

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022– 9:00 a.m.

Government Center Room 110

Members present: Pam Fall, Karen Novotny, John Banks, Sharon Rollins, Dave Skrupky, Cheryl Hakseth, Robert Anderson, and Bert Skinner
Absent: Dick Nerbun
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Darby Smith, Alisa Lammers, Mary Updike, Katrina Hanson, Jeff French and Louie Okey
Attending Virtually: None

Vice-Chair Pam Fall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Notice Compliance: Terri Mikyska stated we were in compliance with the open meeting Public Notification Laws.

Approval of the Agenda: Request was made to move #7 ADRC Reorganization Discussion ahead of #6 Fiscal Reports. Bob Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Dave Skrupky seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (November 16, 2021): John Banks made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Karen Novotny, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

ADRC Reorganization Discussion – Jennifer updated the board that Barron and Rusk Counties have been having some ongoing concerns with Washburn County regarding collaboration and partnership and of differing philosophies and values of the tri-county ADRC. Issues include: differing values about public marketing of Aging Units/ADRC as integrated services for best customer service, utilization and value of regional staff work plans, and a differing understanding of each county of who their customers, are resulting in staffing concerns. Jennifer has met with Barron County, Rusk County, and Washburn County leadership and recommends reorganizing from a three county to a two county ADRC so all three counties can effectively follow through with their values, resulting in best customer service and healthy organizations. Jennifer gave an overview of the history of becoming a tri-county ADRC in 2009 and how collaboration and partnership is key to create efficiencies to best meet customer needs. Jennifer discussed information she reviewed with the State including: tri-county intergovernmental agreement; each county can determine if they want to continue the agreement and proper notice for that agreement, need for County Board resolution to withdraw from the agreement and another resolution to become a regional ADRC with Rusk County, need to submit a letter of intent and new ADRC application to DHS for approval. Jennifer Jako, Mary Updike and Jeff French, County Administrator, met with Washburn County (Washburn County Aging & Disability Services Committee meetings 3-9-22 and 3-11-22) to review differences, exploration of reorganization in progress, and recommended timeline of possible reorganization. Washburn County wishes to maintain the current structure but recognizes the issues Barron and Rusk are experiencing. Jennifer recommended we move forward with exploring withdrawing from the current tri-county ADRC 12/31/22 and become a regional ADRC with Rusk County effective 1/1/23. The ADRC Governing Board meets on Tuesday, May 3rd and ADRC Reorganization will be an agenda item for information and discussion. Barron County would look at voting on resolutions in May. Jennifer answered fiscal and staffing questions. Jennifer explained that the \$40,000 regional incentive state funding that is allocated to Barron County as the fiscal agent because Washburn County is in the region would be lost. Fiscal has projected potential improved federal MA drawdown with the reorganization. The ADRC would potentially need to request additional levy during 2023 budgeting to make up the difference. There will be no reduction in regional staff as our DHS Scope of Services contract will need to be fulfilled which would

result in more services available from regional staff to Barron and Rusk County customers. Unanimous consensus was to move forward with the process of reorganization.

Fiscal Report: a. 2021 Year End – Terri distributed the 2021 Year End fiscal summary report and reviewed the program’s revenues and expenditures with changes in budgets due to additional funding allocated due to the pandemic. b. February 2022 – Terri distributed and reviewed the February 2022 fiscal summary report.

Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) 2022 Work Plan: Katrina Hanson, new DCS introduced herself and shared the 2022 DCS Work Plan that she and Trisha Witham have created. Highlights of the regional work plan includes: 13 community memory screen outreach events, providing memory screens through our HDM Community Health worker project, monthly virtual book clubs, one-act Memory Care plays across the region called “Fortune Cookies” to be held June 8th at The Mill in Chetek, 14 Boost Your Brain & Memory workshops, Dementia 101 and Dementia Live presentations, “Lunch Bunch” held at Turtleback in Rice Lake which offers a social meal for those living with dementia and their caregivers in the community, continue with DCS Constant Contact e-letter (which has 220 subscribers), Music & Memory program, and a review of the new Confident Caregiver workshop which is a 12 week workshop combining Savvy Caregiver and Powerful Tools for Caregivers with on-site respite provided through Home Instead. Jennifer also added that this work plan addresses many of the community needs identified from the Aging Plan community input regarding brain health, respite, and caregiver needs. The DCS’s are also responsible for providing training to ensure our staff are dementia capable, working directly with people and caregivers one-on-one, and to help create dementia friendly communities through education.

