

Minutes



ADRC Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 11:00 am
Stockbridge-Munsee Elderly Center
N8651 Maplewood St, Bowler WI 54416

Members Present: Carolyn Barke, Stephanie Holman, Anne Miller, Carolie Miller, Forrest Perez, Grant Staszak, Terrie Terrio, Melissa Wescott

Members Absent: Benjamin Warrington, Lynnae Zahringer

Others Present: Kim Wolfmeyer - ADRC Director, Amy Steffens - Information & Assistance Specialist, Kristine Tuma - Fiscal Support Specialist, community member

1. Call meeting to order.

Called to order at 11:07 am by Chairperson Staszak.

2. Approve minutes from previous meeting.

Motion made by C. Miller, second by Terrio, to approve the September 12, 2023 minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

3. Motion to deviate from the order of the agenda, if necessary.

Motion made by Terrio to deviate from agenda if necessary. Second by C. Miller. All aye. Motion carried.

4. Introduction of new ADRC Governing Board member.

Melissa Wescott is the newest member on the ADRC Governing Board. Melissa is representing Menominee County for a three-year term.

It was noted that Holman joined the meeting at 11:11 am.

5. Information regarding energy assistance.

Amy Steffens, Information & Assistance Specialist with the ADRC, spoke to the Board regarding energy assistance within the region. Energy assistance is offered through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and is income-based. A handout was provided to all Board members that included the income guidelines and contact information for the energy assistance offices within our region.

It was noted that Steffens left the meeting at 11:20 am.

6. Discussion regarding unmet needs in the community.

Unmet needs in the community that were discussed at the last Governing Board meeting included social isolation, scams, and housing. The Board discussed different ways to address these needs. C. Miller and Terrio noted that the Stockbridge-Munsee Community has recently hired an activity coordinator that plans outings and activities to keep individuals engaged with others. They also hired a person to visit those who are isolated on the weekend. Wescott noted that Menominee

County offers programs and activities for elders. Going to local meal sites is another way for individuals to get out and socialize. Perez stated that the Signa Center in Keshena often has volunteer opportunities available.

The topic of housing was discussed. C. Miller and Holman noted that the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, along with the Town of Oconto Falls, are working on establishing more elderly and low-income housing. Terrio noted that even if an individual is in low-income housing, they might have high utility bills making housing costs more difficult. Staszak suggested that the issue of housing might not be something that everyone is aware of so if Board members ever have an opportunity to talk about this issue with community groups it might be beneficial to do so.

The ADRC included an article about scams in the most recent newsletter. Articles and information regarding scams will often be included in the ADRC newsletter since it is such a common occurrence that effects everyone, including the elderly and disabled populations.

7. Update on ADRC Governing Board Per Diem.

At the ADRC Executive Committee meeting, a motion was made and approved to increase the ADRC Governing Board per diem to \$70.00 per meeting beginning in 2024. Governing Board members receive mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate.

8. SAMS Report - Information & Assistance.

The ADRC Director presented information regarding customers served by ADRC staff. In the month of November 2023, Information and Assistance Specialist (I&A) staff members worked with customers on topics including long-term care options, in-home services, housing/rental assistance, and Medicaid.

9. Benefit Specialists Reports.

The ADRC Director presented information regarding the number of contacts the Disability Benefits Specialists (DBS) had in the month of November 2023. The DBS workers had 149 open cases. The most common assistance provided is assistance with the Social Security Disability application process and understanding healthcare benefits.

The Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) had 70 open cases in the month of November 2023. The most common assistance provided included assistance with disability applications, health insurance benefits, income benefits, and Medicare information. The Medicare open enrollment period went from Oct 15 - Dec 7, 2023. During open enrollment, the EBS worker assisted 316 individuals with Medicare plans.

The Dementia Care Specialist is offering multiple educational trainings and caregiver programs. Currently, the programs being offered include the caregiver support group, memory cafes, and monthly Alzheimer educational classes. The Shawano caregiver support group that takes place the 4th Wednesday of each month has moved its meeting location to Beans and Books Coffee Shop on Main Street in Shawano. Meetings will still take place at 1:00 pm.

The ADRC currently has a vacancy for a Dementia Care Specialist. This position has been posted and interviews are being scheduled.

10. Aging and Disability Resource Center status report.

The State has created a funding reallocation formula that they are utilizing to determine grant agreement amounts for ADRCs in Wisconsin for the 2024-2027 contract periods. The ADRC of the Wolf River Region is expected to receive a small increase in their contract for 2024. This will be

the first contract increase since the ADRC opened in 2012. Signed grant agreement contracts from the State have not been received as of yet.

The 2024 ADRC Resource Guides are now available. ADRC Board members took copies of the guide to help distribute them out in the community.

11. Per diem and mileage approval for Governing Board orientation on September 28, 2023.

Motion made by Terrio, second by C. Miller, to approve the per diem and mileage for the September 28, 2023 Governing Board orientation. All aye. Motion carried.

12. Per diem and mileage approval for today's meeting.

Motion made by C. Miller, second by Holman, to approve the per diem and mileage for the December 12, 2023 Governing Board meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

13. Committee member comments or new business to be considered at a future meeting.

Staszak commented that his position on the Shawano County Board has concluded and a new Shawano County Board member will be appointed to take over his position on the ADRC Governing Board.

14. Set next meeting date.

The next tentative ADRC Governing Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

15. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by C. Miller. Second by Holman. Staszak adjourned the meeting at 11:58 am.

Recorded by: Kristine Tuma, Fiscal Support Specialist