

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Government Center Auditorium

Members present: Pam Fall, Karen Novotny, John Banks, Sharon Rollins, Dave Skrupky, Cheryl Hakseth, Dick Nerbun, and Patti Anderson
Absent: Stacey Wenzel
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Trisha Witham, Darby Smith, Alisa Lammers, Mary Updike and Steve Olson
Attending Virtually: None

Chair Dick Nerbun 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: Pam Fall made a motion to approve the agenda, Cheryl Hakseth seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (November 29, 2022): John Banks made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Dave Skrupky, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

DCS – 2023 Work Plan & Updates: Trisha Witham shared her work plan for 2023. She discussed a few highlights including expanding walk-in memory screens, the Caregiver Series, which includes Caregiver Boot Camp, Caregivers Skills Fair, Savvy Caregiver and Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshops. She is working with the African Immigrant Project out of UW-Minnesota to provide information for the Somali community. Dementia Connections, which meets right before the Alzheimer's Support group with rotating staff, provides an avenue for people to come and ask questions about any topic and then consider joining the support group. Trisha shared information about the Growing Connections program (for people living with dementia and their care partners) that is focusing on gardening and is led by volunteers.

Fiscal Report: a. 2022 Year End – Terri distributed the 2022 Year End fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures with changes in budgets due to additional ARPA funding. b. February 2023 – Terri distributed and reviewed the February 2022 fiscal summary report.

Kitchen Update: Steve Olson, Buildings & Maintenance Director, gave an update on kitchen equipment, electrical and plumbing timeline with the hope of having bids sent out early May. He answered questions. He will send a draft kitchen layout to board members.

Health Promotions: Alisa reviewed 2022 workshops provided. Five classes, with 30 participants, were held. Our partnership with Inclusa for the Aging Mastery Program have scheduled 4-5 12-week workshops during a year. In 2023 we kicked off the year with two new programs: Walk with Ease – a 6 week self-directed Arthritis workshop and Eat Smart, Move More, Weight Less – a 15 week virtual program provided by the North Carolina State University. We have nine people registered to get trained for the Stepping On program. Will continue to adapt to workshops desired by the community using feedback from our Aging Plan input.

Advocacy and legislative issues: Jennifer reported the State biennial budget is being put together and Joint Finance is holding a hearing on April 11th at the UW-Eau Claire. Jennifer had distributed the WAAN

(Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network) 2023-2025 Budget Priorities—Increase in ADRC funding, Reducing Falls, Supporting Family Caregivers, HDM funding increase, Housing, Long Term Care Workforce and Transportation. She also reported on the budget hearing held at the VFW in Barron by Representative Armstrong and Senator Quinn. Aging Advocacy Day is being held on May 9th in Madison.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby reported that our kitchen is preparing over 400 meals per day of which 350 are MOW. Dining @ 5 is held in three locations – Cameron, Chetek and Rice Lake with 20-40 in attendance. Prairie Farm Pioneer Nursing Home is closing and we will be taking on those meals starting April. They will be packaged in Chetek and delivered by our drivers. Darby reviewed our new restaurant-model site which is breakfast at Lona’s in Haugen. The grand opening was held on March 9th with 57 people attending. Our mission is to provide socialization with an affordable meal. This model is a goal in our Aging Plan and we will continue this pilot in 2023 to ensure this is what the community wants. Transportation - AddLIFE transportation will provide free rides to the Spring election on April 4th. We hired a new driver and we are still waiting on the arrival of our Transit vehicle awarded last year. (b) Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Alisa Lammers reported that Daybreak is going well and has hired a new assistant. The Rice Lake Senior Center has not started their remodeling and Alisa will keep us posted on their schedule. (c) ADRC report – Mary shared information about the Public Health Emergency Unwinding and how it may affect ADRC staff and customers. (d) Director’s updates – Jennifer gave a follow-up report on the reorganization of that ADRC as of January 1st, with things going really well. Our CHW grant that was ending on May 31, 2023 has been approved to have a no cost extension for another year to May 2024 or until the funding runs out. Additionally we have applied for a Marshfield grant to extend CHW work and to bring Dementia Innovations project to Barron County.

Future Agenda Items – kitchen updates, memory screen process

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th, 2023 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

Dave Skrupky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m., John Banks seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Banks, Secretary
Recording secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.