

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC-CW)
Draft Minutes of the ADRC-CW Advisory Committees Meeting
September 23, 2020

Mission: The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin promotes choice and independence through personalized education, advocacy, and access to services that prevent, delay, and lessen the impacts of aging and disabilities in the lives of adults.

Committee members present: **Marathon County:** unavailable; **Lincoln County:** Tara Schneider, Nancy Uerling; **Langlade County:** Doug Curler, Carol Krochalk; **Wood County:** Kathleen Meyer, Jim Scott

Others present: Executive Director Jonette Arms and Director of Aging & Wellness Jennifer Cummings

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Cummings, Aging & Wellness Director, at 10:03 a.m.

2. Public Comments

Jennifer Cummings apologized for the meeting disconnection in July. We were able to finish the meeting, but not all members were able to re-connect so that's why the draft minutes were emailed to committee members soon after the July meeting for review.

3. Approval of Minutes – From July 22, 2020 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Doug Curler; seconded by Carol Krochalk. Motion carried.

4. Advisory committee resignations.

Jennifer has received two recent committee resignations- Ann Egge, representative from Wood County and Jim Posselt from Langlade County. We also have a vacant position from Marathon County. Given that the ADRC-CW board may consider a change in governance structure, recruitment for these vacant positions is on hold at the current time.

5. ADRC-CW Board/Advisory governance update and discussion

At the September ADRC-CW board meeting, there was discussion related to consideration of restructuring the board in compliance with the Wis. Elders' Act regulations. Kathy Meyer, Tony Omernik, Doug Curler, and Tara Schneider, advisory committee members, were also present at the meeting to hear the discussion and offer their comments. The board is requesting a 6- month consideration period. The monthly board meeting will include a standing agenda item for an advisory committee member presentation and allow a committee member to advocate for a specific topic or issue that they feel the board needs to consider addressing based on community/customer population needs and trends. Advisory committee members would have the opportunity to bring issues which they felt were important to the board and

advocate and educate the board so that they could take informed and intentional actions. The board will also receive a copy of the advisory committee draft meeting minutes.

Discussed potential issues and topics to bring to the board. Kathy said that she would be prepared to talk to the board about people with developmental disabilities and the need for affordable housing. There is a need to educate the board about individuals' special needs, interventions and options. Kathy would be willing to discuss this information as well as talking about autism because many individuals with developmental disabilities have shades of autism which requires interventions to be delivered in new ways to accommodate different ways of thinking.

Jonette states that the presentation should be approximately 10 minutes and then allow for board questions and discussion. Jonette suggested that the presenter talks about the topic as an issue, the importance to the board and the region, and what type of action that could be suggested to the board. The ADRC-CW has struggled with addressing issues surrounding individuals with disabilities so this topic is welcomed.

Advisory committee members voiced concern that the board appeared to lack interest and engagement in considering an opportunity for a change in governance in advocating for issues and offering direction to ADRC-CW staff related to programs and services. The board appears focused on policy and operations instead of exploring issues and thinking broader. Committee members questioned whether the board's role is strictly that of a 'gatekeeper' and that they are reluctant to move forward. Advocacy plays a huge role in how the board is to address "big picture/broader" issues.

There was ongoing discussion about advocacy day events, and the need to build ongoing relationships with elected officials to keep communication flowing. Working with legislators and participating in advocacy events are important to communicate regional needs and request support by way of funding as well.

We discussed the need that the topics and reports come from the advisory committee as a whole. Perhaps one advisory committee member offers the presentation and another committee member also attends. Kathy said that she would plan to prioritize coming to the board meetings and would be willing to work collaboratively with any committee members to present.

Kathy will plan to offer the board a presentation on autism at the October 8th board meeting which begins at 9:30. Jonette will plan to schedule the advisory committee presentation near the beginning of the agenda so committee members can leave the meeting if they wish. The advisory committee presenter can attend the meeting in person, but virtual attendance is always an option. Screen shares can be done virtually. Kathy will plan to attend virtually.

Other committee members are invited to attend and will receive board agenda packet information. Doug is willing to offer an advocacy presentation for the November 12th board meeting. Any handouts need to get to Jonette or Jennifer by Tuesday the week before the board meeting or more information can be provided to board members following the presentations.

The list of abbreviations was sent as a hard copy in each committee members' packet for this meeting. From now on committee members will get an electronic copy of these abbreviations with every meeting agenda. Committee members felt that this directory was helpful and useful.

6. Director's reports from August and September

Highlights addressed from the director's reports from August and September included:

- Although ADRC-CW offices are not open for walk-ins, staff have begun to reach out to individuals/consumers who would benefit more from an in-person meeting. A limited appointment calendar has been created in each office and staff use this tool to schedule appointments and allow time for proper disinfection practices to be implemented between appointments. We've instituted pre-screen checks when scheduling appointments, then when individuals come for the appointment they are required to wear a mask and asked screening questions again.
- "Wear a mask campaign" cards: These have been ordered and were supposed to be arriving this week. We will get some sent to each committee member.
**The cards did arrive...Jonette will work with clerical staff to get them distributed.
- Two additional resource specialist positions have been successfully recruited. One individual has experience with disabled individuals and the other worked with IRIS. We are currently recruiting for a full-time clerical position in the Wausau office.
- Adult Protective Services details are being investigated before moving forward in bringing this program into the ADRC-CW organization
- Langlade County HeART grant recently surveyed over 4000 individuals to assess technology access, availability, internet access, social isolation, and affordability.
- Wear a mask campaign billboards were up, Governor Evers has also extended the mask wearing recommendation.
- ADRC-CW classes are being offered virtually and individuals can register for them by contacting the offices.
- Senior Farmer's Market Voucher Program (SFMVP) was expanded to Marathon County late this summer. Although vouchers were made available, the distribution has been limited. We will plan to promote the program earlier next year to improve overall distribution.
- ADRC-CW is switching and upgrading our phone system to a program called Ring Central. This will improve staff/consumer access and efficiency.
- Discussed preparing for nutrition/meal closures with winter weather. Doug suggested considering a phone tree/text option and multiple avenues to share the closure information.

7. Future agenda items-Next meeting November 18th (a week early due to Thanksgiving)

- Follow-up from the board meeting presentations

8. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Doug Curler and the meeting ended at 10:58 a.m.