

AMENDED
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 12/13/2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom

Members Present: Paul Janty, Elizabeth Jones, Harold Singstock, Kate Pfaendtner, Jan Olson, Rob Paterson, Michael Norton, Fritz Rudy, Tamar Mathwig, Pete Christianson, Claire Steger

Members Excused:

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

Others Present: Alana Erickson–Public Health Dept

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

Beth Roberts introduced **Fritz Rudy** who will soon be officially appointed by the County Board. Fritz shared that he is a right below the knee amputee and has been in the disabled community since 2012 at which time he has taken it upon himself to be a strong advocate for disabled in the amputee community in as many facets as he can. Fritz stated a couple of years ago, he started a non-profit in Oshkosh looking to expand adaptive opportunities for athletes. He stated that the opportunity to serve on this committee is another way to help the community with anything having to do with accessibility to ease daily struggles of the disabled.

1. Public Comments:

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

2. Approve Minutes of the November 8, 2021 ADRC Committee Meeting Minutes:

Mike Norton motioned to approve and **Kate Pfaendtner** seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members.

Rob Paterson asked when the minutes were mailed out. **Beth Roberts** stated she believed this took place on Monday, a week prior to the meeting. Rob indicated he did not get the minutes until today, so he did not get a chance to read them. Beth stated she had mailed the minutes so that they would arrive last week. Rob stated in the future, he could come pick up his copy from the office.

3. Housing Study Update and Intentions – Paul Janty and Beth Roberts:

Beth Roberts reported that the housing study was approved and sent over to the Community Foundation for assistance. The Foundation coordinated with UW-Oshkosh where a sociology professor named Jeremy was assigned to assist in putting the information together. There were several months of delays due to not wanting to duplicate work as the City had already paid to have someone look into and pull together their data. The City report is now in-hand and UW-Oshkosh has begun the process of collecting data for the remainder of the county. Beth stated that Winnebago County is paying for the study. The hope had initially been to present information by February.

Paul Janty stated that the study is a pretty good snapshot of what exists in terms of providers and needs across the county as of January 2022. Hopefully, going forward decisions can be made about what needs to be supported and work with partners to accomplish goals.

Mike Norton asked whether there are plans to make some type of formal presentations to the various municipal governments. Beth replied that the contract includes UW-Oshkosh having a role in assisting with presenting information. The Committee will need to talk about the Committee's thoughts on how to roll this out. Beth stated this will be accomplished via a series of presentations at different dates and times for attendance by developers, municipalities, and County staff.

4. **Aging Plan – Nicole Davis Dawald:**

Beth Roberts reported that the plan has yet to be approved by the State. **Nicole Davis Dawald** reported that the State has been working on a whole new form for claims. This has been the focus as the State's fiscal year ends in October. Nicole stated the form has submitted three weeks ago.

5. **2022 Focus – All:**

Beth Roberts indicated at last month's meeting, she had asked Committee members to start thinking about whether there are particular focus areas that the Committee may address or would like to receive more information on.

Paul Janty stated that the Fire Department is giving out a coffee mug for turning in a throw rug. Paul stated he is interested in learning more about this and other fall protection reduction efforts.

Beth Roberts stated that the Oshkosh Fire Department leading the initiative and the Health Department is very involved as well. Alana, Karena, and Beth can give an update in regards to the efforts. There are other pockets throughout the State that are working on this same issue, so there is a lot of good information that can be shared with the Committee in 2022.

Mike Norton stated that he would like to hear more from the new board member who is being appointed tomorrow night, Fritz. Fritz could advocate by telling more about mobility and difficulties in public places, such as parks. Mike is interested in hearing Fritz's views and possibly bring on other people to see how the Committee would want to address that. **Beth Roberts** stated that Fritz's organization is called the Adapt to Life Foundation and believed he would have some issues he has identified in the community that the Committee may want to consider.

Brian Nagler shared that the caregiver crisis is an issue the Committee has conversed about in the past as there are supportive homecare agencies that do not have enough staff to be able to serve the customers that Brian's staff are working to bring in and the caregivers they are trying to get respite for. People are now switching managed care organizations (which means more work for the

ADRC), solely because the managed care organization they are with cannot find an agency to provide the care they need in their home.

Paul Janty added that in the past both managed care organizations have presented to the Committee. Paul would love to have Lakeland Care and other managed care organizations share what they are doing in regards to the issue.

Mike Norton stated he would like to continue work on the ongoing transportation issues. Mike stated Oshkosh Transit has done some things he does not totally agree with in regards to services for wheelchair and elderly. Mike feels that this is a big concern and would like a discussion from an advocacy group of people who use this service and then transfer that information to the providers.

Claire Steger stated she feels that the Committee should review the ADRC's contract with the State in order to highlight changes. Claire asked whether Winnebago County at some point staffed nurses or caregivers rather than contracting with existing agencies. **Brian Nagler** stated that the current caregiver programs have been in place for a long time; however, Claire might be referencing back to when Waiver funding had been in place. At that time, the County employed Home Consultants and had a solid relationship with Public Health to utilize their services as well. Claire stated she had always perceived the Waiver funding and corresponding services as being very successful. **Rob Paterson** thought this may have been the time before the ADRC, Family Care, and IRIS which all came in through the State. Brian that Outagamie County utilizes caregiver program funds in a way similar to what Claire is speaking of and he is willing, along with Beth, to reach out to Outagamie County for more information. **Beth Roberts** stated that the contract with the State is done annually and 2022 has not been received yet. Beth can make sure that the Committee gets highlights of the changes once available and will mail packets of updated training binder information.

Beth Roberts stated that staff continue to do an excellent job; however, are growing weary with not having contact with each other due to COVID. She wants to remain cognizant of helping support staff through that as it is an ongoing concern.

Kate Pfaendtner stated in 2019, the Committee had heavily focused on dementia-related services and that Rebecca was doing dynamic work prior to COVID. With the caregiver crisis, Kate asked if there was a way to track this. She stated that she was in the position of being a caregiver through the pandemic and often wonders how people are coping while being disconnected. Beth suggested putting this topic on the agenda every other month. There is another program opening up this month week. The *Virtual Dementia Experience* is being purchased for use throughout the whole County.

Pete Christianson stated when he had been working, he worked with people who had multiple diagnoses; people with mental illness, drug and alcohol issues, as well as mentally and physically challenged. **Brian Nagler** stated that in the data being exported to the State, there are several individuals who meet up to five different target groups. Brian suggested that perhaps a staff member from Behavioral Health could come and talk to the Committee. **Kate Pfaendtner** stated the news increasingly is reporting on people with mental illness. Kate stated it is also difficult because no improvement in the pandemic is being seen.

Nicole Davis-Dawald added that she also believes that the cases have become more difficult over the last couple of years with multiple significant issues. The cases for Adult Protective Services

have been extremely difficult. There are attorneys who are finding loopholes and so a lot of cases are getting thrown out. **Pete Christianson** thought that maybe the legal issues mentioned could be a future topic for the Committee to discuss. Paul stated he would like to hear a summation of the issues being faced by staff legally as well as what Corporation Council is doing. Brian stated that in the past, one staff would rotate to educate on what the I&A and APS workers are seeing. This could be started if the Committee is interested. **Kate Pfaendtner** felt this was a great idea and also shared that there some positive initiatives out there such as Day by Day looking to break ground, Salvation Army, and COTS that could present information on their services.

Nicole Davis-Dawald stated a positive is that her and Brian have started being Snow Angels by voluntarily shoveling sidewalks of elderly people in the neighborhood. Nicole states they look forward to being able to continue to help volunteering their time. Brian stated that Nicole had the idea and started the initiative by contacting River East Association which is very active and had in the past been at a Committee meeting. Only two names were given that needed assistance; however, any sidewalks that needed shoveling on the way there and back were also done. **Mike Norton** thought that was a great idea for elderly in need and asked about looking into whether there are any other people who are willing to do the same in other cities. **Kate Pfaendtner** stated that NeighborWorks might be willing to present with ways to connect with some of the neighborhoods.

Paul Janty stated to Nicole that her predecessor had presented to the Committee about the number of financial crimes directed at the elderly and would like some sense of that across the County.

Brian Nagler asked if there is any need to bring legislators back in at some point in the next year. In the past, this has been a good idea since legislators then know who the Committee is. A few legislators showed up at the wheelchair walk wanting to be a bit more involved than in the past. **Mike Norton** stated he is not against inviting a representative or state senator to come talk to the Committee; but to have a meeting specifically just for them may not be a good idea as they may not meet until March and did not believe much would be accomplished other than initiating a dialogue.

Mike Norton stated that maybe once the new County Board is in place in April, reeducating what the ADRC does could be done in Summer. **Paul Janty** thought that the housing study would be a good point of entry for that conversation.

6. **Transportation Update – Nicole Davis Dawald:**

Nicole Davis-Dawald shared that the 85.21 for specialized transportation was fully submitted and she is waiting to hear back on that. There are a couple new Committee members. One of the new members runs a program through Enterprise-Rent-A-Car. She presented about services of providing a rental car that people can utilize to get to work. Nicole thought it was a great idea to get some more information from people who utilize transportation, which is something that Nicole and Rob talked about with Rob updating on any issues or concerns that need to be addressed. The Age Friendly Survey revealed a lot of concerns about transportation and Nicole stated she feels Oshkosh has very valuable resources a lot of counties do not have. It is important to get the information out there for people who do not know or understand.

7. **Reports:**

a. **Manager Reports – Complaints/Grievances:**

Nicole Davis-Dawald shared that staff are working on a couple of outreach opportunities. One is to hold a Winterfest with some nonprofit agencies who are willing to engage in a chili cookoff competition and the community would be invited to attend. The goal is to increase community awareness of the nonprofit agencies in attendance. Nicole thought there could be possibly be a game of bingo with prizes. With COVID, this is difficult to plan; however, the objective is to host some free community events for those who feel comfortable.

Brian Nagler reported that staff are "wearing the stress on their hearts." The work being done continues to be of good quality. Steadily people are going out and getting their booster shots, which for some means a sick day after. Brian stated that Rebecca Groleau has turned in her resignation to begin work as a hospital liaison in the Appleton area with her last day being January 4th. Brian and Beth have already put in the request to refill of the position and posting should already be up. There are some internal candidates who are interested in the position. This resignation is an added stress to staff knowing that Rebecca's on call dates will now need to be covered. Even if someone is put in place quickly, training needs to occur before being effective on the phones. Nicole added that she has two Elderly Benefit Specialist staff who are retiring: Julie in January and Joan on March 1st.

b. Committee Member Updates:

Alana Erickson shared some resources in the chat screen of the latest COVID data trends. Hospitals are full with COVID and staff are at capacity. The State is looking at potentially changing the category of COVID which would change what needs to be done on Alana's end. Alana stated they are really pushing for the category change as it feels like contact tracing has become a lost effort at this point due to the culture and the view around it. Alana is making calls daily and only about 30 percent are actually answered. In addition, most already know their results and what they should be doing. As the last six months have been somewhat depressing, staff are reminded there is a solution with the vaccines. The data clearly shows that deaths and hospitalizations are almost eliminated for those who are vaccinated. Alana stated that a nice, kind reminder to friends and family over the holidays to get the booster is really important because eventually that is the way to end the pandemic. Alana asked to please share with others the resources she had provided.

Alana stated that the class in Winneconne formally submitted a letter to Jon Doemel and herself along with the media indicating being upset that the evidence-based class was being removed. Since that time, Alana learned that the class that had been held in Winneconne was being called "Strong Bodies", though has not had the fidelity of that class as it does not meet standards nor is the individual trained. Alana stated there is no problem with the class doing what they want and need (the group coming together, socializing, exercising), so Alana is trying to find out what they really want which perhaps be needing support in finding a space or wanting to use the equipment. All of that is fine; however, because of liability, if the class is being called "Strong Bodies", the class must be taught by a Strong Bodies trainer.

Alana shared she has a UW-Oshkosh nursing student who is interested in respite care and bringing awareness of how important it is. The student met with Elizabeth to talk about some of the resources out there in order to put together a short video which could bring some more attention to respite care and the importance in helping families.

Alana indicated she met last week with World Relief. The immigrants coming in look very different from the ones in the past prior to the 2016 administration (which had stopped the immigration process). New people have a different designation of being a parolee, which is different than being a refugee. Alana is also seeing second placement in which people have been here for 90 days, but often started out in a different state and then are coming to fully settle in the Fox Valley area. There is no state funding for that; however, everyone is passionate and cares that these individuals feel welcomed into the community along with support and resources.

Alana stated that the Communicable Disease Supervisory position is now filled by an individual from Fond du Lac who has been managing a long-term care facility there for eight years. She actually worked with Karenna for a long time.

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

Kate Pfaendtner stated she has offered to bring her therapy dog to a vaccine clinic if a spot can be found. **Alana Erickson** realized that she did not recognize Kate's last name in the email string, but will let Kate know when and where she will be needed. Alana informed the Committee that some therapy dogs were present at some of the first pediatric clinics. For about 80 percent of children, dogs are a great distraction, though some children may be fearful. Kate stated she has another friend with a therapy dog who could come along.

Harold Singstock had no updates to report.

Rob Paterson had no updates to report.

Mike Norton expressed his gratitude toward ADRC staff who try to their best ability to reach out and get information out to the community. Mike works at a local grocery store of which there is a manned table set up with information on SeniorCare and Medicare enrollment. Mike indicated that Human Services sometimes has to go out of our way to reach out to elderly and disabled in the community who really need services; however, may not know how to access services. **Brian Nagler** thanked Mike as he appreciated his comments and will pass this on to staff.

Jan Olson shared the suggestion in regards to the Snow Angels group that since the Fire Department is taking on fall prevention that shoveling and slipping on snow-covered ice would fit under falls prevention and they may want to take something like that on in their neighborhoods.

Jan Olson also reported working most Wednesdays at Sunnyview. She reported a definite uptick in vaccinations with all of the different vaccines and boosters. For the vaccinated, the County Administrators have made it relatively smooth and easy. She has received many positive comments from the people coming through and it has gotten busier. This is a good thing brings hope of getting through this. **Brian Nagler** commented it was heartwarming to see all the families there the evening he attended. Jan stated that people were coming in as whole families.

Claire Steger had no updates to report. Claire also seconded Mike Norton's deep appreciation for everything the ADRC staff does. She went on to state she cannot imagine how the community could function without all of the ADRC efforts. Claire asked that be relayed to staff as it means the world to the Committee and to the people who are utilizing the services.

Pete Christianson thanked the community as on the sixth of November, a 16-foot trailer of donations was taken to Orphan Grain Train and last Wednesday, another trailer was taken down. Donations are up almost a quarter from last year and he reported he still has no place on the floor to keep all the donations coming in. Pete invited anyone who has not been out to the locker to come on Tuesday or Saturday to see what is being done there. Pete stated that is unbelievable as they are up to 1270 ramps right now. Pete stated that Orphan Grain Train is in Westfield and the donations go to Doctors Without Borders.

Liz Jones shared a picture of Scott Smith who was the director of Friends of Autism. There was a walk held on Saturday, October 2nd; however, Liz did not go as she was worried about COVID. In his memory, another walk is planned for the end of April and Liz stated hopefully by then 100 percent of the Wisconsin community will have received their booster shots.

Liz Jones also reported there has been a grassroots effort among parents in the autism community and in the greater disability community to share information about older children who might be willing to work as caregivers for each other. This informal network is a way to try to address some of the caregiver shortage.

Paul Janty shared that he used to be in Healthcare Finance at the State Hospital, so he knew Medicare relatively well from a provider perspective. When the time came to sign up for Medicare, he had no clue, even after doing it for 15 years. Paul expressed his appreciation that through the efforts of Joan at the Oshkosh Senior Center, he and his wife were walked through the process.

Brian Nagler and **Mike Norton** both shared appreciation for the Committee and staff's dedication. Both stated their feelings this Committee is one of their favorite meetings.

9. **Next Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.**

With no further business, **Mike Norton** made a motion to adjourn and **Pete Christianson** seconded.

Respectfully submitted: Beth Roberts