

ADRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Barron Government Center Auditorium
335 E. Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI

Members present: Kathy Halbur, Mike Hraban, Bob Anderson, John Smatlak, Rudy Walz, Vlad Sajka, Sharon Rollins, and Rob Ludwig
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Heidi Syvinski, Kathy Walthers, Kim Gogan, Kim Cobb and Mary Updike
Appearing Virtually: None

Chair Mike Hraban called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Notice Compliance: Terri Mikyska stated we were in compliance with the open meeting Public Notification Laws.

Approval of Agenda: Bob Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Vlad Sajka, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes (August 1, 2023): Bob Anderson made a motion to approve the August 1st minutes as written, second by Rudy Walz, motion carried.

Public comment: None.

2024 Budget: Heidi Syvinski reviewed the budget line item breakdown for the 2024 budget for the ADRC of Barron & Rusk Counties. Jennifer shared that over 85% of the budget is dedicated to staff's salary and benefits. For the 1st time in 25 years there will be additional GPR funding of \$2.5 million for the 1st year and \$5 million for the 2nd year of the biennial budget and DHS is providing information about new formula/allocation on November 15th, 2023. Sharon Rollins made a motion to approve the 2024 ADRC budget of \$1,562,815, seconded by Vlad Sajka, motion carried.

DBS (Disability Benefit Specialist) Presentation – Kim Gogan: Kim provided information on her position which works with ages 17.5 until age 60 and once they turn 60 they would work with the EBS. There are two full-time DBS in our counties and the majority of their workload is helping with the initial application to apply for SS/Disability. She explained the process for applying, the appeal process and what to do if denied. Due to COVID there is a backlog in reviewing applications and has needed outsourcing. She also helps with applications for Medicare, BadgerCare, food share, etc.

Volunteer Onboarding Project Update: Jennifer gave an update on the Volunteer Onboarding project to ensure background checks were being done. A new application, a new handbook, and a new process on how we onboard and monitor were created. Background checks, including driver, sex offender, and CCAP are being completed on all volunteers, including the ADRC volunteers for the DCS and Health Promotion programs. The goal was to have this completed in 2023 and we will meet this goal. Once completed it will be shared with Rusk County.

Community Health Worker Grant Update: Jennifer gave the history of the Community Health Worker Grant which was to end in May of 2023 but the State created a no-cost extension to May 2024. We used this grant in two areas: (1) Brain Health, expanding Memory Screens and expanding partnerships and (2) working with HDM's most vulnerable customers. Jennifer shared we applied for a local Marshfield Clinic Grant and was awarded allowing us to continue this work and get us thru May/June 2024. The State is looking at finding some other funding to continue these positions. Success stories were shared with the Board.

ADRC Modernization Projects: (a) Peer Place/Resource Guide – Jennifer shared that the State of Wisconsin received a large amount of ARPA funding a couple of years ago and one of the projects is to modernize data systems and resource databases for ADRC’s. Kim Cobb manages our on-line Resource Guide and the state is looking at a State-wide database. This will allow searches by zip code and not just county. (b) Marketing/Outreach – Jennifer announced that the state is looking at rebranding the logo for ADRC’s.

2024 Meeting Dates/Locations: The ADRC Board will continue to meet quarterly on the 1st Tuesday of the months of February, May, August and November, with continued rotation of our locations: February 6th – Ladysmith, May 7th – Barron, August 6th – Cameron, and November 5th – Barron.

Advocacy: (a) Family Caregiving Voices Event – Jennifer shared that it was our 1st Annual Family Caregiver Voices Event put on to celebrate National Family Caregiver Month. Its focus was to celebrate caregivers and provide them with an opportunity to speak to our legislators. We watched a film called “Unconditional: A Journey of Selfless Love”. Over 45 caregivers attended and shared personal caregiving stories with Representative Armstrong and Senator Quinn.

ADRC Reports: Contacts/Enrollments – Mary Updike shared reports for the 3rd quarter of 2023 with one for each county along with the combined. Medicare D is in full swing. Discussion about nursing home bed availability for local caregivers was held.

Personnel – Jennifer reported Barron County is fully staffed with a retirement of an EBS in the spring. Kathy reported Rusk County is fully staffed.

Director’s Updates – No further updates at this time.

Agenda items for next meeting – Kathy Halbur will reach out to Kathy Walters with potential questions about nursing homes and this may be shared at our next meeting.

Next meeting – February 6th at Ladysmith

Adjournment – Bob Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m., seconded by John Smatlak, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Rudy Walz, Secretary

Recording Secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.