



Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Earlene Ronk, Chair; Carolyn Niebler, Carol Battenberg, Russell Kutz, Ellen Sawyers and County Board Member-Jim Schroeder.

Also Present: Dominic Wondolkowski, staff and guest speaker-Cathy Kehoe

**Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Wondolkowski certified compliance.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and approved unanimously by all members.

**Approval of 9/6/2016 Minutes**

A motion to approve the 9/6/2016 minutes was made and unanimously passed by all members.

**Communications**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Discussed: ADRC Report**

ADRC Supervisor-Dominic Wondolkowski reported Key Outcome Indicators (KOI) for the month of September. Based on the data available, approximately 90% of all home visits were completed within the targeted seven-day period from the time of the initial referral was made.

Wondolkowski opined the KOI was excellent considering there was only three-of-four I & A staff employed for nearly the entire month of September.

The ADRC has hired a new I & A Specialist, namely Jenifer Eilert with an employment begin date of 10-10-16. Jenifer previously worked for Care Wisconsin, a Managed Care Organization and has more than eight years of work experience in the aging and disability fields. Additionally, Jenifer is already a licensed screener and so, there is much optimism for a smooth transition.

Our Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) and Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) are preparing for the “open enrollment” season where staff assist consumers with benefit check-ups. EBS mailed 400 letters to past consumers announcing the Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans Open Enrollment, which is October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>. EBS assist by reviewing plans submitted by mail and/or by in-person office visits.

Congress passed a temporary funding bill to avoid a shutdown. As of 9-27-16, the Congress had yet to agree on the federal funding plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, which starts October 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the House and Senate appropriation committees have passed their respective proposals to fund federal programs in FY 2017 but none of the 12 separate spending bills had made it through the full legislative process and been enacted into law. Facing a deadline of 9-30-16, to achieve a federal funding agreement, a bill known as the Continuing Resolution (CR) that would fund government programs through election and early December was passed. The CR bill provides a stopgap funding solution to avoid a shutdown by extending current funding levels into the beginning of the fiscal year. Many OAA and other Aging programs including congregate meals would have been affected had the CR bill not been passed.

### **Discussed: Alzheimer’s Disease Community Events by guest speaker- Cathy Kehoe**

Jefferson County Dementia Care Specialist-Cathy Kehoe presented to the group for nearly 1.5 hours and provided a comprehensive overview of the role of a dementia care specialist along with the many community programs and activities in place. Cathy provided the advisory committee with several printed materials including the new “Tips for Working Caregivers” brochure developed by the state of Wisconsin (DHS).

Wisconsin State Assembly Report, June 2016 ~ Cathy summarized some of the important agenda items from the report by the speaker's task force on Alzheimer's and dementia. Cathy explained how several bills have been passed by the assembly but not acted upon by the Senate. For example, 2015 Assembly Bill 783 relates to virtual dementia tour license and 2015 Assembly Bill 784 relating to funding for the Alzheimer's disease research Center at UW Madison. These and many other bills have been referred to the Senate committee on Health and Human Services but not received a public hearing. Earlene Ronk asked who should people advocate to and Cathy Kehoe answered reach out to your Senators as they have only passed a few bills listed in the Wisconsin State Assembly Report.

Mobile Crisis Task Force Grant: Sharon Olson applied and was recently awarded grant funding for further dementia care intervention. One goal is to develop a Jefferson County Dementia Care Mobile Task Force involving several human services and community partners in an effort to prevent consumers with dementia from being hospitalized and having unnecessary health care cost. Cathy Kehoe views the task force as a potential lifesaver as she discussed the increased need for family caregiver respite.

Dementia Friendly Communities: Cathy also presented information regarding the concept of a dementia friendly community. There are nine volunteer dementia friendly trainers and over 100 businesses that have been trained in Jefferson County. A dementia friendly business is identified with a purple Angel at the front door of the businesses. A video produced by Project Eye Studios documenting the efforts of Jefferson County was viewed by the group. Cathy also showed a second video from the Watertown Coalition and how one of the local banks is now a dementia friendly community business. Fort Atkinson hospital has participated in the training and is now considered a dementia friendly hospital. Fort hospital developed a person centered informational tool/questionnaire to implement with patients, family members and caregivers of a patient with dementia. A future goal will be to involve the Watertown Hospital and hopefully trained them to be a dementia friendly hospital. County Board Member-James Schroeder commented the need to remind the Jefferson County Board that Jefferson County is a dementia friendly community and encourage board members and others to attend the November 4th conference.

To conclude her presentation, Cathy played two additional videos produced by Project Eye Studios, namely “The Coming Tsunami”. The video documented how people are living longer and with the baby boomer population, the number of people with dementia will double if not triple by the year 2035 (compared to the number of people in Wisconsin currently with dementia). This dramatic increase will result in a financial tsunami with long-term care costs of epidemic proportions. The second video “Voices with Dementia” provided insight for those dealing with dementia and their caregivers.

#### Upcoming Events:

Music and Memories Project ~November 7<sup>th</sup> at Waterloo Library: As part of discussion, two videos on the power of music were provided. Apple records has partnered with this wonderful program.

Regional Dementia Conference ~ November 4<sup>th</sup>, Johnson Creek: Cathy discussed the event offered by Dodge and Jefferson counties. Former Gov. Schreiber will be attending the event.

#### **Discussed: Wisconsin Voter Photo ID-What Seniors Need to Know**

Wondolkowski reviewed Wisconsin citizens must present a photo ID to have their ballot counted. Various forms of ID were reviewed including Wisconsin's driver's license, veterans ID card, college ID, etc. Wondolkowski also reviewed absentee ballot voting and how to get a free voter photo ID. Committee members indicated having receipt of this one-page document provided by Sharon Olson at a previous committee meeting.

#### **Discussed: International Day of Older Persons**

Wondolkowski informed the United Nations designated October 1st as International Day of Older Persons in order to recognize the important contributions older people make to our world, while raising awareness of aging issues. This year's theme is “Take a Stand Against Ageism”. Having this designated day is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions older people make in

society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageism in today's world. This year's theme challenges everyone to consider ageism-the negative attitudes and discrimination based on age-and the detrimental impact it has on older people. For older people, ageism is an everyday challenge. Overlooked from employment, restricted from social services and stereotyped in the media, ageism marginalizes and excludes older people in their communities. Research shows that older people with negative attitudes about ageism may live 7.5 years less than those with positive attitudes.

**Discussed: New Grant Opportunity: Respite and Renewal for Wisconsin Caregivers**

Wondolkowski discussed that Road Scholar, the nation's largest educational travel institution for adults, has received a \$25,000 grant to provide opportunities for older family caregivers in Wisconsin to benefit from the learning community and rejuvenation that are the hallmarks of the Road scholar learning adventure. With support from the Helen Daniels Bader Fund, Road Scholar will earmark approximately 20 financial awards of \$1300 each for family caregivers 50 and older. These awards can be applied to any one of the thousands of educational programs Road scholar currently operates throughout the United States. All Road scholar programs include the cost of accommodations, meals, lectures, activities, excursions and transportation. The deadline for application submissions is December 31, 2016.

**Possible Agenda Items:**

Stroke Support Group~ is there a support group in Jefferson or other nearby counties?  
Update on the Meals on Wheels/HDM in Jefferson County.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronk, seconded by Jim Schroeder and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Olson, Division Manager  
Dominic Wondolkowski, ADRC Supervisor  
Aging & Disability Resources Division