



Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Carol Battenberg, Dan Krause, Jim Mode, Georganne Mortensen, Darlene Schaefer, and Caroline Niebler.

**Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Torum certified compliance.

**Review Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of 12/3/13 Minutes**

A motion to approve the 12/3/2013 minutes was made by Mode and seconded by Mortensen. The motion passed unanimously.

**Communications**

Torum shared an email from Michelle Kramer, Food Share Outreach Manager of Second Harvest. She thanked everyone that was involved in their efforts and shared that 2,281 senior households were assisted in completing FoodShare applications from May-November 2013. The organization found that 90% of the total had never applied for FoodShare before and 74% were not using food pantries, so the traditional approach of directing outreach efforts through the pantries would not have resulted in reaching the majority of households served. In Jefferson County 116 new applications were completed during the project.

**Advocacy**

- The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAN) issued a news release on the Homestead Tax Credit Program. In the 2011-2013 budget, the state legislature froze the benefit and the benefit has not keep up with inflation. WAN advocates for indexing the credit and asserts

that increasing the Homestead Credit would benefit about 250,000 WI taxpayers, which keeps in line with the Governor's plan to use a portion of the state's \$911 million budget surplus for property tax relief.

- The National Office of the Alzheimer's Association released an announcement that on 1/13/13, the "omnibus" appropriations bill was reported out by bipartisan House & Senate negotiators and it included \$122 million in additional Alzheimer's funding. This is \$22 million more than the President requested. Advocates are urging Congress to take swift action so that the President can sign this historic bill into law.
- The January 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Washington Bulletin, published by the National Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs, announced that Congress released its FY14 spending bill which restores funding to Senior Nutrition Programs by ending sequestration. Torum said that this does not affect all aging program budgets, but is terrific news for senior dining.
- The 2014-2015 Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) Legislative Platform & Policy Priorities document was handed out and reviewed. In regard to expanding Alzheimer's/Dementia Services and Supports, GWAAR supports:

- Policies and legislation that will lead to a dementia-capable service system, and
- Public policy that encourages collaborative efforts to create an integrative community model for living-well with dementia (dementia friendly communities).

Torum reported that Jefferson County has been very busy in this area and the Dementia Care Specialist has several task groups working toward improving dementia care in Jefferson County. An invitation to the Person Centered Dementia Care Committee was extended to committee members. This committee is "piloting a collaborative alliance of organizations that will support each other in implementing person centered dementia care practices throughout the county." This is an impressive committee with lofty goals toward making Jefferson County dementia capable.

Torum also reported that the Dementia Care Specialist is also reaching out to rotary clubs and chamber of commerce's to orient members to what a dementia friendly community is all about. Several businesses have been trained in the southern and northern portions of the county and the folks spearheading the effort in Dodge County are working with Jefferson County to regionalize the effort which is outstanding!

### **ADRC Report**

1. 2013 Year in Review: Olson reported that 197 individuals were enrolled in to publicly funded long term care programs; the majority enrolled in Family Care, and Partnership or IRIS were in nearly a dead heat for second. 2013 also saw a big increase in contacts; there were 5,828 which was 557 over the previous year. Staff made 602 homevisits and saw 426 people in the office - 209 had scheduled appointments, 217 were walk-ins. Olson also said that her staff provided a lot of outreach and that the ADRC is looking at running ads at the local cinema.
2. Aiming for Excellence: The ADRC did a project on Options Counseling. Olson said that this turned out to be a very intensive but informative project. One walk thru resulted in a couple projects. Nancy, an ADRC staff person conducted a walk thru exercise as she walked in to the ADRC looking for to options to help her parents who were in their 80's and had some resources. Our project was to work with staff, to offer consumers a more uniform delivery of options counseling services. Staff were

trained/refreshed in Motivational Interviewing techniques, Options counseling standards and we reviewed our customer perceptions thru our satisfaction surveys. From the changes that we made, overall customer satisfaction in the areas of Personalization, empowerment, guidance and knowledge has had a significant percentage increase. Overall results are favorable, as the customer perception of the ADRC representative that worked with them went from 84.5% consumers responding a definite Yes to 91.5% of consumers.

### **Expansion of Mental Health Services for Older Adults**

In 2013 money went back to the state because Jefferson County did not spend all of its Older American's Act (federal) funding in the area of evidenced based practice programs. Several were offered, but due to lack of interest the classes were never held. Since then the department has reviewed the list of approved program and two are being considered: PEARLS and Healthy IDEAS. The Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives, or PEARLS, is a community-based treatment program designed to reduce depression in physically impaired and socially isolated people. The program relies on a PEARLS Counselor to implement it. The Counselor is responsible for recruiting clients, completing the assessments and communicating with the Clinical Supervisor and Psychiatrist to problem solve. This is a clinical approach to treatment. The Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, empowering Activities for Seniors) Program is a non-clinical approach that is intended to be used with case management services. It improves an individual's quality of life by:

- Screening for symptoms of depression and assessing severity,
- Educating older adults and caregivers about depression,
- Linking older adults to primary care and mental health providers,
- Empowering older adults to manage their depression through a behavioral activation approach that encouraged involvement in meaningful activities.

This PEARLS is the agency's first choice, however, existing staff are not able to take on the additional workload, so the agency will look to contract for it.

### **National Family Caregiver Program**

Torum said that at the end of 2013 10-12 new families were served under the caregiver program. This doubles the number of people who receive a stipend for respite and overall this is very good news. A goal is to provide caregivers with quarterly newsletters, which were getting sent out one-two times annually in previous years.

### **Guardianship Roundtable/Volunteer Recruitment**

The ADRC will be hosting a volunteer guardian training in March or April. Judge Wambach recently sent letters to all volunteers thanking them for their service and asking them to consider volunteering for more wards. In addition, he issued press releases and public service announcements and at the present time 5 people have contacted the ADRC expressing interest in becoming a guardian.

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

The next meeting will be on March 4, 2014. Discussion will include a program report on Senior Dining.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Niebler, seconded by Mode and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torum, Division Manager  
Aging & Disability Resources