



Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Earlene Ronk, Chair, Jim Mode, Carolyn Niebler, Carol Battenberg, Connie Stengel, Darlene Schaefer and Ellen Haines

Also Present: Sharon Olson, Sue Torum & Denise Grossman, staff.

**Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Torum certified compliance.

**Review Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of 3/3/2015 Minutes**

A motion to approve the 3/3/2015 minutes was made by Niebler. The motion was seconded by Mode and passed unanimously.

**Communications**

A letter from the Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) dated 3/30/2015 was read by Ronk. The letter was regarding the Aging Unit Self-Assessment for 2014 that was recently completed.

After the letter was read, Torum discussed some key areas that need attention as the next three year plan will be developed later this year. In particular, engaging older adults and empowering them to effectively advocate for themselves is a requirement of the Older

American's Act and WI Elders Act. Committee members offered several suggestions including: outreach to senior centers; teaching people or offering resources to people on "How to Advocate," raising awareness and creating partnerships with organizations like A.A.R.P.

Torum said that a second area that needs attention is the Senior Dining Program. Sustaining volunteers and site operations has been especially problematic in 2014 and moving into 2015; the program's foundation needs to be strengthened.

### **ADRC Report**

Olson informed the committee that the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired is holding regular hours at the ADRC. Information about this service being available locally will be distributed shortly.

Olson also gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Youth Transitions Conference which was held at MATC in Watertown. The agenda was impressive and included sessions on: Cyber Bullying; Job Interviewing; Employment Skills; Financial Literacy; College Preparation; Independent Living; Assistive Technology; and Team Building.

### **Review and Discuss 2015-2016 Governor's Budget Proposals**

1. **SeniorCare:** Denise Grossman, Elder Benefits Specialist spoke about SeniorCare. She shared some history as to the cost-effectiveness of the program. The state is able to negotiate rebates with pharmacies whereas the federal government is not allowed to do so under Medicare Part D. 61% of the SeniorCare Budget is covered through drug rebates, 22% is federal matching dollars and 18% comes from state general purpose revenue. Grossman said that at this time Joint Finance Committee has announced that GOv Walker's proposal to require enrollee to purchase Medicare Part D plans has been thrown out. According to the Wheeler Report there have been some public statements made that some of the legislators are implying they may be open to certain changes, such as increasing annual enrollment fees or closing off new enrollments, while Democrats and Aging advocates are lobbying to continue SeniorCare with NO changes. We will know more in the weeks to come.
2. **ADRC's:** Torum attended a Joint Finance Committee hearing in Milwaukee last month. Written testimony was provided. Many IRIS consumers attended the hearing and shared powerful stories and asked that IRIS remain as is. A few people testified on Family Care, and while ADRC's were mentioned, they were not the focus of any of the verbal testimony. Torum shared information from BaseCamp, an internet tool that is being used to communicate what is being done around the state to address the concerns related to the governor's budget and the impact it would have on ADRC's.

Stakeholders are very organized and have used a variety of tools to educate the public and lawmakers about the importance of keeping ADRC's as they are.

Mode made a recommendation to support a resolution that would preserve ADRC's as they are and send it to the county board. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Haines, seconded by Battenberg and passed unanimously. The matter is on the 4/14 Human Services Board agenda.

3. **Family Care & IRIS:** See #2 above.

### **Elder Abuse**

The 2014 statistical reports were reviewed. The Adult Protective Services team responded to over 100 allegations in 2014, and approximately 50% of them resulted in a substantiated finding. Self-neglect and financial abuse remain the top issues reported and the majority of reports were received on behalf of people who still live in their own homes.

An article from AARP Magazine called ***Elder Abuse: When Caregiving Goes Wrong*** was handed out. The article was very disturbing and pointed out just how vulnerable older adults are when they live in their own homes and rely on others for the majority of their needs. It pointed out that there are no federal regulations covering home-care workers, other than under Medicaid. One of AARP's top priority issues is to preserve and strengthen state adult protective services, which is also a national priority that is woefully underfunded.

### **Personal Care Program Update**

The Jefferson County Personal Care Program officially closed on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The contracts have been reissued through the Human Services Department since Older American's Act funding is used to support these services. The transition went exceptionally smooth and has resulted in some positive changes, including a new process for handling referrals that will result in all requests for funding to be reviewed for possible NFCSP funds since there is currently a waiting list.

### **Wisconsin Health Literacy: Let's Talk Medicines Program**

Wisconsin Health Literacy will offer a program called Let's Talk Medicines on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Jefferson Senior Center. The Senior Center has already been promoting it and five people are signed up. They would like to see at least ten and we are confident that this goal will be reached. The program helps people learn a variety of skills and techniques including: reading & understanding the medicine label, including special instructions; dosage instructions and strategies to help remember to take medications on time and basic storage techniques.

### **Care Talks Program through the Community Academic Aging Research Network (CAARN)**

Jefferson County has expressed an interest in being part of a pilot project called Care Talks. The program has already been piloted in Green County and is expanding to three others. Discussions are in the very early stages with the researcher, who is writing grants to seek funding. These details will be shared as they become available.

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

The next meeting will be on May 5, 2015. Discussion may include review of 2014 Annual Report information and the ADRC's Key Outcome Indicators in addition to the state budget updates.

### **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Torum, Manager  
Aging & Disability Resources Division