

**Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.  
Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Members present: Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug, Diane Vaughn, Karen Novotny, Carole Knoll, and Deb Neuheisel  
Absent: Bob Heil, Stacey Wenzel, Cheryl Hakseth  
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Alisa Lammers, Darby Smith, Tristy Hopp, and Leanne Grover

Chair Patti Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Public Notice Compliance:** Tristy Hopp stated we were in compliance with the open meeting Public Notification Laws.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Karen Novonty made a motion to approve the agenda, Deb Neuheisel seconded, motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes (November 19, 2024):** Diane Vaughn made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Kathy Krug, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Fiscal Report:** Tristy Hopp and Jennifer Jako reviewed the 2024 Year End fiscal summary report and the February 2025 fiscal summary and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures.

**Health Promotions 2025 Workshops:** Alisa reviewed upcoming 2025 workshops. She facilitated a virtual Living Well with Chronic Conditions in January. Upcoming Spring classes include: Stepping On Falls Prevention workshops in Rice Lake in April (currently has a waiting list), Turtle Lake in April, and Chetek in May, Healthy Living with Diabetes in Rice Lake in May and starting Walk with Ease over the summer. Alisa informed the board that a MN agency Live2BHealthy coordinates fitness classes for older adults and has interest in expanding further into Western Wisconsin and is considering the following locations as host sites: Haugen Village Hall, Cumberland HealthCare, and Brentwood in Rice Lake. They look to provide fitness opportunities specifically for older adults which is an unmet need in Barron County.

**2024 Volunteer Impact Report:** Jennifer Jako reviewed the 2024 handout. In 2023, we completed a quality improvement project around ADRC volunteer tracking. 2024 was the first full year of data available to share with the board. In 2024, we had 348 active volunteers serve programs including Meals on Wheels, Senior Dining, Daybreak, Food Commodities, Health Promotions workshops, Support Groups, and Men's Shed for a grand total of 9,140 hours and 13,170 miles for a monetary impact of \$315,028. Volunteers are extremely important to ADRC programs and services.

**Advocacy:** Jennifer Jako brought forward an advocacy request from an ADRC Governing Board member Rob Ludwig regarding transportation services. The board was appreciative of the advocacy and would like staff to proceed with elevating transportation issues to the upcoming Aging Advocacy Day event and continuing to work with our public transit partners to assure customers are informed about affordable transportation options in Barron County. Jennifer Jako discussed that we continue to keep informed about the federal budget and state biennial budget and the advocacy focus areas for the 2025 Aging Advocacy Day in Madison at the capital on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff Report & Program Updates:** (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby reported that AddLIFE is available to provide free rides for the Spring Election on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Darby also reported that Joyce Hagestuen,

AddLIFE dispatcher of 20 years, will be retiring this month. The dispatcher position has been posted. Darby discussed the 2025 March for Meals campaign with the goal to bring more awareness to the Meals on Wheels program and the need for volunteers. Darby discussed with the board initiating a new dining site location – at the Barron County Highway Building during the monthly Men’s Shed. Darby and Chair Anderson shared that the Wisconsin Counties Association will be coming to Barron County for “County Officials Conversations in Cars” on June 5<sup>th</sup> and Barron County’s Lona’s restaurant model Senior Dining/Socialization will be one of the areas featured. (b) Daybreak/Family Caregiver/Health Promotion Programs – Alisa Lammers reported on upcoming caregiver outreach events: “Stress Less Care Better” presentations, and hosting an event with the Rice Lake Chamber on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Club focused on Dementia Friendly Training for businesses. Alisa announced the Save the Date for the annual 2025 Caregiver Conference event on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> at Northwood Tech. This will be a resource fair with mini education sessions. Alisa gave an update on the Centerpoint Event (formally known as the Multi Agency Resource Event (MARE). These are held quarterly at UW-EC- Barron County with multiple agencies in Barron County focused on assisting low resourced residents. About 35 agency partners helped serve 65 households/101 people in February 2025. Housing, food, clothing are top 3 unmet needs. (c) ADRC report –Leanne Grover informed the board about our new EBS Adara Jordan. She discussed the documentation system transition to PeerPlace and the statewide resource directory. (d) Director’s updates – Jennifer updated the board about the Government Operations, Accountability, and Transparency (GOAT) Committee records request.

#### Future Agenda Items – 2025 Dementia Care Specialist Workplan

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Barron.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stacey Wenzel, Secretary  
Recording secretary: Jennifer Jako

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.