



Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: Carol Battenberg, Ellen Haines, Jim Mode, Georganne Mortensen and Earlene Ronk, Chair, Darlene Schaefer, Connie Stengel and Caroline Neibler.

Also Present: Sharon Olson and Denise Grossman, ADRC staff.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Olson certified compliance.

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

Public Comment

None

Approval of 9/3/13 Minutes

A motion to approve the 09/03/2013 minutes was made by Mode and seconded by Mortensen. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications

None.

Advocacy

Olson handed out "What Aging Advocates Need to Know About Sequestration." Olson summarized the article for the committee. The Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 was passed in an effort to reduce the country's growing federal debt. First, the BCA created spending caps for all discretionary programs through 2021.

Discretionary funding is that which is annually determined by the Appropriations Committees in Congress, it represents less than one-third of all Federal government spending and is comprised of both non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs including the Older Americans Act and defense discretionary programs.

Mandatory spending is Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security etc., it is spent as need demands or until Congress updated the laws governing said mandatory programs. Mandatory spending represents nearly 2/3rds of all federal government spending.

To find additional savings beyond the spending cap, the BCA also created a “Super Committee” of Members of Congress and they were to identify \$1.2 trillion over 10 years from all parts of the federal budget. Should they fail to do so, the BCA mandated that an across the board cut to all discretionary programs, known as sequestration, would take effect. It was felt that such drastic cuts would help force legislators to compromise. Unfortunately, the Super Committee was not able to reach consensus and sequestration went into effect on March 1, 2013. 5% for all non-defense discretionary programs were cut, including the Older Americans Act and services developed by Area Administration on Aging for older adults.

Unless Congress amends the BCA, it can be in effect for the full 10 years. What it will do is cut \$109 billion dollars in the next nine fiscal years. Unlike fiscal year 2013, where all non-defense discretionary programs were arbitrarily cut a percentage, the out years 2014-2021 gives Congress discretion to where the cuts will be made.

What does that mean for Seniors? Sequestration is already forcing local aging providers to reduce critical services such as nutrition, in-home supports, transportation, and family caregiver programs. Further reductions in funding will affect the quantity of services available to seniors and family's which will lead to significant negative ramifications for older adults' quality of life and independence.

Ronk then read the letter that was sent from the ADRC Advisory Committee to Members of Congress on this issue per the directive at the 9/3/13 meeting.

ADRC Report

ContinuUs is the Managed Care Organization that has expanded in Jefferson County starting in August as another option for consumers to enroll in. This past week we were notified that the State sent letters to all participants who are enrolled in a publicly funded long term care program in Jefferson County directing them to contact the ADRC to learn more about their options. The ADRC will be tracking how many calls from consumers we receive in this matter, so if there is another MCO expansion in our area, we will have some data to review on how to prepare.

Olson reviewed the Third Quarter 2013 Report. During this third quarter, the ADRC handled 1,097 contacts with consumers; this includes phone calls, emails, walk-ins or home visits. Statistical information that is tracked within our database allows us to paint a picture as to who is calling the ADRC, what topics they are primarily interested in and which communities are consumers calling from. Our statistics show that in this quarter 59% of known contacts were on behalf of people 60 years of age and older. The three primary topics that people contacted the ADRC for was information related to Public Benefits 84%, Housing 28% and Assisted Living 17%. The three communities where calls primarily originate from are Watertown, Fort Atkinson, and Jefferson.

During this past quarter, 77 consumers were enrolled into Publicly Funded Long Term Care Programs.

Olson also reported that a representative from MetaStar, a nonprofit quality improvement organization, attended the last Care Transitions Meeting and brought useful information to review for planning. The coalition is still gathering information to perform a root cause analysis.

Presentation: The Health Insurance Market Place, Sandy Torgerson, Economic Support Supervisor

Sandy Torgerson gave a presentation on the Marketplace which opened today. The Marketplace is an on-line application to purchase health insurance and because most of the information is accessed through computers, the system is on overload and many citizens have not been able to get to the log in page. Torgerson said that letters have been sent out to consumers who may be receiving BadgerCare Plus or Core benefits stating that their eligibility may be ending in December due to the new income limits for those programs and that they should apply thru the Health Insurance Marketplace to see if they will still be eligible under the new rules starting January 2014 or if they will need to find insurance. Depending on a person's income, they may be eligible for tax credits to subsidize their premiums. With these changes, there may be about 2,000 Jefferson County residents who have been on the BadgerCare Core wait list that will need to apply.

The "individual mandate" in 2014 requires all uninsured individuals who can afford health insurance to purchase insurance. The penalty for not getting insurance is the larger dollar amount of two options 1% of your income (in 2014) or a specified dollar amount (\$95.00 in 2014) with future increases.

Presentation: Marquardt Village, Macy Anderson, Marketing Counselor

Macy Anderson presented on the Marquardt Village expansion and redevelopment of their 50-acre Watertown Campus. She shared their vision as a continuing care retirement community that will offer seniors maintenance-free living options. The existing nursing home, apartments and assisted living facilities will be redeveloped into new independent living, long term nursing care, a "Towne Centre," assisted living, memory care and short-term rehabilitation facilities.

Ellen Haines said that a Rainbow Hospice Care Event will be held on October 24th from 12:45 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Comfort Suites in Johnson Creek. The event is "supporting Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through Serious Illness, Grief, and Loss."

Set next meeting date and possible agenda items

The next meeting will be on November 5, 2013. Discussion will include transportation updates. Earlene would like Sandy Torgerson to come back in a couple of months for an update.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Olson, Supervisor
Aging & Disability Resource Center