



608-742-9233
888-742-9233
FAX: 608-742-9277
TDD: 608-742-9229
E-MAIL: ADRC@columbiacountywi.gov
WEBSITE: www.co.columbia.wi.us

111 East Mullett Street
P.O. Box 136
Portage, WI 53901-0136

**AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chair Doug Richmond. The meeting was legally advertised. A quorum was present.

ROLL

ADRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Richmond; Steven Balsiger; Darlene Anderson-Prest; Adaora Bilse; Shelby Carter; Vanessa Chapman; Rosemary Minnema; Connie Pease; Jolene Wheeler; Paul Zarnikow.

ADRC BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kayla Wolff.

HHS STAFF PRESENT: Sue Lynch; Brianne Williams; Kathleen Cummings; Rachel Hopperdietzel.

OTHERS: Jesica Walter, Accounting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAY 18, 2023 AGENDA OF THE AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER BOARD.

Motion by Steve Balsiger, second by Jolene Wheeler. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MARCH 16, 2023 MINUTES OF THE AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER BOARD MEETING.

Motion by Steve Balsiger, second by Shelby Carter. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Public comment by Shelby Carter wondering if there was an action at the county level that could be done to assist those elderly members on FoodShare to get a base amount higher than currently available. ADRC Director Sue Lynch explained the amount is calculated using a formula established at the state level.

FINANCIAL REPORTS & COMPENSATORY TIME

Director Lynch presented the financial and compensatory time reports.

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ADVOCACY/EDUCATION

Director Lynch reported to the board ADRC employee Nichole Robarge, Disability Benefit Specialist attended Disability Advocacy Day in April at the state capital. Director Lynch thanked ADRC Board Member Jolene Wheeler for also attending and advocating for the ADRC. Director Lynch, Assistant Director Brianne Williams, ADRC employee Kathleen Cummings, Elder Benefit Specialist and ADRC Board members Darlene Anderson-Prest, Shelby Carter, and Rosemary Minnema attended Aging Advocacy Day on May 9th at the state capital. The group met with staff members of Senator Ballweg, Assemblymen Plummer and Dallman. In addition, Director Lynch met with Senator Ballweg and Assemblyman Dallman recently at a listening session at the Portage library. The ADRC did education for staff and the Nutrition Program volunteers giving information on how they can share their stories and advocate on behalf of ADRC programs. The Joint Finance Committee left in most the aging and disability areas of the Governor's budget, which is hopeful though we also know those items will likely look different if they do make the Joint Finance Committee's budget.

NOMINATION/RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE RIDE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TRIP) COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Director Lynch advised current TRIP Committee member Jerry Thompson is up for his second term for the TRIP Committee and asked for re-appointment.

MOTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JERRY THOMPSON TO THE TRIP COMMITTEE FOR A SECOND TERM.

Motion by Shelby Carter, second by Adaora Bilse. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported that the program is up 185 rides since this time last year. Our Transportation Coordinator Madelyn Gilbertson is doing a great job fitting people in and managing schedules and has a great crew of drivers. This year shows a larger distribution of rides across the county. The program has now added non-medical trips as well which also helps curb isolation. The program has declined 31 rides to date due to capacity limits. As of June 1st, the Transportation Program will offer once per week rides to Congregate Meal Sites. Logistics are still being processed and exact dates for each community are to be determined. The new bariatric van has been ordered with a delivery date to be determined due to Ford chassis availability. Funds from the trust fund may have to be accessed for the wrapping of the vehicle. The trust fund is almost at limits, so Fleet Manager Tom Brennan is looking at other options such as used vehicles, but no plans are in place at this time to purchase a new vehicle.

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The Fleet Manager is also working to establish a business relationship with Kwik Trip similar to the current Sheriff's Department contract. This will ease miles as county gas locations are limited to Wyocena and Portage. The TRIP committee is seeking one more member. The TRIP committee will be working to complete the 5 year Coordinated Transportation Plan to be completed this year for 2024-2028. Director Lynch fielded questions by the board re: the Kwik Trip contract and costs of trips.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported that congregate meal sites have served just shy of 1,000 meals this year to date. Portage has strong numbers on days there are Bingo and Card playing and is close to room capacity. The program is working on doing site improvements to make the spaces more appealing and offering rides one day per week. The program is also working, within the limited availability of current staff, on activities to help draw additional people into the sites. Feedback from recent Rate your Plate surveys were shared.

NUTRITION WAITLIST

Director Lynch reported staff has completed contacting and confirming the wait list making sure the list is up to date. The goal is to add an additional 53 people to the program using Lenz funds and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars set to expire in 2024. Updating the list, using available funds, along with natural attrition is working to decrease the waitlist significantly. Director Lynch answered questions about how the list is developed in regard to those who might have higher needs.

REVISED PRIORITIZING ELDER NUTRITION PROGRAM MEAL SERVICE

Director Lynch explained the ADRC would like to update the prioritization of the Nutrition Program, adding limited meals for those transitioning out of rehabilitation or hospitalization. Also, to add a line that would allow other ADRC staff members to assess the need for the Elder Nutrition Program meal service easing the burden on just one staff member.

MOTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO PRIORITIZING ELDER NUTRITION PROGRAM MEAL SERVICE POLICY.

Motion by Darlene Andersen-Prest, second by Jolene Wheeler. Motion carried.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported the Walking with Ease prevention program was canceled this spring due to lack of participants, but is planned for the fall. The program is available for those 60 and over and not just for those with Arthritis.

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Currently Stepping On, a falls prevention program and Strong Bodies are in session.

CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported the ADRC has openings in all Caregiver Programs and keep staff updated regularly about the openings. Unfortunately, sometimes there are not caregivers available due to shortages. Director Lynch continues to seek other agencies who might fill the caregiver shortage and update staff about these openings to inform those in need.

ELDER AND DISABILITY BENEFIT SPECIALISTS

Assistant Director Williams reported the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) will be holding Medicare and Beyond education sessions starting in June. The EBS had 103 new clients since March and has 23 open cases. Benefit specialist programs have monetary impact values attached with the assistance they provide. Monetary impact is defined as the value of benefits or services that are obtained or preserved for a client, as well as the value of benefits or services that are obtained or preserved for a client, with the help of a benefit specialist. The EBS program, since March, reported a monetary impact of \$323,000 dollars. The Disability Benefit Specialist. The Disability Benefit Specialist since March had 49 new clients and currently has 72 open cases with a March to May monetary impact of \$115,000. Social Security disability applications continue to be delayed.

DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST

Director Lynch reported the Dementia Care Specialist, Nellie Mueller has been very busy doing Memory Screen events throughout the county. She was able to do 20 memory screens in Lodi, 8 in Portage, 2 in Poynette and 2 in Columbus. The Remember Project is slated to return to Columbia County this year with an event in Lodi on August 16 and a second event in Portage on August 17. There are two agencies that assist our Dementia Care Specialist, the Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and the Alzheimer's Association. Recently the Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance has announced they will be dissolving as of June 30th. The Alliance ran support groups and Memory Cafés in Columbia County. Our Dementia Care Specialist will take over the support groups, but due to budget constraints will not be able to take over the Memory Cafes. Reach Out Lodi will continue the Memory Café held at their location. The Dementia Care Specialist was able to get Gary Glazner to do a presentation at the last Portage Memory Cafe. The loss of the Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance local representative will be felt across the county.

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ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

June 15th is World Elder Awareness Day but the ADRC honors it all month. Banners will be going up around the county. Adult Protective Staff is planning on four events around the county. There will be a Scam presentation in Portage with the Senior Medical Patrol, the Head of Risk Management at WCCU Credit Union, the Columbia County Sheriff's Department and Portage Police Department present for the panel discussion. Legal and Finance planning Elder Law will be at the Columbus Senior Center and Health Aging in our Homes will be at Reach Out Lodi and Poynette. The four events are strategic to try to avoid elder abuse through education and prevention.

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE REPORT

Assistant Director Brianne Williams reported the Independent Living Support Pilot Grant that was awarded to the ADRC will be starting soon. This will be a short-term flexible program to assist clients who are at risk of going into an institution or have a need in their home. It is available to those disabled and the elderly and will go through the Information and Assistance (I&A) program to discern needs. I&A staff have fielded 1,633 calls since the Board's March meeting which averages 26 calls per day. Of those calls, 1005 requested information on Long Term Care, 48 transportation and 88 housing calls. The total amount of minutes spent on the phone was 43,731. These numbers do not reflect existing cases so the I&A workers remain very busy.

ADRC & DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Sue Lynch reported that the ADRC has been working with the Portage TRIAD group and in April participated in the annual Safe Night event, which had over 60 participants. Triad needs additional members. The ADRC is working with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department to distribute Fidget Muffs to Alzheimer and Dementia individuals. At the beginning of June, the Senior Farmers Market Vouchers will be available again in Columbus, Wisconsin Dells and Portage, and then at the ADRC office after distribution sites are finished. Director Lynch introduced the Social Work Intern, Rachel Hopperdietzel who will be working with the ADRC over the summer mainly with the Home Delivered Meal program. By-Law updates will be made to the ADRC and TRIP Committee at an upcoming ADRC meeting. Discussion was held about the Memory Screen and ARPA funding that will expire December of 2024.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board will be on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, ADRC Entrance, of Health and Human Services at 111 East Mullett Street, Portage, WI 53901.

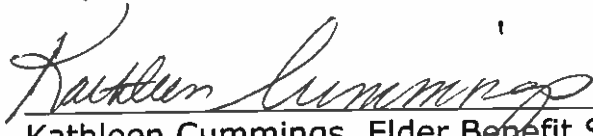
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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned by Chair Richmond at 10:07 a.m.

The Columbia County Aging & Disability Resource Center Board will reconvene on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, ADRC Entrance of Health and Human Services, 111 East Mullett Street, Portage, WI 53901.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen Cummings", written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Cummings, Elder Benefit Specialist
ADRC of Columbia County

cc: County Board Chair Chris Polzer
County Board 1st Vice Chair Denise Brusveen
County Board 2nd Vice Chair Matthew Rohrbeck

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