

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 18, 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, Kelli Rasmussen, and Deb Neuheisel
Absent: None
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Tristy Hopp, Leanne Grover, Alisa Lammers, Darby Smith (with student intern Megan Johnston), Michelle Drury and Jeff French.

Chair Patti Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

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, seconded by Kathy Krug, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (July 21, 2026): Carsten Ellison made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Deb Neuheisel, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

2027 Budget Request (vote): Tristy distributed the proposed 2027 budget detailing program revenues and expenses. Tristy reviewed the worksheet outlining what the 2027 proposed budget is along with the suggested levy request. Our levy request for 2027 would be \$1,013,672, including \$247,759 in in-direct costs. Questions were posed and answered by Jennifer and Tristy. Deb Neuheisel made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Cheryl Hakseth, motion carried.

Fiscal Report: Tristy distributed the July 2026 fiscal summary report and reviewed the program's revenues and expenditures.

5310 Transportation Grant Application (vote): Jennifer announced that we would submit grant 5310 to request replacing vehicle #19 (side-load ADA van) with a Transit/Bariatric rear load van. Replacement for van #19 of our fleet is due to high mileage and has met its useful life per DOT requirements. This is a competitive grant with an application deadline of August 28th. Anticipated required match for Cycle 51 will be \$17,400. Diane Vaughn made a motion to approve the 2027 Section 5310 Application for Vehicle Capital Grant for submission, Kathy Krug seconded, motion carried.

Health Promotions: Alisa Lammers informed the board that the Stongbodies workshop is launching next week and the class filled quickly so we opened another class which also filled very quickly and now have a waiting list. September is Falls Awareness month so Alisa and the Falls Coalition are working on education and outreach to the community. The Falls Coalition includes local healthcare systems. Alisa updated the board on a new partnership she is working on with Assisted Living facilities and implementing Bingocize, a combined bingo game with physical exercise to build strength and balance.

Staff Report & Program Updates: (a) Nutrition & Transportation Programs – Darby Smith shared that Senior Dining had big attendance at several recent events: Men's Shed served 70 diners, Dining at Five in Rice Lake served 90, and Lona's restaurant served 80. Older adults are seeking these monthly social events. Darby shared the article by the Barron News Shield of the Community Garden donations

to our central kitchen, which helps bring awareness of this important partnership. Darby reminded the board that she and Joe Barnes will be speaking 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 is hosting another intern from UW-Stout the next two weeks. **(b)** Daybreak & Family Caregiver Programs – Alisa reported that our annual Daybreak fundraiser, “Music in the Park” took place on August 12 and was a great success. Alisa reminded the board that the Caregiver Conference is coming up on October 8th at Northwood Tech from 9 am -3 pm. She also stated that the Barron County Caregiver Collation will be hosting a POA (Power of Attorney) Party on October 22nd at the Rice Lake Senior Center from 2-6 pm. There will be an Attorney present to help educate and guide individuals. The board gave input on marketing ideas to help reach and message those not yet considering POA documents. **(c)** ADRC report –Leanne Grover mentioned Medicare Open Enrollment planning is underway and that they will be mailing 994 letters to customers served last year. Leanne also reported that we are in the final stages of updating the state and local resource guide. **(d)** Director’s updates – Jennifer shared that nearly all Senior Farmers Market vouchers have been distributed and Lisa has done a great job with this program. Jennifer updated the board on local Rural Health Transformation Grant projects and how the ADRC may be partnering. Trisha Witham presented for the ADRC at the recent first annual Veterans Outreach event on August 15th at Northwood Tech. Alisa Lammers and Katrina Hanson will be attending the 2026 Brookdale Foundation Conference October 28-30th in New Jersey. This conference is biannual for our respite program and is funded by the Brookdale Foundation Group. Jennifer informed the board that in 2027 she will start developing the 2028-2030 Aging Plan and will be sending survey’s out to the community to start this process early 2027.

Future Agenda Items – Save the Dates: Caregiver Conference October 8th and POA Party October 22nd.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Government Center Auditorium in Barron.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tristy Hopp, Fiscal Specialist

Minutes are not official until approved at next meeting.