

ADRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Barron County Auditorium  
335 E Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI

Members present: Kathy Halbur, Bob Anderson, John Smatlak, Rudy Walz, Vlad Sajka, Sharon Rollins, and Rob Ludwig  
Others present: Jennifer Jako, Terri Mikyska, Kathy Walthers, Alisa Lammers, Sue Allyn, and Heidi Syvinski  
Appearing Virtually: None

Vice-Chair Kathy Halbur called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 Rudy Walz, motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes (February 6, 2024):** Vlad Sajka made a motion to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup> minutes with corrections: typo of ADCR to ADRC and clarification the Town Hall with Independence Your Way will be this year and not last year, second by Rob Ludwig, motion carried.

**Public comment:** None.

**2023 Fiscal Year End** – Heidi Syvinski distributed the 2023 Year End Fiscal report clarifying it is an unaudited report and shared the meaning of the acronyms. She outlined the revenues, expenditures, and explained the surplus that was due to staff changes and Medicaid drawdown. County levy was returned as appropriate per county. Heidi answered questions about levy.

**Information & Assistance Presentation – Sue Allyn:** Sue provided an overview of the Information & Assistance Specialist (I&A) position and duties. This position provides elderly, adults with disabilities, youth who are transitioning into the adult long-term care system, and their caregivers with information, resources and assistance with access to services. Sue shared that she provides outreach and education to the community about the ADRC and answered questions from the board.

**New ADRC Funding – Jennifer Jako:** Jennifer reported that the State of Wisconsin has provided more funding for the ADRCs through the biennial budget. This is annual GPR (General Purpose Revenue) funding going forward. Barron County received an increased allocation of \$73,167 and Rusk County received an increased allocation of \$73,456, and with the increase in the Medicaid drawdown, Barron has hired a third I&A who will start on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Rusk County is hiring a 2<sup>nd</sup> I&A and are waiting on an acceptance to an offer.

**Health Promotions Update & Caregiver Update:** Alisa provided the most recent data in 2024 stating we have had 68 participants to-date in our programs compared to 95 totally in 2023. She informed the board that another 3 facilitators are being trained next week for the Stepping On program allowing for more workshops. She gave an update on the other workshops: LWCC, ESMMW, Walk with Ease and HLWD. Alisa shared barriers in filling some of these workshops and will provide information on current marketing strategies at the next meeting. Alisa reviewed some upcoming Caregiver events being provided in collaboration with the Dementia Care Specialist, Trisha Witham coming up in May and June. She provided a flyer on the Wine, Women & Dementia event along with upcoming Memory Screenings being held on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at different locations in both Barron and Rusk Counties. She shared she presented at the

ADILN (Aging, Disability & Independent Living Network) Conference in La Crosse on the Family Caregiver Voices event that we hosted last year allowing caregivers to advocate for themselves. Kathy shared that Rusk County's Independence Your Way is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Advocacy:** Jennifer informed them Aging Advocacy Day at the Capitol is scheduled for May 14th. The goal is to meet with legislators to advocate top needs and funding needs. The top priorities are: additional ADRC funding, HDM funding, Caregiving supports and transportation funding. If you are unable to attend we are in the process of setting up an event, in conjunction with the Rice Lake Senior Center, to talk with our local legislators in June.

**ADRC Reports: Contacts/Enrollments** – Jennifer shared reports for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 with one for each county along with the combined.

**Personnel** – Jennifer reported Barron County has hired a new I&A and currently recruiting for a DBS in Rusk County and a regional Resource Specialist. Terri Mikyska is retiring in September and Mary Updike at the end of the year. Mary Simpson retired last week and Abby Wendland started as Barron County EBS.

**Director's Updates** – Jennifer reported that she and Kathy are working on the 3-Year Aging plans by gathering input from our communities to create goals to meet the needs. Jennifer gave an update on the Community Health Worker Grant. Sighted Guide Training with Al Thompson was held last Thursday and again next Thursday. The training is for caregivers of those living with low vision.

**Agenda items for next meeting** – Elections, Health Promotion Marketing, Survey results for Aging Plan, update on HSHS/Prevea closures

**Next meeting** – August 6<sup>th</sup> in Barron

**Adjournment** – John Smatlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m., seconded by Bob Anderson, motion carried.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rudy Walz, Secretary

Recording Secretary: Terri Mikyska

Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.