

ADRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Barron County Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
335 E Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI

Members present: Kathy Halbur, Bob Anderson, John Smatlak, Rudy Walz, Sharon Rollins, and Rob Ludwig, Vlad Sajka  
Absent: Mike Russell  
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Tristy Hopp, Alisa Lammers, Kathy Walthers, Leanne Grover, Heidi Syvinski, Sarah Miller, and Louie Okey

Chair Kathy Halbur called the ADRC Governing Board Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Bob Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Sharon Rollins, motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes (November 5, 2024):** John Smatlak made a motion to approve the minutes as written, second by Rudy Walz, motion carried.

**Public comment:** None

**2024 Fiscal Year end – Heidi Syvinski:** Heidi Syvinski distributed the 2024 Year End Fiscal report clarifying it is an unaudited report. She outlined the revenues, expenditures, and explained the surplus that was due to increased State General Purpose Revenue, staff vacancies, and improved Medicaid drawdown. County levy was returned as appropriate per county. Heidi answered questions.

**Information & Assistance Presentation – Sarah Miller:** Sarah provided an overview of the Information & Assistance Specialist (I&A) position and duties. This position provides elderly, adults with disabilities, youth who are transitioning into the adult long-term care system, and their caregivers with unbiased information, resources and assistance with access to services. Sarah answered questions from the board.

**ADRC Modernization Projects – Jennifer Jako –** (a) Documentation system – Jennifer touched base on the transition from Wellsky to the new state system, Peer Place, and that staff continue to receive training and guidance from the State. (b) Statewide Resource Directory - Jennifer explained that the state has started a new statewide resource directory. Some issues noted with the accuracy of statewide resources and ADRCs are in process of trying to make edits. Staff continue to use our local resource directory for accuracy and good customer service. (c) Marketing/Outreach – Jennifer informed the board of the new ADRC logo from the state, the new toll free number on the state website, the billboard on highway 48, and the grant that was provided from the state to order new swag with the new logo. Sharon Rollins mentioned the ADRC commercials she has seen on TV.

**Health Promotions Update – Alisa Lammers:** Alisa provided a recap for 2024 on the number of participants for each Health Promotions workshop with an ending number of 117 for Barron County and 27 for Rusk County. She informed the board that North Carolina State University runs the Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less program for both Barron and Rusk Counties. Alisa has a waiting list for

Stepping On classes due to the volume of people that would like to attend. Alisa shared that Rusk County Falls Coalition started in January of 2025 with the hopes of expanding to Barron County in the upcoming year.

**Advocacy Update** – (a) Low Vision and Transportation – Board member Rob Ludwig informed the other board members regarding transportation services from assisted living to county programs such as Stepping On and the need for more affordable options for transportation. Jennifer Jako discussed that we will continue working with our public and specialized transit partners to assure customers are informed about affordable transportation options in Assisted Living facilities in Barron County. (b) Aging Advocacy Day – Jennifer informed the board that Aging Advocacy Day is May 13, 2025 and that 6 staff and board members will be attending from Barron County. (c) Budgets – Jennifer provided information that we are closely monitoring the State and Federal budget processes and potential impacts to our funding.

**ADRC Reports:**

**Contacts/Enrollments – Jennifer Jako:** With the transition from Wellsky to PeerPlace, data will look different starting in 2025 from past years.

**Personnel – Jennifer Jako:** Jennifer updated the board Fawn Armstrong will be starting in June 2025 as the new Barron County EBS who currently works for Rusk County. Rusk County will start the recruitment process for a new EBS. Kathy Walthers informed the board Michelle is their new I&A specialist. Jennifer also updated the board that she will be interviewing for the Barron County ADRC Receptionist position that is currently open.

**Director Updates – Jennifer Jako:** Jennifer updated the board that our annual all staff training will be held on June 3, 2025 in Ladysmith. Kathy updated the board that the Rusk County Independent Your Way event will be in June.

**Agenda items for next meeting** – tentative presentation by New Freedom Mobility Manager

**Next meeting** – is scheduled for August 5, 2025 in Ladysmith

**Adjournment** - Bob Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m., seconded by Sharon Rollins, motion carried.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rudy Walz, Secretary

Recording Secretary: Tristy Hopp

Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.