

Rusk County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging & Disability Resource Center
Advisory Committee Meeting

The Rusk County Aging & Disability Resource Center Board held its bi-monthly meeting on April 18, 2024 at 1:00

PRESENT: Kathy Walthers, Angie Harvey, Kathy Halbur, Marlene Tuma, Richard Tuma, Mary Sue Timmerman, Jeremy Jacobs, John Smatlak, Fawn Armstrong, Shannda Ladwig, Mark Schmitt, Mary Schneider,

EXCUSED: All present

1. Call meeting to order 1:06pm
2. Election of Chair M. Timmerman nominates Mark to continue as chair, M. Tuma, 2nd, all in favor, no opposed.
3. Election of Vice Chair K. Halbur nominates Mary Sue Timmerman as Vice Chair and M. Schneider 2nd; all in favor, no opposed
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting. No corrections/additions, M. Timmerman motioned to approve, M. Tuma 2nd
5. Public Comment n/a
6. HHS Jeremy Jacobs welcomed new board members; 1. J. Jacobs reported APS, 32 referrals in 2024, 13 investigated, 3 active; 32 protective placements; (pretty consistent about 100 on an annual basis) M. Schmitt reported AARP magazine has articles of scams in April edition; 2. Openings in department- new I&A position; DBS position; 3. VA see below (6 a.)
 - a. Veteran's report – Eric will come in June Discussion; 1. J. Jacobs is not Eric's supervisor; the administrative coordinator is by statute 2. This committee oversees what is in the Source and the approval of the articles that go into the Source. 3. Committee discussed that they would like to have article be more on programming and benefits available that veterans can use in Rusk County. Committee is looking forward to continuing the discussion in June.
7. Aging & Disability Resource Center/Senior Services
 - a) ADRC
 - i. Advocacy
 - i. Date May 14th, Aging Advocacy Day
 1. Registration and transportation Kathy Walthers emailed information; offered to help with registration. Will be taking bus to Madison from Eau Claire. M. Schmitt and Fawn Armstrong volunteered to drive advocators over to Eau Claire to meet the bus. 8 people from dining at 5 are going, including M. Schmitt, K. Walthers and F. Armstrong. K. Walthers states we have donated money to help with the cost. M. Schmitt questions how to find out know if his registration went through, he didn't get a confirmation. K. Walthers looking into this. No leave time yet, K. Walthers will contact everyone when she is informed. Will be "pitching" Town Hall to reps while there.
 - ii. Next Town Hall- With Independence Your Way (Flyer) K. Walthers asked that everyone hand out flyers; 11 vendors currently confirmed, waiting on 2 or 3 more. Event explained.
 - ii. ADRC Positions update

- i. Information and Assistance position approved unanimously to add position; Currently on second round of advertising.
- ii. DBS position vacant; ran advertisement twice; was offered and declined once; K. Walthers and F. Armstrong working with customers and referring to Barron when consultant directs them to do so.

*Issue is positions both need 4-year degrees and is making it difficult. Looking into the potential of asking for waiver for both positions.

- iii. Review Balance of Appointments M. Schmitt has 1 more year before termed out; K. Mai – asked to be removed; K. Halbur termed out September 2024; J. Smatlak October 2025, S. Ladwig September 2026; M. Schneider, M. Timmerman, M. Tuma and D. Tuma all April 2028 – everyone in agreement to keeping the same; Sherri Wallace and Mike Russell are newly appointed board members; there is an open spot, Alice Kesan would like to be back on again
- iv. Appointment of Committee Member(s) K. Halbur appointed Mark Schmitt and Alice Kesan; M. Tuma 2nd, all in favor, no opposed

b) Aging

- i. 2025-2028 Aging Plan
 - i. Survey extended link is still valid so can still take survey
 - ii. Focus points K. Walthers and K. Halbur going to meet to discuss. A virtual meeting is being recorded so K. Walthers will have more information in June.

c) Other

- i. Pool room Pool table being donated to Care & Rehab of Ladysmith and room being used as storage room for Power House.
- ii. Stepping On is a Fall prevention class starting June 10th in Hawkins at 1:00pm.

Also, now a new group called Move More Mondays at 12:30pm focusing on strength and balance at Ladysmith SC; UW Extension Strong Bodies classes can be done online so will be able to do those at the SC.

Also Thursday's at 10:00am will be starting Chair Yoga soon, free class.

iii. Other updates

- Internet – ARPA recovery money being used for community projects; \$225k roughly spent on internet at SC, \$100k to new playground at old elementary school (with rubberized mat); Flambeau School District doing a cognitive awareness restructuring; Harm reduction vending machine (birth control, Narcan, test strips, etc.) \$30k to support this. (Waiting on IT to get us a vendor for the internet, money has been approved. Also getting a smart TV in the back room for the exercise.)

Adjourn 2:31 K. Halbur, 2nd M. Timmerman, all in favor, no opposed

Next Meeting date is **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, 1:00 p.m. in the County Board Room/LEC

Next Meeting date is **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, 1:00pm

2024 Bi Monthly (Feb 15 SC-1:30 pm, April 18 LEC- 1 pm, June 20 LEC-1 pm; August 15 SC- 1:30pm, October 17 SC- 1:30 pm, Dec 19 LEC- 1 pm- Potluck 12:30pm)