

## Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Government Center Auditorium

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

**Approval of the Minutes (May 16, 2023):** Dave Skrupky made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Stacey Wenzel, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Fiscal Report:** Terri distributed the June 2023 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures. Terri reviewed the 2024 budget timeline. We will need to have a budget summary to Finance by the 11<sup>th</sup> with the final to her after our August 15<sup>th</sup> COA meeting. Jennifer asked the Commission what direction we should take: 1. Budget same as last year – which could result in a waitlist with projected increased needs in the County. 2 Budget to meet the projected need – we would budget for a 5 – 10 % increase in cost and service. 3. Decrease services to decrease budget. Jennifer reminded the Commission that last year it was to “meet the projected needs” and we used ARPA funding to help accomplish this. ARPA funds must be spent by 9-30-24. We have some funds in our fund balance from prior year carryover due to the pandemic. Jennifer discussed our pilot restaurant-model site which serves breakfast at Lona's in Haugen and budget options to continue this into 2024. Our plan is to also go into the new kitchen with current staff levels and some tweaks. We will be look at other revenue options such as raising the suggested contribution for services as well. John Banks made a motion to go with option #2 to “meet the needs” including Lona's, Pam Fall seconded, motion carried.

**5310 Transportation Grant Application (vote):** Jennifer announced that the DOT 5310 grant is now open and we feel there is a need to apply to replace van #16 of our fleet. We were awarded for the last two years but have not received either vehicle yet. We will bring the application back to the Commission for their approval before submitting it. It is due August 25<sup>th</sup>. Dave Skrupky made a motion to apply for the 5310 Transportation Grant, Patti Anderson seconded, motion carried.

**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 were opened and awarded with work started on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer reported that every two weeks there will be an Aging Kitchen Facility Committee meeting to closely monitor this project. The next meetings are July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer notified our current community partner, Venture's Unlimited, of the anticipated transition date of January 31, 2024.

**Health Promotions:** Alisa reported that she and Trisha hosted an ABC of Virtual Learning in June aimed to support older adults waiting to participate in virtual workshops. In June seven new leaders were trained as

Stepping-On Falls Prevention Workshop leaders, including community partners Dove and Mayo. As a result we now have two workshops scheduled this fall in Barron County and one in Rusk County. Living Well with Arthritis is scheduled for this fall. Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less – a virtual workshop offered by NC State University, is having a great response. Walk with Ease is a self-directed program from the Arthritis Foundation and 18 people have participated in Barron County this year.

**Advocacy and legislative issues:** Jennifer reported on the Governor’s budget as it relates to Aging/ADRC services:

- \$ 1 million each year for APS – we work closely with them when older adults are involved. We often do joint visits and help keep APS from having to get fully involved.
- \$2.5 million added to base funding for ADRC’s the 1st year and \$5 million the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This is the first time the state has done this in 25 years. DHS does not have allocation information to date.
- AFCSP - \$250,000 each year.
- Home Delivered Meal program \$225,000 annually.
- Some increases in Transportation funding – not sure how that will impact us yet. The 85.21 has been moved from the segregated funding to the general fund.
- We are a provider of services for LTC programs for HDM, transportation & Daybreak. We are reimbursed for full cost for the services. ARPA funding went to LTC programs to help pay providers more for services. Budget has put more funding into those programs to continue the incentive funding after ARPA funds are done.

**Staff Report & Program Updates:** (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby reported that there are a couple of local policy changes in our local HDM program. As of 8/1/23 participants are no longer able to leave a meal in the fridge for people who leave a note on the door indicating they are gone. Per the state, we have to hand the meal to a person, a family member or a neighbor. As of 7/1/2023 we are no longer able to serve persons under 60 a HDM when they are enrolled in a LTC program – decision made as we looked at capacity issues and to be consistent with our mission of serving those 60+. Darby reported the State was looking at the top 50 sites (of 350) that served 20 or more people per service day. Rice Lake Dining @ 5 came in at #13 and the Rice Lake Senior Center at #42. Kudos to our Rice Lake Senior Dining site. Transportation – ridership is down but historically happens during the summer with people driving themselves in good weather and we did an audit to make sure we are not providing rides to person with Medical Assistance going to medical appointments as they are eligible for Veyo. Started offering AddLIFE to get people to/from the County Lane Pantry for the Farmer’s Market – extended service hours on Thursdays. (b) Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Alisa Lammers reported that Daybreak is going well, the Daybreak Bus is back in service, and they are going to the County Fair! She reported the Caregiver Skill Fair is coming up on July 25th. Alisa reported on the Walk & Roll event, supporting paid caregivers, scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cedar Mall and we will have a resource booth. (c) ADRC report – Mary gave an update on “unwinding”. Phone calls have remained reasonable at this time. (d) Director’s updates – Jennifer reported on a current leave and anticipate will be back within the next couple of weeks. Other staff have been helping to cover. The Volunteer Recognition Picnic was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Anderson Park in Barron with approximately 100 volunteers attending and recognized for their service. Jennifer gave an update on 2023 Volunteer Onboarding project (working with Corp Counsel) to get a process in place for filling out an application, background checks (including criminal, sex offender, CCAP), Driver’s License, and tracking of volunteer hours. The goal is to have this project completed by 2024. Alisa and Trisha will be doing outreach at the Fair Booth on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, for Senior Day.

Future Agenda Items – 2024 Aging Budget approval, 5310 grant application submission (vote)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

John Banks shared the Barron County Fair starts tomorrow and goes through Sunday. Please attend.

Dave Skrupky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m., John Banks seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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John Banks, Secretary

Recording secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.