



Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ronk at 1:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Earlene Ronk, Chair, Carol Battenberg, Dan Krause, Jim Mode, Georganne Mortensen, Darlene Schaefer, Connie Stengel and Caroline Niebler.

**Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Torum certified compliance.

**Review Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of 11/5/13 Minutes**

A motion to approve the 11/5/2013 minutes was made by Schaefer and seconded by Stengel. The motion passed unanimously.

**Communications**

None.

**Advocacy**

Information from the National Council on Aging was passed out. There are several advocacy opportunities discussed in the information. The first concerns the Farm Bill, which includes a reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Advocates are asked to call their members of congress with the following message: "As your constituent and supporter of my local food bank, I am calling you today to ask you to oppose cutting SNAP and ensure that \$300 million is invested in the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for food banks in the final Farm Bill. I understand the need to reduce the deficit, but increasing hunger is not the way to do it."

The second advocacy opportunity has to do with the Medicare Qualified Individual (QI) Program. The QI program pays Medicare Part B premiums for beneficiaries with incomes of about \$14,000-\$15,500, most of whom already must spend over a quarter of their meager income on health care. If the bills fail to make the QI program permanent, low-income seniors could be forced to drop the Part B benefit and lose access to their doctors, or pay over \$1,200 in new, additional premiums. This means that a senior with just a \$14,000 income would only have \$9,000 left for all their other living expenses. Advocates are asked to email or call their members of congress and ask them to make the QI program permanent to protect low-income people with Medicare.

### **ADRC Report**

Olson said that implementation of the Affordable Care Act have been delayed to 4/1. Wisconsin is implementing its own plan and due to glitches at the federal level, will also seek legislative approval to delay implementation to 4/1. This has a negative effect on all of the people who have been waiting for insurance coverage who have been on waiting lists.

Olson also reported that Jefferson County is in compliance with the state's plan for nursing home relocations. The ADRC meets or exceeds their expectations.

Several new resource guides that the ADRC developed were shared. One is about choosing a nursing home and the other is about choosing an assisted living facility. These are used in options counseling.

### **Transportation**

- A. Torum reported that the Human Services Board reviewed the draft 85.21 Specialized Transportation Plan and is in agreement with the proposed changes. They support the hiring of two additional part-time drivers and ordering two new vehicles, which have been ordered since they take between 30-90 days to be delivered. They also support the contract with Brown Cab and are interested in furthering intracounty transportation discussions. The issue of co-payment when people use the cab as opposed to volunteers or paid drivers was discussed and the plan for 2014 is to request the same co-pay for all services. The public hearing was held and no-one attended, however, some van passengers who will see changes in 2014 did call in with questions. No-one posed any formal objection. The plan was reviewed and approved in a motion made by Ronk, seconded by Battenberg and passed unanimously.
- B. The 2013 Coordinated Plan was reviewed and discussed. The plan has at least three goals that directly relate to the 85.21 plan which is a requirement.

### **Home Delivered Meal Assessments & Services, Sharon Endl, Assessor**

Sharon Endl walked through the process of receiving a home delivered meal assessment from start to finish. She explained that the assessment she does is not solely restricted to the questions as on the assessment form provided by the Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, GWAAR. As an LPN, Endl reviews medications, home safety concerns and health issues. She pays particular attention to the individual's overall condition: is the person clean? are there oral issues involving the teeth or gums, is dehydration a concern? She is quite familiar with community resources and regularly makes referrals to the ADRC or other organizations. When there are questions, she will make additional

homevisits to check on the individual's well-being and when in doubt errs on the side of helping people. Committee members applauded Endl for the contributions she is making to the seniors she is serving.

Stengel handed out information she got from Mueller Drugs about the services they provide in the area of medication management. She had bubble packs and written materials.

#### **Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP)**

The annual AFCSP budget is due for 2014. A program overview was provided by Torum. Jefferson County will receive \$19,009 in 2014 and this is expected to serve approximately 5 families because the maximum benefit of \$4,000 is provided. Members were told that this could be reduced, however, the needs of families caring for someone with dementia requires 24/7 supervision and assistance so prior committees have always opted to provide families with the maximum allowed. There was agreement that this practice should continue.

#### **ADRC Annual Update 2014**

The annual update is due 12/10. The document was reviewed and any questions were answered. Olson is working on writing up a NIATx project that needs to accompany the plan. The project was on Options Counseling. That information will be shared at a future meeting.

#### **Set next meeting date and possible agenda items**

The next meeting will be on January 7, 2014. Discussion will include a program report on Senior Dining.

#### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Battenberg, seconded by Schaefer and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torum, Division Manager  
Aging & Disability Resources