

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Eagle Country Governance Board meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 23, 2017 in Conference Room A&B of the Health & Human Services Building at 221 W Seminary St, Richland Center, WI.

Members Present: Vern Demers, Bette Smart, Marie Rakow, Elling Jones, Donna McGinley, Belinda Granger, Ken Schneider, Donald Stirling, Lane Delany

Members Absent: Becky Hovde

Others Present: Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber, Jeanne Christie, Susan Blodgett, Charlene Norberg, Becky Dahl, Ingrid Kovars

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson, Vern Demers, at 9:30 am.

Approval Agenda and Posting: Motion by, Ken Schneider second by Elling Jones to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Donald Seep, second by Ken Schneider, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2017 meeting with correction on pg 3. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments:

None.

Letter of Interest – Representing Mental Health/AODA

Becky Dahl presented a letter of interest to fill the mental health/AODA position on the Governing Board. Teresa Wolkowski's letter of interest was read. Motion by Donald Seep, second by Lane Delaney to accept Teresa's Wolkowski's letter of interest. Motion Carried.

Election of Board Officers, Chari and Vice Chair

Elections for Chairperson were held. Motion by Marie Rakow, second by Ken Schneider to nominate Vern Demers for chairperson. A unanimous ballot was cast for Vern Demers as Chairperson. Motion carried and Vern Demers was declared Chairperson of the ADRC of Eagle Country Governing Board.

Elections for Vice Chairperson were held. Motion by Ken Schneider, second by Marie Rakow to nominate Bette Smart for vice chairperson. A unanimous ballot was cast for Bette Smart as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried and Bette Smart was declared Vice Chairperson of the ADRC of Eagle Country Governing Board.

Regional Budget Report

Becky Dahl presented the regional budget projections through April 2017 with a projected surplus of \$17,000. The region has received an increase in Nursing Home Relocation Grant which will be very helpful. An additional \$5000 was also added to the contract for work the regional manager did to help develop a training program for the state. Confirmation that the state pays after expenses are submitted instead of pre-paying as they have in the past which creates a delay in revenues was discussed.

Board Education: Eagle Country and Statewide Encounter Data

Becky Dahl presented statewide encounter data. The region is fairly consistent with the state. Eagle Country has some of the highest walk-in data in the state. When encounter data is compared with the Dr Amy Flowers' research the data is almost identical to the sampling surveys she conducted. This suggests people know where Eagle Country ADRCs are located. When it comes to Caregivers Eagle Country is below the state average, but sees a lot of individuals who are coming in for themselves. The important thing to remember here is this is data for our region and the state looks at us as a region not as individual counties. We put together a document based on the regional annual report that could help board members talk to the local boards about how the ADRC of Eagle Country functions as a region. Becky Dahl would be happy to come speak to local boards about this topic as well.

2018 Summary of Draft State Contract Changes

Becky Dahl summarized the 2018 DHS contract. The Office of Resource Center Development (ORCD) encouraged state directors to meet and make suggestions before the contract is finalized. State Directors meetings were held in three locations. Something they found important is how ADRCs relate to Economic Support units. It is our hope that individuals can work with their Economic Support workers on complicated cases because ADRC staff are not trained in the specifics of economic support the way they are. There is also emphasis this year on the power of the Governing Boards. The State envisions Governing Boards having the authority to be able to make changes when things are not being kept within contract at a county level.

Regional Statewide Advocacy Actions:

Becky Dahl had a conversation with Senator Howard Marklein about Dementia Care Specialists and the Healthcare workforce shortage. The letter this committee submitted helped this happen.

- **Dementia Care Specialists Program**

There was a Joint Finance Committee motion that passed to permanently fund the current 19 Dementia Care Specialists in the state and increased the program to include 24 Dementia Care Specialists across the state in 2018. A thank you note was sent to Representatives Novak and Rohrkaste, and Senators Marklein and Vukmir in passing this motion. If we are awarded a Dementia Care Specialist in our region, Sauk County is already working on creating a position. This would allow us to recruit a highly qualified individual. This position would still serve the region as a whole, but it would be beneficial to have that position created outside of Richland County. This would be an \$80,000 state funded position which could create a \$25,000 federal draw. This motion still needs to go on to the senate as well as the governor. It would be beneficial if the region and the regional board were able to set wages for the entire region.

