

**ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
March 11, 2020**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Kelly, Vice Chair Steven Schreier, Carol Pederson, Nancy Watry, Dr. Walt Gager, Jim Winkler, Ed Hammer, Dawn Winquist

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Joel Gottsacker, Dawn Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Joan Hauer, citizen member starting in May 2020

Call to order: Chairperson Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on the first floor of the Health & ADRC Building, 100 W. Keenan Street, Rhinelander, WI. 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 Schreier /Watry 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 February 12, 2020: Motion by Winkler/ Pederson to approve the February 12, 2020 ADRC Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date/time/location of next meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on the first floor of the Health & ADRC building.

2020 Department Budget Update: Gottsacker reported the budget is still in the form approved by County Board. Line item transfers will be made to make the budget more workable. Informational only; no action taken.

RSVP grant update: Gottsacker reported that the ADRC received notice of grant award about two weeks ago. Gottsacker spoke with the Corporation for National and Community Services portfolio manager and confirmed the award. The funds have yet to be appropriated. The grant begins April 1, 2020. The RSVP budget will be updated to be in conformance with grant requirements. The grant is \$82,500 with a 10% local match for the first year. The ADRC will be the RSVP sponsor and a volunteer station. The sponsor recruits and assigns volunteers to stations. The ADRC stations will be the nutrition program and volunteer escort driver program. We are going to be looking to hire a full time position, which would be a non-tax levy

position. LRES is requesting Carlson Dettmann input on where the position should fall on the wage schedule. Informational only, no action taken.

Resolution to create RSVP Coordinator position: Gottsacker presented the resolution to create the RSVP Coordinator position. The resolution itself will go to county board through the LRES committee. Grant funds can be used to staff a position, used for volunteer recognition, and mileage to and from volunteer stations. The ADRC has office space available. A computer will need to be purchased, all of which is covered by the grant. Motion made by Winkler/ Winqvist to approve the resolution to create a RSVP Coordinator position as presented and forward to LRES and County Board for approval. All ayes, motion carried.

ADRC/Social Services Proposed Merger Discussions: Gottsacker gave the update. Mary Rideout and Gottsacker will be going to each other's committee meetings on this topic. Rideout is on vacation this week and could not attend this meeting. Gottsacker presented a proposed organizational chart which places the ADRC within the Department of Social Services, with the ADRC director titled a "manager." The ADRC governing board would become an advisory committee to the Social Services committee. Watry stated that it appears ADRC management would be most affected by the merger. Watry also noted that an advisory committee can only make recommendations to the Social Services committee, but that committee would have decision-making power. Watry noted that such an arrangement would diminish the policy-making power and voice of this committee.

Kelly noted the title designation for the ADRC manager on the organizational chart. Gottsacker clarified that the state mandates that there be a "director" for the ADRC and a "director" for the aging unit. The title on the organizational chart does not affect responsibilities of the director. The proposed merged organizational chart places the Account Clerk and the Receptionist under the DSS Financial Services Supervisor.

Winkler inquired why discussions were still being held when both the ADRC Committee and Social Services Committee have both indicated they are not interested in merging the departments. It was also clear at the County Board's Budget hearings that the public was not in favor of a merger. Schreier stated that a merger is being considered as a result of a recommendation by the Funding Opportunities committee.

The committee discussed the role and voice of the committees in the Oneida County government structure. Watry voiced concern that the reason behind the proposed merger has not been transparently communicated.

Kelly stated that it appears to him that a merger would affect the services and clients would get lost in the shuffle. Gottsacker stated that under a merger, services would have to be enhanced in addition to seeing financial efficiencies. One discussion has been to have a single point of access for all adult services. In that scenario, calls

would come through the ADRC and be screened. If the call warranted Adult Protective Services intervention, it would be transferred to social services. The ADRC and Social Services already collaborate on a number of cases where both agencies provide needed interventions.

Hammer voiced displeasure at the idea of a merger of the departments. Schreier stated that the merger is just in discussion right now, and it is a challenge to remain open minded. He stated that he places trust in this process and that service delivery would not be harmed. He further stated that the Social Services committee sees value in the discussion. Gottsacker stated that it is unclear to him what would occur if one committee opposed a merger and the other supported a merger. The issue may have to go to LRES and then Administration committees for a decision to take to County Board.

Gottsacker reminded the committee that public hearings must be held under the Older Americans Act and by requirement of GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources). LRES committee members stated their desire to be present at public hearings.

Winqvist stated that from her experience, any additional savings from consolidations are quickly eaten up by increased compensations for management and software upgrades.

Gager inquired who started all of this merger discussion? Gottsacker stated that all departments have to have a multi-year plan, and LRES specifically states on their plan that they will review opportunities to reduce the number of departments in the county. Gottsacker further stated that as a county employee, it is incumbent upon himself and others to ensure that the taxpayers' money is being spent as efficiently as possible. Informational only; no action taken.

Building Maintenance monthly report: Gottsacker reported that the building furnaces are being upgraded air conditioning units will be next. Buildings and Grounds has been responsive and has been keeping up with the ice and the facility is being kept clean. Winkler inquired if the kitchen was being kept clean, floors mopped, etc. given the coronavirus epidemic. Gottsacker reminded the committee that no food preparation is done at the site, only food service. All surfaces are routinely sanitized. Buildings and Grounds has been keeping the kitchen floors clean. Informational only; no action taken.

Northwoods Transit Connections Update : Schreier stated that the last time he spoke with Youngren they were just finishing moving into the new offices at the former Nicolet Staffing building. Everything went fairly smoothly, but they had some issues with not initially having adequate telephone service. The furnace in the workshop did not work so the owners of the building had a new furnace installed. The roof also had a leak and it was addressed immediately. Four new buses will be delivered soon. There was a fare increase that was approved from \$1 to \$1.25 per ride. Punch card prices did not change, there are just fewer rides per card. The Transit Committee is seeking funding

to purchase the building; there is a grant through the DOT that would cover 90% of the cost and a 10% local match would have to be contributed to the purchase price. Informational only, no action taken.

Vouchers, purchase orders and line item transfers: Gottsacker presented the vouchers, purchase orders, and line item transfers for approval. Motion made by Hammer /Pederson to approve the vouchers, purchase orders, and line item transfers as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Staff and program reports and unmet needs: Gottsacker presented the monthly reports. Informational only no action taken.

Legislative Update: The Senate passed older American Act now it goes to the president for signature.

Future Agenda items for next meeting: Budget update, RSVP, merger update and all usual items.

Public comment/communications: Joan Hauer starts in May as the new citizen member. Chairperson Kelly welcomed her to the committee.

Adjournment: 10:13am

Dawn Johnson

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary