

**ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
February 24, 2021**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Robert Thome Jr., Joan Hauer, Nancy Watry, Carol Pederson, Ted Cushing

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Joel Gottsacker, Mary Rideout, Heather Beach

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Call to order: Chairperson Steven Schreier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Oneida County Board Room-Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave, Rhinelander, WI and via Zoom. The meeting has been properly posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Cushing/Fisher to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment/communications: None

Minutes of January 27, 2021: Motion by Pederson/Cushing to approve the January 27, 2021 ADRC Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date/time/location of next meetings: The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. on the second floor, Oneida County Board Room-Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave, Rhinelander, WI 2nd floor and via Zoom.

Committee Member Resignation: Gottsacker stated that the scope of services for ADRC's does not allow for a board member or a member of their family to work for an IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA) or Managed Care Organization (MCO). Therefore, Dawn Winquist is ineligible to sit on the committee because her stepdaughter works for TMG, an ICA. This requirement is statutory and waiver is unavailable. Therefore, there are two ADRC committee citizen member vacancies. Rideout noted the committee application has been updated to reflect the prohibition outlined in statute. Informational only, no action taken.

Citizen member application review and recommendation(s): Gottsacker stated the goal will be to fill both vacancies with the current applications that have been received. Schreier/ Cushing made a motion to accept Pritchard & Mahner applications to fill the

two committee vacancies. All ayes; motion carried. Gottsacker noted the recommendations will be placed on the consent agenda for next county board meeting in March.

Three Lakes Dining Site Manager Update: Gottsacker explained the dining site manager for the Three Lakes dining site retired. Ken Huebner of the Lions Club in Three Lakes has taken over the position. Informational only, no action taken.

§85.21 Contract for Specialized Transportation for the Elderly & Disabled: Motion Fisher/Thome to sign contract as presented with consideration for the comments written by Corporation Counsel. All ayes; motion carried.

2022-2024 Aging Plan: Gottsacker has been working with the ADRC of Vilas County and the Forest County Office on Aging as well as UW Extension on preparing for tri-county public input sessions. The group will be reaching out to local businesses, nonprofits, churches, banks, etc. for input on the 2022-2024 Aging Plan. GWAAR is holding monthly workshops on how to write the plan. The goal is to look further into the future, about 10-15 years and the plan would seek to make incremental changes to reach the ultimate goals. The current survey to the older population is not getting a lot of traction. The group will reach out to the media to assist with receiving feedback from the older population. UW Extension will facilitate feedback sessions via Zoom. Informational only, no action taken.

Coronavirus Pandemic Update: Gottsacker updated the Committee that most staff will have received 2nd vaccine by the end of next week. There is proposed funding via the State to have ADRC's work with County Public Health Departments to vaccinate those who are homebound. Schreier inquired about MCO staff being vaccinated. Gottsacker stated MCO staff are likely not considered frontline workers, however, caregivers, including family caregivers, are eligible for a vaccination. Informational only, no action taken.

RSVP Advisory Committee: Gottsacker noted all RSVP advisory committee members were approved by County Board, therefore, the RSVP advisory committee meetings can begin. Informational only, no action taken.

ADRC/ DSS Alliance: Rideout reviewed proposed changes to county code. Most changes were incidental or corrections to errors. The Social Services Director as well as the ADRC Director will answer to the ADRC committee. Rideout will send the proposed changes to Charbarneau and then to Corporation Counsel. Motion by Fisher/Cushing to forward proposed changes to Corporation Counsel and then to county board. All ayes; motion carried.

Activities Coordinator Position: Gottsacker reminded the committee that at the beginning of the pandemic, activities at the center were paused. The Activities Coordinator was furloughed for lack of work. At six months, the furloughed position

was eliminated and the employee was terminated. The position still exists within the county but is, and will remain, vacant into the foreseeable future. When the pandemic and public health emergency are ended, the department will review the needs of the ADRC and where resources should be focused. Schreier noted the committee should look at activity participation numbers to assist with making this decision. Gottsacker stated that the ADRC started tracking all activities at the beginning of 2020, but then the pandemic hit. The activity with the most participation has been the Strong Bodies/Strong Bones class. Most other activities were small groups. Schreier inquired about a partnership with the YMCA to fulfill the needs. Gottsacker stated he meets regularly with Ryan Zeitlow and Marilyn Duschl to discuss programming and to coordinate. The ADRC will also work with the UW-Extension to coordinate with them for evidence-based health promotion programming. Gottsacker stated the need to keep a focus on Healthy Aging given the growing older adult demographic. Informational only, no action taken.

Northwoods Transit Connections Update: Schreier gave an update that in April regular routes would resume. Transit plans to begin paying back the monies given by Vilas and Oneida Counties at the beginning of Transit's inception via monthly payments. Transportation options is a topic consistently brought up as a need by the community. Informational only, no action taken.

Advocacy Update: Gottsacker noted it is budget time at the State. The governor's budget was recently presented and includes many priority items for aging programs and ADRCs. The Republican caucus was unimpressed with the budget and they will be proposing their own budget. Gottsacker stated the need for the ADRC committee to advocate for the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities to the State finance committee when they hold budget hearings. Gottsacker noted that the Aging Network will be advocating for increased allocation for the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) program. The EBS grant has been the same amount for 24 years and has never seen an increase. The EBS position assists residents with insurance, housing, hospital coverage, etc. Every May there is an Aging Advocacy Day and this year it will be virtual, Gottsacker encourages the committee to attend when the virtual date is set. Informational only, no action taken.

Vouchers purchase orders, and line item transfers: Gottsacker presented vouchers to the committee. Motion made by Cushing/Hauer to approve the vouchers, purchase orders and line item transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried. Motion by Fisher/Cushing to approve Line Item Transfers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Gottsacker presented the monthly reports to the Committee. Informational only, no action taken.

Future Agenda topics: All usual agenda items.

Public comment/communications: None

Adjournment: 9:56 am



Committee Chairman



Committee Secretary