

**ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
July 22, 2020**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Carol Pederson, Ted Cushing, Russ Fisher, Robert Thome Jr., Dr. Walt Gager, Joan Hauer, Dawn Winquist, Nancy Watry,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT: Chairperson Steven Schreier

STAFF PRESENT: Joel Gottsacker, Dawn Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Charbarneau Human Services Director, Heidi Chavez Financial Services Supervisor, Dianne Jacobson, Mary Boyer, Dee Jacobs, Mary Fortier, Judy Zarm, Bill Freudenberg, Pat Wahouski and Catherine Parker.

Call to order: Vice Chairperson Carol Pederson called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Cushing & Gager 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 June 22, 2020: Motion by Winquist / Watry to approve the June 22, 2020 ADRC Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Date/time/location of next meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on the first floor of the Health & ADRC building.

ADRC/DSS Alliance: Charbarneau, appearing by telephone, deferred to Cushing who reported that the LRES committee decided to move forward with bringing to Oneida County Board of Supervisors to merge Social Services, the ADRC, and possibly Veterans Services into a single department. LRES holds the position that there would be no decrease in services and savings would have to be realized. If those criteria cannot be met, the proposal would not move forward. Social Services still has a lot of work to do on a tentative budget. Cushing added this is probably the most difficult budget season in 20 years that he has been on the County Board. The County is fortunate that the deficit of sales tax is projected at only 4% through the month of May. Winquist questioned the time line recognizing that there must be notice prior to a public hearing. She wondered how this could take place for 2021.

Watry questioned why this issue continues to be brought forward when the ADRC Committee has repeatedly rejected the idea.

There was discussion on the vacancies and elimination of positions at Social Services. Social Services is filling the position it proposed to eliminate with a contracted employee. If a merger does not occur, that contractor may become a full employee. The contractor position will be funded with vacancy dollars.

Gager asked where Social Services will be getting money from the ADRC. Gottsacker replied that the 0.6 LTE position may be eliminated, but that the ADRC is still looking at the workload post-entitlement. Chavez clarified that Agency Management, Supervision, and Oversight (AMSO) estimate presented at the joint meeting is derived from all programs in both departments. Watry inquired if the ADRC will lose any funding from the application of AMSO and will the ADRC receive less because the merger. Chavez replied that it would not. The reduction would come in county levy.

Watry asked specifically what programs this would impact and how much tax levy. Chavez replied could not provide a specific answer at this time. Watry requested that Chavez produce that information for the committee.

Gager stated he does not understand the desire for this alliance since the ADRC functions very well, and a merger would cause confusion for clients. Cushing responded that Gager should attend an Administration Committee meeting to understand the difficulties with the budget for 2021.

Gager stated that he doesn't understand where there would be savings by this merger. Pederson stated that it appears that there would be some savings for social services but it seems that it is kind of one-sided. Having served on the DSS Committee for six years, Pederson stated she understands that some of the work they do and placements they make just cost a lot of money. She stated that she is having a hard time seeing how this merger would be a benefit to the ADRC.

Gottsacker stated that it is important that the ADRC be perceived by the public as being unbiased and independent. If a merger damages that perception, then it is not a good thing. Gottsacker further added that the ADRC is a flat organization and staff are very close to the services being delivered. A merger would add a layer of bureaucracy which could slow service delivery which would be a reduction of services.

Informational only, no action taken.

Aging Unit Plan Review: Gottsacker presented the goals for the three-year Aging Plan. Committee members should be substantially involved in the development of the plan. Gottsacker requests the Committee to review the goals in the plan and make any recommendations for the next meeting. Gottsacker reported he discussed the plan with GWAAR representative Nick Musson and clarified that the proposed reorganization requires a public hearing, and if changed, would be reflected in the plan. If the goals of the plan change drastically, GWAAR may require a public hearing for that portion of the plan, but won't necessarily do so. Informational only, no action taken.

2021-2023 Nutrition Services Contract: Gottsacker reported that is time to let the bid for proposals for 2021-2023 nutrition contract. He stated that we currently do a three-year contract, but we could have a five-year contract. Gottsacker recommended that the Nutrition Advisory Committee review any bids and bring a recommendation to the ADRC Committee. Hauer asked if all meals are being supplied by the same source. Gottsacker replied that, yes, they are all coming from Lynn's catering. Motion by Gager/ Cushing to continue with a three-year contract and have the Nutrition Advisory Committee review for recommendation to the ADRC Committee. All ayes, motion passed.

Coronavirus pandemic response: Gottsacker reported that the ADRC is status quo; we had already purchased laptops for the Specialists with a grant from the State when we integrated in 2019. Working from home was a swift transition. We are still currently mainly working from home with one person in the office doing intake and limited appointments or walk-ins. Gottsacker stated he does not think we will have congregate dining until sometime next year, assuming there will be a vaccine and it is widely available. We purchased protective screens for escort drivers to install between them and their passenger to protect themselves. We will continue to work from home. Administrative staff primarily work in the office. Informational only, no action taken.

RSVP grant update: Gottsacker reported that the RSVP position will be forwarded to County Board in August to create the position. It will then be posted and filled. Informational only, no action taken.

Northwoods Transit Connections Update : Gottsacker reported that Transit is receiving CARES Act fund for all expenses from January 20 forward. He reported that Transit is being asked to use their match money toward the purchase of some buses to ensure that the \$85.21 State funds will be returned to the ADRC to be placed in trust. The returned fund would be about \$120,000 and will be used to pay for future repairs or capital purchases deemed necessary. Transit is serving the Lakeland Area, Eagle River, and Rhinelander. There are no inter-community routes at this time. Informational only, no action taken.

Vouchers purchase orders, and line item transfers: Motion made by Cushing/Watry to approve the voucher purchase orders as presented.

Motion made by Cushing/ Watry to approve the line item transfers as presented. All eyes, motions carried.

Monthly Reports: Gottsacker presented the monthly reports. The nutrition program shows that Home Delivered Meals continue to climb. There have been increased requests for caregiver funding, including for “grandparents raising grandchildren.” We plan to shift some money for family caregiver support. Statistics for Family Care entitlement were presented. Informational only, no action taken.

Future Agenda topics: RSVP grant, aging unit, merger update safer at home and all usual items.

Public comment/communications: None

Adjournment: 10: 07am

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary