

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Government Center Auditorium

Members present: Dick Nerbun, Sharon Rollins, Karen Novotny, Stacey Wenzel, Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug and Diane Vaughn
Absent: Dave Skrupky and April Miller
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Darby Smith, Alisa Lammers, Mary Updike, Emily Jergenson and Trisha Witham
Attending Virtually: None

Chair Dick Nerbun called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made. Welcome to our two new county board supervisors Kathy Krug and Diane Vaughn.

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

Approval of the Agenda: Patti Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda, Stacey Wenzel seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (March 19, 2024): Sharon Rollins made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Stacey Wenzel, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Fiscal Report: Terri distributed the April 2024 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures.

5310 Grant Application (Vote): Jennifer shared the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation provides a competitive 5310 Capitol Vehicle Grant for Counties to replace vehicles. This grant does require county match. We would like to apply to replace one of our AddLife vehicles. We would bring this application back to the Commission for approval before submitting it in August. Patti Anderson made a motion to apply for the 2024 5310 Capitol Vehicle Grant, Kathy Krug seconded, motion carried.

2025-2027 Aging Plan: Jennifer reviewed the purpose and need for the 2025-2027 Aging Plan and distributed a timeline. January – May we conducted a survey to gather community input. The top concerns were in-home help, affordable housing, caregiver support, brain health and transportation. We also took this information and did a caregiver focus group at the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) event. Next steps include creating draft goals to submit to GWAAR. The COA will be approving the Aging Plan. The final plan is due in November.

Health Promotions & Confident Caregiver Series: Alisa gave an overview of the six evidenced-based workshops currently being offered. Falls prevention is a top concern and we provide a Stepping-On Workshop to address this need. We have been able to coordinate with Public Health and 3 local health systems to expand our Stepping-On program.

Advocacy and legislative issues: Jennifer stated we are required to advocate on behalf of older adults that we serve and we maintain a strong relationship with local legislators to keep them informed on the top needs of older adults. GWAAR put together the annual Aging Advocacy Day held at the Capitol on Tuesday, May 14th to address the aging issues. The top five issues we are advocating for in the State

budget are: increase in ADRC funding, HDM funding, transportation funding, caregiver support, and Healthy Aging Grants. It is the 50th Anniversary of the Elder nutrition program and in conjunction with the Rice Lake Senior Center we are celebrating on Tuesday, June 25th from 3 – 7 p.m. with an Open House. Save the date, more information to come.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby shared that in preparation for the 50 year celebration she found the cost of a meal in 1980 was \$1.45. The new kitchen is up and running serving an average of 400 meals daily. Transportation - AddLIFE transportation runs Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a co-pay of \$6 round trip anywhere in the county. We received one of our new Ford Transit Van and the 2nd one is coming in July. (b) Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Alisa Lammers reported that Daybreak is a State licensed adult day program for 15 participants with early memory loss and is open three days a week; Monday and Thursday in Barron and Tuesday in Rice Lake. Recently the State came to survey our program and we are in compliance. They stated we were the most organized adult day program recently surveyed. Caregiver - Alisa reported we had hosted the PAC training event on April 13th with 20 in attendance. The next event in the Confident Caregiver Series is the Savvy Caregiver Program which is specifically for individuals caring for someone. The Wine Women & Dementia event is a documentary viewing with a guided discussion and dinner which is scheduled for June 21st from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Rice Lake Senior Center and on June 27th at the St. Croix Casino Event Center. (c) ADRC report – Mary reported that we have new staff: Emily Jergenson is the 3rd I & A Specialist and Abby Wendlandt is the new Elder Benefit Specialist who replaced Mary Simpson who retired in April so we have 2 full-time EBS's. Mary announced that the Pandemic Unwinding will be ending in July. (d) Director's updates – Jennifer asked Trisha to report on the grant we were recently awarded—a Reducing Social Isolation grant – A Men's Shed. This is a one year grant in the amount of \$16,400. Jennifer reminded us May is Older American's Month. Memory Screenings are scheduled in Barron, Cumberland, Rice Lake and Turtle Lake and are being done by certified memory screeners. Jennifer announced that nearly 300 volunteers will be honored at our annual recognition scheduled for June 6th at Anderson Park in Barron. The Low Vision support group held a "Sighted Guide Training" for caregivers of those living with low vision with Al Thompson providing the training. Jennifer recognized the contribution of two county board members whose terms ended: John Banks and Pam Fall, and welcomed Kathy Krug and Diane Vaughn filling those positions. Jennifer also thanked and recognized the contributions of three citizen members finishing their term as well: Sharon Rollins, Dave Skrupky and Dick Nerbun.

Dick stated that it was a privilege to work with this commission with such dedicated, high functioning staff with a passion. He wishes us continued success.

Future Agenda Items – Elections, 2025 Budget discussion, Aging Plan draft

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

, Secretary

Recording secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.