Health Promotion: Alisa gave an update on the need to focus on recruiting new leaders/facilitators in 2022. She will be doing outreach the next couple months at Senior Centers, Dining @ 5, etc. We have many spring workshops planned and are currently outreaching to fill two Healthy Living with Diabetes Classes (one virtual, one in-person), a virtual Living Well with Chronic Conditions in early April, and the Confident Caregiver starting Monday, March 21st at the Rice Lake Senior Center.

Advocacy and legislative issues: Jennifer reported that Aging Advocacy Day is scheduled virtually for Wednesday, May 11th from 1 – 4 p.m. Jennifer also shared her experience of attending the Aging Advocacy Day last year virtually and having the direct attention of our legislators, including Senator Bewley, Representative Armstrong, Representative Meyers and Representative Milroy. Jen will send the board more information as we receive it and encouraged board members to participate along with her and other staff.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby gave an update on the Highway project as it relates to AddLIFE and Home Delivered Meal vehicles being stored. We are still waiting on the arrival of our new Ford Transit van that we were awarded through our 5310 grant. She has hired two new drivers; one to replace a vacancy and another additional driver for 12 hours per week. Darby distributed and reviewed the Senior Nutrition Program Satisfaction Survey Results & Program Updates. This report shared results on quality of food, daily food intake, isolation, “more than a meal”, average daily meals prepared by our central kitchen, and what is next in 2022. She also shared that Joe Barnes, Rice Lake Nutrition Site Manager, will be recognized nationally on March 31st as a Senior Nutrition Program Champion through our federal partner Administration of Community Living (ACL). (b) Caregiver & Health Promotion – Alisa Lammers reported that Daybreak is going well with up to 15 attending between the three days. Shellie Lyste, Daybreak Coordinator, has announced her retirement for July 1st. Shellie has been the Daybreak Coordinator for over 25 years. Recruitment for volunteers at both sites is on-going. Fundraising will start again with concessions for Music in the Park in Barron on July 13th. Alisa shared the donations of nine electric dog and cats from Little Red Barn in Rice Lake. The Chronotype will be doing a story highlighting the partnership. Support groups are back in-person at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake every 2nd Tuesday. Alisa is working with RCAW on another

project bringing together Faith Community Leaders from churches around the three counties regarding respite needs and how they might be able to assist their congregations. (c) ADRC report – Mary shared EBSs saw increased people (about 125) through their efforts to revamp and streamline the Medicare Part D enrollment period. Leanne’s program changes have been shared at the state with many ADRC’s using it. Mary Simpson has revitalized the AARP Tax Aide program this year providing the much needed tax help to our residents. (d) Director’s updates – Jennifer gave an update on the shutdown of 3G cell service and how it impacted our residents. The transition to 4G seems to be going okay. One glitch was with SafeLink (free phone) when no 4G phones were available. This has been rectified. Jennifer announced that the ADRC applied for a Community Health Worker grant for two regional LTE positions--for 20 hours each now until May of 2023. One position will be helping Home Delivered Meal (HDM) coordinators focusing on high-risk vulnerable persons recently discharged from the hospital for 30 days to help them stay at home and not return to the hospital. The other position will be supporting DCS staff to build capacity for memory screening and individual follow up as well as community education through Boost Your Brain and Memory Workshops. Save the Date: the Volunteer Recognition event is returning June 23rd at the Pavilion at Anderson Park in Barron. This will be an open house, in-person party. Invitations will be sent.

Future Agenda Items – ADRC reorganization status

Bert Skinner let the Commission know that he is not running for another term for County Board. He stated it has been an honor to serve on the Commission and thanked this department for all that they have done for the City of Cumberland and in helping make Barron County a healthy and safe place to live.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th at 9 a.m. at the Government Center in Barron.

Bob Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m., Sharon Rollins seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Banks, Secretary
Recording secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.