

ADRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rusk County Law Enforcement Center Conference Room
311 Miner Avenue E, Ladysmith

Members present: Bob Anderson, John Smatlak, Sharon Rollins, Rob Ludwig, Vlad Sajka, and Bert Skinner
Absent: Kathy Halber & Tom Hanson
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Tristy Hopp, Alisa Lammers, Kathy Walthers, and Angie Harvey

Vice Chair Sharon Rollins called the ADRC Governing Board Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made. Bert Skinner is the new citizen member for Barron County replacing Rudy Walz who completed his term. In the absence of a secretary, Vice Chair Sharon Rollins appointed Bob Anderson as Secretary pro tem.

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 Rob Ludwig, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (November 4, 2025): Vlad Sajka made a motion to amend the minutes striking “February 3, 2025” at the end and replacing the date with “February 3, 2026”, second by Bob Anderson, motion carried, minutes approved as amended.

Public comment: None

Health Promotions Presentation – Alisa Lammers: Alisa distributed handouts recapping the 2025 health promotions programs along with the goals for 2026. She informed the board that she coordinated six programs in 2025 in both counties: Healthy Living with Diabetes, Living Well with Chronic Conditions, Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less, Stepping On, Walk with Ease, and Mind over Matter. With these six programs she had 113 participants and 1118 hours of programming. She also informed the board that she started a collaborative falls coalition in Rusk County with 17 active community partner agencies and they have implemented an EMS/ADRC Falls Referral Program. Alisa also informed the board of the 2026 Health Promotion Goals which include recruiting more facilitators for the programs, developing a Barron County Falls Coalition, and continuing to partner with other community agencies to promote healthy living opportunities.

2026 ADRC Scope of Services: Jennifer reviewed the purpose of the Scope of Services which provides the direction in which the ADRC functions and that there were minimal changes from 2025. The contract can be located on our website under “About” and then “Contract” for review or on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website.

Advocacy and Legislative Issues – Jennifer Jako: (a) Federal: Foodshare, ACA Enhanced subsidies - Jennifer informed the board that Foodshare has changed some administrative requirements and there is advocacy around local staffing levels in Income Maintenance to meet requirements. ACA Enhanced subsidies update – Jennifer stated that the enhanced premium tax cut has expired and we will continue to monitor how that affects accessibility to health insurance. (b) State: Speaker’s Taskforce on Elder Services - Jennifer stated that Wisconsin’s State Representatives have introduced six bills which includes

protection from financial scams for vulnerable adults and WIHA falls prevention funding. There is also work on a bill for memory care facilities to be required to have memory care training. This proposed legislation came directly from our local caregivers grass root efforts during our Caregiver Voices event. Trisha Witham, DCS and Deb Neuheisel, COA board member have assisted Senator Quinn with advocacy around this bill.

ADRC Reports: Contacts/Enrollments – 2025 4th quarter contact numbers were distributed and reviewed. Jennifer also distributed the ADRC three year data comparison and gave a reminder that data comparison is unavailable for all data points due to the reporting system changing from Wellsky to PeerPlace last year. **Personnel** – Kathy Walthers informed the board she is hiring for three positions at Rusk County: I&A, DBS, and EBS. Rusk County is working on recruitment. **Director Updates** – (1) ADRC Funding - Jennifer informed the board that our ADRC was provided a slight increase in base funding from the state in 2026 due to additional GPR allocation from the last biennial budget. (2) Statewide Resource Directory - Jennifer explained some issues noted with the accuracy of statewide resources and ADRCs are in process of making edits. In 2025, we completed a full assessment of the statewide directory – we are the “local” ADRC for 307 resources (16 statewide) and there are 427 aging and disability resources that serve Barron and Rusk counties. We needed to update 288 resources for accuracy. Staff continue to use our local resource directory at this time and will continue to monitor.

Agenda items for next meeting – 2025 Year End, Elections, review of board member terms

Next meeting – is scheduled for May 5, 2026 in Barron

Bob Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m., John Smatlak, seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tristy Hopp, Fiscal Specialist

Minutes are not official until approved at the next Governing Board meeting.