- **Healthcare Workforce**

The Joint Finance Committee suggested a 2% increase to the healthcare workforce. There is a hope that they will increase this further in the next budget session. It is extremely difficult for home health agencies and nursing homes to keep staff because of the low level of pay in such difficult positions. Locally Becky Dahl is part of a request to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be allowed to independently operate a Hoyer lift with a CNA certification. This is a federal ruling. This would allow students to get started in health care careers.

- The American Healthcare Act: The intention is that the budget will be signed before July 4th. Now is a time for us to make our message heard. Senator Ron Johnson is one of

the four senators that are unsure if they will vote yes supporting the proposed American Healthcare Act. He is requesting input from constituents. This is an opportunity to let him know we are not in support of the budget as written. Supporting documents were handed out to show how this act would affect seniors and those on disability. This act would shift 45% of the Medicaid budget away from federal funded programs and to the states and counties. Medicaid has eight areas of service, discussion on what services would have to be cut. ADRCs were set up to help people determine how to best spend down assets to delay enrollment into Medicaid. The crisis we're facing is that there will be individuals who are unable to remain home and have nowhere to go because of a lack of empty beds in facilities. Now is the time to contact our legislators. Low income home assistance will be eliminated, block grants will be eliminated which included home care, congregate meals, transportation, Adult Protective Services, snap nutrition will be cut, falls prevention eliminated, etc. Becky Dahl read a suggested letter to be sent to Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and Ron Kind and all of the legislators that serve our region. **Motion by Marie Rakow, second by Ken Schnieder to sign the letter and send the letter to these individuals. Motion Carried.** Call legislators, specifically Senator Ron Johnson, to vote no on the American Healthcare Act. **Motion by Ken Schneider, second by Donald Stirling requesting a resolution from the four county boards to request that legislators vote no on the American Healthcare Act. Motion Carried.** Becky Dahl to look for a template resolution to pass along to the boards.

Summarize Regional Updates – Office Managers:

RC: The office collaborated with the Wiseman Center and held a two day Youth in Transition presentation where they spoke about how they ADRC is involved in helping youth transition into adulthood. Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber spoke to the local Rotary Club and the Ministerial Association and local 4-H about dementia friendly communities. The office once again had a Pinwheel project on the courthouse lawn to raise awareness of elder abuse. Richland County Health and Human Services will be closed for five layoff days in 2017 and the ADRC will not be able to serve its customers during those days. Staff morale is down because increasing insurance rates and layoff days creating pay cuts.

Mauston: Char Norberg attended a regional planning committee meeting in Wausau. The office is applying for a federal transit grant in collaboration with the City of Mauston. Summer outreach events are on the horizon. The office is attempting to bring up redemption of farmers market vouchers by hosting a local grower/producer day for education and entertainment.

PdC: The Transportation program will be bussing individuals to events in the parks again this year. The Elder Benefit Specialist and Disability Benefit Specialist are doing presentations at subsidized housing and ABCs of Medicare presentations. The Dementia Friendly Communities are really working as well. Powerful Tools, an evidence based program, has started and will continue into the fall.

Baraboo: The office is applying for small grants including a nutrition revitalization grant and a Relatives as Parents grant which is a two year grant. The office is looking at space with the county to unite the ADRC staff in one location. Housing is the biggest issue in Sauk County according to the county. A functional team has been developed to try to give the board some direction on housing.

Regional office: Becky Dahl spoke about the five layoff days in Richland County. Becky Dahl spoke to Health and Human Services director about recruiting in Sauk County for a Dementia Care Specialist if we get one. The state (ORCD) is suggesting we do research into the different regional ADRC models in the state and investigate if there is a different way to look at Richland County as it is a concern 2018 will have more layoff days. There is no plan but this is a time to simply start exploring options. Only about 50% of ADRCs across the state are under Health

and Human Services. Discussion, the state pays us to provide services and not being open is not acceptable to the board as well as ORCD. We are currently talking to the state about what is happening in Richland and how these changes are viewed in contract requirements.. The board requested Diana Adamski, the Regional Quality Specialist, come to the next board meeting for a board education on regional models and governing board responsibilities.

Citizen Comments: none.

Next meeting date: July 28, 2017

Other Discussion and Suggested items for Next Agenda:

Diana Adamski to speak to us about our regional model and governing board authority.

Adjourn: Motion by Elling Jones, second by Lane Delaney to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:37a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ingrid Kovars
Administrative Secretary