

ADRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 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, Sharon Rollins, Rob Ludwig
Absent: Tom Hanson, Vlad Sajka, Bert Skinner
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Alisa Lammers, Kathy Walthers, Leanne Grover, Rachel Sauve, Kim Gogan 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: Jennifer Jako 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 (February 3, 2026): John Smatlak made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, second by Rob Ludwig, motion carried.

Public comment: None

2025 Fiscal Year end – Rachel Sauve, Financial Analyst: Rachel reviewed the 2025 Year End Fiscal report clarifying it is an unaudited report. She outlined the revenues and expenditures for both Barron and Rusk Counties, and explained surpluses in both counties were due to increased State General Purpose Revenue, staff vacancies, and improved Medicaid drawdown. County levy was returned as appropriate per county. Rachel answered questions.

Disability Benefits Specialist (DBS) Presentation – Kim Gogan - Kim provided information on her position. DBS act as free advocates and navigators for adults ages 17.5 through 59 (once they turn 60 they would work with Elder Benefits Specialists) with physical, developmental or mental disabilities. They are the red tape cutters and they help customers understand, apply for, and appeal decisions regarding benefits. There are two full-time DBS in our counties. They provide benefits counseling on programs like Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, and Medicaid. DBS are not attorneys but they are supervised by program attorneys from Disability Rights Wisconsin.

Virtual Attendance – Jennifer Jako – Jennifer informed the board that the Barron County Board of Supervisors recently determined that virtual attendance is permitted for committee meetings. Following a discussion, the Governing Board decided that in-person attendance is recommended, but virtual attendance may be requested for special exceptions. A virtual option will not be automatically available. It is the responsibility of each member to reach out to Jennifer or Tristy directly to request a virtual attendance option if needed for a meeting.

Health Promotions Update – Alisa Lammers: Alisa provided a recap for 1st quarter 2026 activities. Rusk County has served 35 customers and Barron County has served 33 customers. Alisa shared updates on the Rusk County Falls Coalition and expansion to Barron County in 2026. Alisa reviewed upcoming workshops, including the new Living Long & Well workshop opportunity. Alisa informed the board that

the ADRC has decided to discontinue Healthy Living with Diabetes workshops due to poor public interest despite it being a top health issue.

Advocacy Update – (a) Next of Kin – Kathy Walthers informed the board about the new Wisconsin legislation Act 115 and reviewed the intent along with barriers and important things to know – and the need for public education. The State of Wisconsin DHS will be leading public education. ADRCs will continue to educate the public on the importance of completing Advanced Directives. (b) Memory Care Designation Legislation (Video) – Jennifer Jako recommended we can discuss at a future meeting due to time limits.

ADRC Reports:

Contacts/Enrollments – Jennifer Jako: 1st quarter data reviewed from 2025 and 2026.

Personnel – Kathy Walthers: Kathy Walthers informed the board Madison is their new I&A specialist and Nathalie is their new DBS. Kathy also updated the board that she will be interviewing for the open EBS position.

Director Updates – Jennifer Jako: Jennifer updated the board that our annual all staff training will be held on July 23, 2026 in Barron and this will cover required annual trainings. Jennifer also informed the board that the State has updated Time & Task Reporting systems and we will be piloting the new system for May and June and start officially July 1, 2026. May is Memory Screen Month and both counties will be hosting numerous locations for the public to access free Memory Screens.

Agenda items for next meeting – Elections

Next meeting – is scheduled for August 4, 2026 at Mosaic Telecom in Cameron.

Adjournment – John Smatlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m., seconded by Sharon Rollins, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Jako, ADRC/Aging Director

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