

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)  
PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 28, 2012

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Menasha Public Library

**ADRC Committee Members Present:** Ginger Beuk, Debra Hogue, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton and Rob Paterson

**ADRC Committee Members Absent:** Peter Christianson, Janice Dibble, Diane Egan, Ann Jungwirth, Deb Pahl, and Claire Steger

**ADRC Committee Staff Present:** Mary Krueger, Mark Weisensel, Ron Duerkop and Dorothy De Grace

Chairperson Donna Lohry opened the Public Forum at 6:00 p.m. She read the six questions that have been provided for discussion at today's meeting.

- 1. How have you or your relative or friend benefitted from participation in one of Wisconsin's long-term care programs in the past year? Did/does it meet your needs?**
- 2. What suggestions do you have for the state Department of Health Services or local agency for ways to improve the delivery of any of these programs?**
- 3. What services, living arrangements or other supports are not available in your community that you consider important?**
- 4. What services of the Aging & Disability Resource Center have been most beneficial? What suggestions do you have for improvement of any service at the ADRC?**
- 5. As the state and federal governments struggle with meeting the funding needs of programs for elders and adults with disabilities, do you have any recommendations about how to "stretch" the public dollar to serve more people or serve people better?**
- 6. What specific issues as they relate to our aging population would you like to see the Aging and Disability Resource Center address in 2013-2015?**

**Comments by participants at tonight's meeting:**

- She had tried to get medical transportation for her husband from their home in the Town of Vinland to Neenah and back home. One of the transportation agencies didn't transport someone using a wheelchair; several agencies would have charged a high cost because it would have been out of their normal travel area. She was able to get a friend and relative to help out.

- Her daughter moved from Park View to a CBRF, and they needed to address some things. She said it was very difficult working with the local HUD organization when asking for things to be repaired at the CBRF for wheelchair accessibility. Things have since been addressed. She'd like to see state representatives go through some CBRF's to see what's being done. The residents aren't always able to go on outings because there aren't enough staff.
- He is receiving services from Clarity Care and only sees the employee one day a week for two hours, which doesn't seem to be enough time. He was told that his income is too high to be eligible to receive more service hours. He said he's glad that Valley Transit will continue to provide him transportation to work for another two years because funding was approved.
- She is a parent and guardian. She said since the state changed the former Adult Foster Care program to a group home status it has been difficult the last couple of years with funding not being there for expenses that had always been covered in the past.
- She would like there to be a gathering of people from various providers, parents, clients, state people, other stakeholders, staff of Lakeland Care District and IRIS to talk about the different challenges and how they might be able to collaborate to better meet the needs of the clients without worrying about territorial issues. She currently feels very defensive when she attends a meeting regarding service issues, and she doesn't think it should be that way. She thinks there are many people that have these same negative feelings.
- They are on a waiting list for Family Care. She receives a monthly allotment from Social Security Disability and retirement benefits of \$208 annually. This has been a roadblock for her qualifying for the Forward Health program. They were cut off from the program, but they have now been working with a benefit specialist at the ADRC who has been very helpful in trying to get them on an alternative insurance program.
- He's been working with a benefit specialist at the ADRC and is very pleased with what she has done for him. He's always been treated with respect and dignity by the employees when he calls or goes to the ADRC office. They have been very helpful.
- She was on a waiting list and started with Family Care about one year ago. She is happy with the service so far.
- The ADRC helped her husband get the opportunity to participate in activities at the Thompson Community Center.

Donna Lohry thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She informed everyone that they are welcome to attend any of the ADRC Committee meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. She closed the public forum at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary  
Winnebago County Department of Human Services