

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Government Center Auditorium

Members present: Pam Fall, Karen Novotny, John Banks, Sharon Rollins, Dave Skrupky, Cheryl Hakseth, Patti Anderson and Stacey Wenzel
Absent: Dick Nerbun
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Trisha Witham, Darby Smith, Alisa Lammers, Mary Updike 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: Dave Skrupky made a motion to approve the agenda, Patti Anderson seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (March 22, 2023): John Banks made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Stacey Wenzel, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

DCS – Memory Screen Presentation: Trisha Witham provided a presentation on Memory Screening in the Community. Trisha discussed why we offer memory screens, the benefits of memory screening, how to screen, what happens after the screen and the considerations taken for those people who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, English not as a first language or have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Screeners go through a fidelity check annually. Trisha updated the group on progress the CHW grant has made in making memory screens more available in our communities by building partnerships. Trisha also shared about the African Immigrant Project out of the University of Minnesota to provide information for the Somali community and the need for a different memory screen for this population. Dementia Innovations, out of Sheboygan County, provides training to transform dementia crisis with local EMS, Law Enforcement, 1st Responders, Assisted Living, etc.

Fiscal Report: Terri distributed the April 2023 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures.

New Kitchen Update: Jennifer reported that the County Board passed the "Resolution Authorizing Construction of New Aging/ADRC Kitchen Facilities Located in the Old Sheriff's Administration and Jail Complex at the Government Center" on May 15, 2023. Bids will be sent out and Jennifer reviewed the possible timeline.

Health Promotions: Alisa reported that 30 participants have already attended workshops in 2023. We have instituted two new workshops: Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less and Walk with Ease. In June we will have 8 new leaders in the Stepping On Program. Alisa reported that we have ten loaner tablets to help people who do not have a device to participate in a virtual class. A training will be held in June to help people use loaner tablets or their own devices to attend virtual workshops.

Advocacy and legislative issues: Jennifer reported the State biennial budget is being put together and Joint Finance held five hearings with one being held on April 11th at the UW-Eau Claire which she

attended. Jennifer shared the key priorities: ADRC funding, HDM funding, Transportation funding and Caregiver Initiatives. She also reported that five people attended Aging Advocacy Day on May 9th in Madison including Darby Smith, Mary Updike, Kim Cobb, Joe Barnes and Patti Anderson.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby reported that our kitchen is averaging 430 meals per day. The Prairie Farm Pioneer Nursing Home has closed and the meals we were contracting with them are now being packaged in Chetek. Darby reported that our pilot restaurant-model site which serves breakfast at Lona’s in Haugen has been very successful serving over 100 participants last week. Transportation - the arrival of our Transit vehicle awarded last year should be arriving soon. Darby educated the Commission that she is available for Nutrition Counseling. (b) Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Alisa Lammers reported that Daybreak is going well and the Daybreak Bus should be back in service soon. She reported on the Confident Caregiver series and the opportunity to provide in-home respite at no cost. A Dementia Friends training was held on becoming a Daybreak volunteer. Alisa reported on the WE CARE Barron County coalition’s Walk & Roll event scheduled for August 9th at the Cedar Mall. (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 big thank you to Cheryl Hakseth who will be going off the board after serving her six year term. The Volunteer Recognition Picnic is scheduled for June 22nd at Anderson Park in Barron with invitations going out. Jennifer gave an update on 2023 Volunteer Onboarding project regarding a one-page application form, background checks and volunteer outreach and recruitment. The 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. Jennifer shared with the Commission that she has been appointed to the State’s Long Term Care Advisory Committee with her term ending in 2025. She is still a member of the Wis. DOT Non-Driver Advisory Committee. Both committees provide valuable opportunities to advocate for Barron County and northern, rural areas of the state.

Future Agenda Items – budget, 5310 grant application

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

John Banks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m., Stacey Wenzel seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Banks, Secretary
Recording secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.