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**AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022
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; Sarah Lochner; Rosemary Minnema; Jolene Wheeler.

ADRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kayla Wolff.

ADRC BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Allan Baumgartner.

HHS STAFF PRESENT: Sue Lynch; Brianne Williams; Gretchen Halvorsen.

OTHERS: County Board Supervisor Brad Cook; Cathy Karls, Jesica Walter, Accounting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAY 19, 2022 AGENDA OF THE AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER BOARD.

Motion by Jolene Wheeler, second by Rosemary Minnema. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17, 2022 MINUTES OF THE AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER BOARD MEETING.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

Chair Richmond lead the group in introductions.

FINANCIAL REPORTS & COMPENSATORY TIME

Director Sue Lynch presented the financial and compensatory time reports.

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ADVOCACY/EDUCATION

ADRC Assistant Director Brianne Williams reported on a recent outreach event, presented by the Disability Benefit Specialist and the Elder Benefit Specialist, at the Columbus High School, to present information to students and their families about transitioning youth to services through the ADRC. More such events are planned in the near future. May is recognized as Older Americans' Month. ADRC Director Sue Lynch reported on recent training sponsored by the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) in Madison. The goal of the training was to 1.) Advocate for the investment in Aging & ADRC network funding; 2.) Advocate for Support of Family Caregivers; and, 3.) Advocate for Keeping Voting Simple. Director Lynch provided handouts for anyone interested in more detail about the WAAN training.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported that the ADRC has recently hired 2 new drivers who will be starting next week. So far this year, the ADRC has provided 400 rides to consumers, which is a slight decrease from last year during the same period. Director Lynch announced that the ADRC has transitioned back to providing multi-rider trips as compared to the single-rider trips which have occurred throughout the past 2 years due to COVID. The Transportation program has also recently purchased a new van using the ADRC's Transportation Trust Fund. Funds in the Trust are mandated to be used exclusively for purchasing new vehicles. Director Lynch encouraged Board members to spread the information in their communities that the ADRC's Transportation program is back to its pre-pandemic level of service and is encouraging increased ridership.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Director Lynch explained the Home Delivered Meals (HDM) Program vs the Congregate Meal Site Program that the ADRC provides. Over the course of the last 2 years, the HDM program has ballooned in service due to the congregate sites being closed because of COVID. Director Lynch explained that this has caused a financial burden on the program. The ADRC is working on plans to slowly reopen the congregate meals sites over the coming summer months, and to coordinate that with assessing all HDM participants to see if they still qualify for home delivered meals. It is hoped that over time, consumers will return to the congregate meals sites which should hopefully begin to alleviate some of the financial stress to the nutrition program.

NUTRITION WAITLIST

Director Lynch reported that the waitlist for HDM was initiated at the end of last year. Currently, there are 10 individuals on the list. Director Lynch shared some statistics on both the HDM and congregate meal site programs.

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APPROVE HOME DELIVERED MEALS POLICY

Director Lynch reported that, due to some changes to the program, the HDM policy is not ready to be presented.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Director Lynch reported that the ADRC is not currently offering prevention classes due to a lack of staffing, however she is hopeful that the agency can begin offering classes again this fall.

CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Director Lynch shared that she and Assistant Director Williams have a meeting scheduled with the State next Monday to consult on the shortage of caregivers at the national, state, and local levels, and to examine strategies for recruiting vendors who might be able to provide services within Columbia County. Director Lynch advised the Board that 3 different grants support the Caregiver Program, and though there is money currently available to provide services, there are not enough caregivers to employ to provide those services.

ELDER AND DISABILITY BENEFIT SPECIALIST

Assistant Director Williams reported that the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) position has been filled by an internal candidate from the Division of Support Services. Kathy Cummings has begun training for the position and she has already seen a demand for help with housing resources. Assistant Director Williams also reported on the great progress the new Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) is making in her position. Nikki Robarge has been in her position since January and is working on establishing relationships with other agencies in the community such as the Social Security office.

DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST

Whitney Thompson, the ADRC's Dementia Care Specialist, introduced herself to the Board and provided background information about her role in the ADRC. She explained the goals of the program, which are to support individuals living with dementia, support the families and caregivers, and support the community. Whitney provided a handout and her business card to Board members.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Director Lynch reported that the Adult Protective Services (APS) staff have handled 28 guardianship cases so far this year, and received 42 APS referrals from the community. June 15 marks World Elder Abuse Day, and this year the ADRC has planned a free workshop that day regarding legal and financial planning under Elder Law. The workshop will be held at the ADRC, in meeting rooms 2&3, starting at 1:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Attorney John Haslam. People interested in attending should RSVP

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Maddie, in the ADRC at 608-742-9207 by June 10. The ADRC has purchased banners to display in 7 communities throughout Columbia County to inform residents of World Elder Abuse Day. The banners will be on display from June 9-23rd.

ADRC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ADRC Director Sue Lynch and ADRC Assistant Director Brianne Williams reported on the Information & Assistance (I&A) staff and their participation at community events. Callers routinely are searching for utility assistance, hearing, vision, and dental resources, and help applying for medical assistance to help support them remaining in their homes. All calls to the ADRC are directed to the I&A staff. Since March, the staff have handled 2,266 calls. Each worker also carries a caseload of long-term care participants. Director Lynch shared additional statistics from the program.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board will be on Thursday, July 21, 2022, 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.

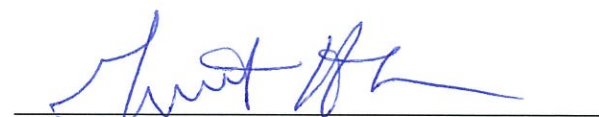
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:12 A.M.

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

The Columbia County Aging & Disability Resource Center Board will reconvene on Thursday, July 21, 2022, 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,



Gretchen Halvorsen, Executive Sec.
Columbia County Health & Human Services

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

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