

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
Government Center Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Members present: Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug, Diane Vaughn, Carole Knoll, Bob Heil, Carsten Ellison, Cheryl Hakseth, and Kelli Rasmussen
Absent: Deb Neuheisel
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Tristy Hopp, Leanne Grover and Jeff French.

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: Carsten Ellison made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Diane Vaughn, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (May 19, 2026): Bob Heil made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Diane Vaughn, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Fiscal Report: (a) June fiscal report - Tristy Hopp distributed the June 2026 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures. (b) 2026 Budget Timeline & Discussion Only – Jennifer Jako reviewed the County budget timeline and important deadlines. Jennifer informed the Commission that we will meet with Administrator French and Finance Director Drury on July 29th to present the Aging budget and levy request. As we are building the budget, we are looking for direction in regards to whether we budget to continue to meet the needs of our county and continue serving all eligible at all corners of our county or budget to maintain current services and/or consider a waiting list and/or potentially decreasing service days. After discussion, the Commission would like us to budget to continue to meet the needs of our county and avoid waiting lists at this time.

Health Promotions: Jennifer Jako informed the board that Alisa Lammers is working on bringing StrongBodies workshops back to Barron County. Darby Smith will be the certified facilitator for the classes. Stepping On Low Vision workshop had inadequate registrations so Alisa will be cancelling the class for now. September is Falls Awareness month so Alisa and the Falls collations will be gearing up for that.

Advocacy/Legislative updates: Federal Medicaid Work Requirement Changes: Leanne Grover informed the board of the new work requirements for certain individuals that have Medicaid; we anticipate answering questions as letters are starting to go out to customers.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Jennifer shared with the board the 2025 Meal Cost Tool was completed and how it helps to evaluate the nutrition program and make fiscal decisions. Meal costs per meal remained stable from 2024 to 2025, so there will not be any changes to contribution requests or billing per meal in 2026. Jennifer mentioned that Darby Smith has been asked to speak at the Wisconsin County Association annual conference on the importance of nutrition programs and how a nutrition program can serve as a proactive prevention strategy that helps counties prepare for the needs of an expanding older adult population. Darby hosted an intern from UW-Stout the last two weeks. She will be getting another intern next week. Jennifer shared with the board that the Barron Community Garden is donating fresh vegetables to our central kitchen in Barron

for our nutrition program. **(b)** Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Jennifer reported that Daybreak is going well and happy with the Rice Lake Senior Center renovation. Jennifer announced the Caregiver Conference is coming up on October 8th at Northwood Tech. Barron County Caregiver Collation will be hosting a POA (Power of Attorney) Party on October 22nd at the Rice Lake Senior Center. There will be an Attorney present to help educate and guide individuals. The Savvy Caregiver Workshop will be starting July 27th and Boost Your Brain and Memory will be starting in August in Rice Lake and Cameron. **(c)** ADRC report – Medicare Open Enrollment planning is starting. Leanne Grover reported that in addition to our usual assistance during this period, Fawn and Abby will be doing two new group sessions for Medicare open enrollment at the UW Eau Claire Barron Campus during open enrollment. A snap shot of our programs and how many people we have served in the 2nd quarter was provided. **(d)** Director's updates – Jennifer shared that our Volunteer Recognition Event on June 16th was a huge success with 100 volunteers attending. Jennifer also stated that the Federal Government is requiring government websites to be accessible to all. ADRC currently has their own website but will be transitioning to the county website to help meet this requirement. Jennifer informed the board that many of the staff will be attending the Aging and Disability Conference in September and Trisha Witham will be presenting sessions on the Men's Shed and connecting people with resources for young-onset dementia.

Future Agenda Items – 2027 Budget approval and 5310 Grant application approval

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18^h, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center 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.