

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Members present: Patti Anderson, Stacey Wenzel, Bob Heil, Kathy Krug, Diane Vaughn, Deb Neuheisel, Kelli Rasmussen, and Carole Knoll
Absent: Cheryl Hakseth
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Tristy Hopp, Darby Smith, Alisa Lammers, Lisa Robinson, 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: Diane Vaughn made a motion to approve the agenda as written, Kathy Krug seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (August 19, 2025): Deb Neuheisel made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Diane Vaughn, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Fiscal Report: Tristy distributed the September 2025 fiscal summary report and reviewed programs revenues and expenditures.

2026 85.21 Grant Application (vote): Jennifer announced that the annual DOT 85.21 Grant Application is now available for completion for Barron County. The budget consists of grant funds of \$148,211 with a required match of 20% in the amount of \$29,642.00. We utilize these grant funds to operate our AddLIFE Transit program. If approved to move forward, Jennifer reported a required public hearing would be held on Thursday, November 6th at 10:30 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Bob Heil made a motion to proceed with the application for Barron County's 85.21 Grant application, seconded by Diane Vaughn, motion carried.

Advocacy and legislative issues: (a) Federal: (1) Government Shutdown update - Jennifer informed the board that the Government shutdown is not affecting our Older Americans Act 2025 funding as this was already allocated. Unknown if it will affect 2026 funding. (2) SNAP/Foodshare Admin update - Jennifer also informed the board about Foodshare program issues. First, the federal reconciliation bill H.R.1 signed into law July 4, 2025, made cuts and changes that require Wisconsin to increase its share of the financing needed to run the FoodShare program. The new law also requires states to do more work to meet the new requirements; this further increases the costs of running the program, at the same time federal funding is being reduced. State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding. That means the state legislature must allocate more state money so Wisconsin can keep running the FoodShare program well and in the way the federal government now requires. If this doesn't happen, cuts to the program could happen. Second, with the current Federal Government shutdown, we are now concerned about customers not receiving November benefits. We expect food pantries and other resources like Meals on Wheels to be accessed more as the shutdown continues. (3) Marketplace update – Jennifer stated that the enhanced premium tax cut is set to expire at the end of 2025, unless Congress takes action, which will lead to higher monthly premiums for people who are enrolled in Marketplace insurance. This is one of the points of contention with the current shutdown. She will continue to keep the board informed. (b) State: (1) Healthy Aging Grant/Falls Prevention Grant – Jennifer stated this is a funding request happening at the State level

outside the biennial budget relating to funding for fall prevention awareness and initiatives. The bill appropriates \$450,000 in 2025-26 and again in 2026-27 for the Wis. Dept. of Health Services (DHS) for WIHA to support statewide falls prevention efforts. We support this because WIHA supports our Stepping On Falls Prevention locally. (2) Speaker's Taskforce on Elder Services – Jennifer stated that Wisconsin's State Representatives are putting together a taskforce to find ways to improve services for seniors. These include support to remain in their home, social interactions, and protection from financial scams. We are watching for listening sessions to be held across the State.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby reported that nutrition staff attended the annual regional staff training in Hayward. Darby also stated the Men's Shed popup dining site is still going strong with between 40-50 men attending monthly. She also mentioned new signage for the kitchen was completed, photos shown. Darby informed the board that we have been notified by DOT that vehicle awards from last year are starting to be processed. (b) Caregiver & Health Promotion – Alisa reported that space Daybreak utilizes at the Rice Lake Senior Center is in the early stages of possibly being remodeled. In the event that would happen the other Daybreak location in Barron will allow Daybreak to use the room three days a week. Alisa also shared that the annual Caregiver Conference was a great success and 39 people attended. They had an open house style event with resource vendors, health screenings, and educational breakout sessions. Alisa is having her last "Stress Less Care Better" workshop for Family Caregivers on November 3. Alisa also informed the board of a potential pilot to partner with EMS for a formal referral process for falls in both Barron and Rusk Counties. (c) ADRC report – Leanne reported that open enrollment for Medicare Part D has started. Leanne also distributed and reviewed third quarter's activity report. Leanne also informed the board that Caryn Becker is retiring with over 30 years with Barron County and that Lisa Robinson who is currently the Administrative Assistant, will be taking her position. There will be interviews next week for the Administrative Assistant position. (d) Director's updates – Jennifer announced that we had annual assessments for GWAAR and also a fiscal assessment with GWAAR and that Barron County is doing very well. She also informed the board that billing for Long Term Care programs will be changing and that we are currently enrolling in FowardHealth. Jennifer also stated that Barron County got a new phone system and that all staff are learning how this new phone system works. Jennifer shared that our annual Centenarian Celebration will be held on Wednesday October 29th at Lehman's Supper Club. There are 14 Centenarians that the ADRC knows about in Barron County and 9 of them plan to attend.

Future Agenda Items – 85.21 Grant Submission (vote) and 2026 meeting dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Wenzel, Secretary
Recording secretary: Tristy Hopp

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.