuring their skills are up to par for where the refugees are coming from and what to reviewed when upon arrival. Beth clarified that the individuals coming from Afghanistan are not actually on a refugee status. When thinking of World Relief (who assists refugees for their first couple of years), these people are under a different status and rather than receiving the type of assistance that refugees receive, these individuals will only receive a one-time stipend. Thus, very different services and supports will be available. Beth thought this status has something to do with the timeline along with the large number of individuals. Mike Norton stated that one of the Council members, Kathy, works for World Relief who said she may have someone come to the November Committee meeting to talk about the topic of refugees and the vetting process.

6. Reports:

a. Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances

Nicole Davis-Dawald shared that everything is going very well. She felt that the Senior Expo was very good and in order to give more opportunities, tomorrow they are starting the planning process of an outdoor fall festival. She anticipates doing some sort of drive at the fall festival in order to "give back", perhaps some hygiene supplies. In addition, a caregiver expo committee is being formed and is in the early stages for next late spring. Nicole stated she had been on the Calumet Area Aging Network (CAAN) and has planned several caregiver expos. Efforts are being made to continue to engage as the senior expo went very well, there was a good turnout, they got to connect with people, and the hope to keep this going.

Brian Nagler reported things have been busy and that 43 enrollments packets had been completed to Family Care and IRIS in September. The caregiver programs, continue to be utilized and Brian reports being comfortable with current year spending. Employee evals are being completed and are a nice opportunity to celebrate all that employees have done. One of the position-specific competencies is how the employee does at promoting informal supports (family, friends) whenever possible before jumping to paid services for individuals.

Alana Erickson reported that the Health Department participated in the Senior Expo and handed out about 100 bags for home use of medication disposal. Funding for the bags was through a grant. Medication is put into the bag with some water, the bag sealed and shook, then the bag is safe for disposal in the garbage. This is especially helpful for those who can't

get to the drop boxes or do not have any care individual coming into their home on a regular basis. If anyone wants bags, 200 bags are still available which need to be used up this year.

Alana stated that due to waning interest and hesitancy towards the COVID vaccines, numbers have come down. Alana indicated being proud of the 65+ population in Winnebago County which is at about 83 percent being vaccinated. This gives confidence when event planning such as the expos in that those at risk have that level of coverage. Alana screen-shared a graph of the trends starting in April of 2020. Oshkosh was repeatedly mentioned in the New York Times as one of the hotspots due to how much and how quickly Oshkosh jumped as well as how long the high surge level was maintained. Alana stated levels eventually came down and there is optimism that the recent resurgence is just going to be a little blip that will continue to go down. Estimates from some of the region indicates probably seeing cases continue through March where extra staffing and support will be needed. Alana stated that the way that the State, the staff, and community have all responded to the pandemic has definitely changed and everyone is out and about again. In addition, lack of consistency in quarantine and isolation guidance is causing much aggravation amongst parents and schools. No one is at fault for this as this is a bad situation in which there is fear. Alana stated that while she is glad to be moving on, not to forget that there were over 200 deaths in Winnebago County. This has been a difficult year for individuals working directly with those patients and it is time for individuals to reconnect and be a community again.

Paul Janty questioned Alana if she has a sense of demographics or age profile for the individuals who had died from COVID. Alana indicated that statically, the age profile is exactly as expected with the last round of the Delta Variant marked with deaths which were not consistent with the earlier; that being of young, healthy adults. These deaths have made some individuals take notice and get vaccinated. There is a lot of data on this available on the County and DHS websites. Feel free to let Alana know if additional specific data is needed.

Mike Norton reported he asked Doug where he would find the positivity rate to which Doug indicated it is done every week. Alana elaborated that weekly data summary is located on the website under the COVID page. There is also a link to sign up to receive weekly data via email. Positivity rates are located in the overall summary PDF link. Alana reported frustration with the current percentages and statistics as many individuals are not testing. Access to testing has been limited and certain schools have decided on policies where they do not want to push or even require it; therefore, data is not as accurate as it was six months ago.

Alana stated that the data regarding race and age can be found on the DHS's website by clicking on Winnebago County and shared the link in chat. Blacks and Hispanics have a much lower rate than white individuals in Winnebago County and the Asian population is higher. This is what is seen in healthcare as well as the same trends as socioeconomic status. Basically, those that have access to money and healthcare are getting vaccinated.

Liz Jones commented that Fox Valley Technical College has been seeing a significant increase in cases. In the State of the College Report this past week, the president shared that he had to write sympathy notes to three different families because of COVID and urged

everyone to please get vaccinated. Liz indicated she wanted to mention this as there is a young workforce and young students with one student dying who was 30 years old.

