

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Members present: Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug, Kelli Rasmussen, Diane Vaughn, Deb Neuheisel, Bob Heil, Carsten Ellison, and Cheryl Hakseth
Absent: Carole Knoll
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Alisa Lammers, Darby Smith, Tristy Hopp, Leanne Grover, and Louie Okey

Jennifer Jako called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Approval of the Agenda: Deb Neuheisel made a motion to approve the agenda, Diane Vaughn seconded, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (March 24, 2026): Bob Heil made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Kathy Krug, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Elections – Chair & Vice Chair: **Chair** – The floor was opened for nominations for Chair, with Patti Anderson accepting a nomination. Nominations closed by Jennifer Jako. Unanimous consent for Patti Anderson as Chair. **Vice-Chair** – The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair, with Kathy Krug accepting a nomination. Nominations were closed by Jennifer Jako. Unanimous consent for Kathy Krug as Vice Chair.

Fiscal Report: Tristy Hopp distributed the April 2026 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures. Jennifer Jako and Tristy Hopp distributed and reviewed the 2025 Year End Fund Balance.

5310 Grant Application (Discussion only): Jennifer shared that the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation (DOT) provides a competitive 5310 Capitol Vehicle Grant for Counties to replace vehicles. This grant requires a 20% county match. We would like to apply to replace one of our AddLIFE vehicles. We would bring this application back to the Commission for approval in July or August. Discussion held, and agreement to work on the application when DOT opens it.

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, it was 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: Alisa Lammers gave an overview of the evidenced based workshops currently being offered. There will be a new Stepping On workshop in August for those living with a vision impairment. Alisa is working on bringing Strong Bodies workshops back to Barron County and will keep the board updated.

Advocacy and legislative issues: Next of Kin Act 115: Jennifer Jako informed the board about the new Wisconsin legislation Act 115 and reviewed the intent along with potential 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, specifically Power of Attorney (POA) for Healthcare and Finance. The ADRC will be helping to promote POA completion in the community by hosting a Community POA Party Thursday October 22 at the Rice Lake Senior Center.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) **Nutrition & Transportation Programs** – Darby Smith shared with the board that the senior dining meal sites served 715 unduplicated customers and 4,658 meals in the first quarter. The Home Delivered program served 326 unduplicated customers and 14,553 meals. AddLIFE Transit had 1,999 one way rides in the first quarter. Darby also informed the board that we are in partnership with UW Stout to have an intern work with us this summer in the Nutrition Program. (b) **Daybreak/Family Caregiver/Health Promotion Programs** – Alisa Lammers reported that the renovations at the Rice Lake Senior Center are complete and Daybreak has officially relocated back to this location, with State approval. Alisa also informed the board of the upcoming annual 2026 Caregiver Conference event on Thursday October 8th at Northwood Tech. (c) **ADRC report** –Leanne Grover distributed the first quarter activity report and reviewed the numbers with the board. ADRC Reception received 5,456 incoming calls and served 2,734 unduplicated customers. (d) **Director's updates** – Jennifer updated the board about the national USAging Conference that Trisha Witham will be attending this summer. Also, the May Memory Screen event happened last week and 25 memory screens were completed. Jennifer also informed the board of our recent training that ADRC, Veterans and DHHS staff collaborated together to educate each other on services and information for best customer service and interdepartmental referrals. Jennifer reported that several staff are supporting the Rice Lake Blue Zones project that True Wellness is leading. ADRC staff are experts in the community in terms of nutrition, social, and physical exercise resources. Jennifer reported the Federal government is requiring new ADA accessibility requirements for websites by April 2028 so we are exploring how to best meet compliance requirements. Jennifer also stated we received Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers so we will start distribution of those in June. She also stated that she continues to work with Carole Knoll and Patti Anderson on exploring what would be needed to start a hearing impaired support group. She has put an ad in the Review to find volunteers to facilitate this support group and will be reaching out to CESA audiologists. The Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic is scheduled for June 16th at Anderson Park Pavilion in Barron. We have invited over 350 volunteers to this event. Jennifer let the board know that the State of Wisconsin's Elder Nutrition Program Manager Sara Koenig recognized Darby Smith for her strong work as co-President of Wisconsin's Association of Nutrition Directors during the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network Professionals Appreciation Month.

Future Agenda Items – 2027 Budget discussion, 5310 grant application, DCS presentation

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Barron.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tristy Hopp, Fiscal Specialist

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.