Alana Erickson reported for those are vaccinated, in our region there have been no deaths and under 1% hospitalization rate. It is unfortunate to learn that those who are vaccinated can still transmit, however it is a significant fact the vaccine is stopping hospitalizations and deaths.

Beth Roberts stated she is working on contracts for 2022 which is a bit of a challenge as, generally speaking, costs have increased due to some specific COVID-related costs. The budget goes to the County Board later this month, and if cuts need to be made, there is uncertainty as some services provided are not mandated and are likely the only place that money could come from. Even if the budget goes through as it is, Beth reported it will still be a real scramble to support everyone.

Beth reported that the housing study that was referenced several meetings ago remains stalemated by not having the City's information. There had been past discussion at prior meetings that some areas of the County could benefit from a housing needs assessment. It was then learned that the City of Oshkosh had already contracted with someone to conduct a similar assessment. Thus, it made the most sense to proceed once the City's information was complete which had been anticipated to be done by last month. At this point, the hope is to get the assessment results by the end of this month, have an opportunity to review, formulate questions, and then kick-off of the County study on November 8th.

Beth stated that she has ideas for the next agenda including information on autism. She asked that additional items for the next agenda be submitted to her within the next week and a half so she can formulate what committee members want to hear about next.

Jan Olson stated she just worked at the Winneconne Clinic. It was the first one and had been advertised only in the Winneconne News. There were two vaccinators who were busy with mostly Pfizer booster shots. Jan stated that even though J&J and Moderna were available, she did not know of anyone who received either of those vaccinations. Alana indicated if anyone has questions on vaccines or where to go locally to refer them to <https://www.wcvaccine.org/>. Jan stated that she had posted the vaccine sites and dates on local bulletin boards. Alana stated that if anyone is need of fliers listing upcoming vaccination sites and dates, she is willing to print and mail out those out.

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

Liz Jones shared that the Fox Valley Walk for Autism sponsored by the Friends of Autism was held on October 2nd and had a huge crowd. She has not heard that there was any spread at the event. There is another walk planned for the last Saturday in April as an outdoor event.

Mike Norton reiterated that the County budget is online now. He encouraged members to look at the Human Services budget and contact County Board members to voice support of maintaining the current budget including support of the Health Department. Anti-vaxxers are out there in full

force so Mike encouraged members to make an effort to help Human Services and Public Health. There are public hearings on the budget scheduled for Monday, November 1st at 6:00 PM via Zoom as well as sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday via Zoom. The link can be found on the County's website. If this ends up being the same as last year, voting on amendments and the budget itself will be that night. Paul Janty asked whether there was any interest by the Committee for him to draft a letter of support for the ADRC and Public Health to the County Board and to have Beth verify the wording prior to submission. Committee members voiced agreement to this.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Jan Olson had no updates to report.

Peter Christianson had no updates to report; however, welcomed new member Tamar Mathwig stating he represents the Lion's Club which is still short on beds and wheelchairs.

Tamar Mathwig had no updates to report.

Claire Steger had no updates to report.

Larry Lautenschlager introduced himself to Nicole by stating he is a County Supervisor and attends ADRC meetings because he is the Chair of the Human Services Board. Larry stated that in three weeks they will start the budget and has not heard of any big cuts. He agreed with Beth in ADVOCAP's reporting of Meals on Wheels is way up in numbers. There is talk of getting more people involved with the meal runs including having a social worker trail along and having drivers spend more time when delivering meals in order to do wellness checks. Beth stated she is very concerned about the increased costs of the meals program and transportation for elderly.

Paul Janty stated that in the past, Beth and Brian had presented on falls prevention for seniors and have been working with the Oshkosh Fire Department regarding transports. Paul would like to see an agenda item in the future to provide updates on that topic. Another future agenda item would be an update from what Bryn had brought up in a prior meeting regarding the alarming increase in the number of financial crimes directed at seniors. Beth agreed that an update on these topics could be given coinciding with when the 2021 statistics are shared with the Committee. Mike Norton indicated that there are two openings on this Committee. Brian Stafford, who has been newly appointed to the County Human Services Board is from Neenah and told Mike that he had positive relations with the ADRC. Mike suggested to Beth to reach out to Brian regarding the possibility of becoming a new committee member. Paul Janty shared that he had also made an inquiry of a colleague of his and is awaiting a definitive answer. Liz Jones stated that she had spoken to a friend of hers whose son has both Down's Syndrome and autism who expressed being very interested. Liz will send Beth the contact information.

8. Next Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

With no further business, Mike Norton made a motion to adjourn and Peter Christenson seconded.

Respectfully submitted: Beth Roberts