

**BAYFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Conference Room A remote via Teams**

**September 27, 2022**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Richard Kemmer (In-Person), Bill Bland (In-Person), Mary Dougherty (In-Person) (left at 4:00 for executive meeting), Karen Anderson (In-Person), Tracy Snyder (In-Person), Lynette Benzschawel (Teams joined at 3:10)

**Committee Member Absent:**

Red Cliff Elder Program Representative; Eric Lindell & Alice Evenson BRICK Representatives.

**Staff Present:**

Carrie Linder, Heather Gilbertson

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Kemmer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and introductions were made.

**Discussion and Possible Action-Review of the August 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Bland, seconded by Anderson to approve the August 9, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion passed.
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**Discussion and Possible Action-Consideration to recommend approval of 2023 Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) Aging Programs Budget.**

- Linder noted that state sanctioned forms for the budget are not available yet, therefore, the committee has received the format used at county level.
- Committee is required to annually review how aging programs are funded for the upcoming year.
- Linder reviewed the aging plan, budget, goals, and successes with the committee.

Highlights include:

- Congregate meals are funded at the same level as 2022. There is room for expansion due to lower participation than expected.
- Home Delivered Meals are funded slightly higher than 2022. Two reasons: increased participation expected due to growing older population and the splitting of routes, so there are now 4 part time drivers and 4 vehicles, 4 phones, etc. vs. two of each.
- DOT: The Friday route between Iron River and Ashland has been discontinued due to no participation. Since the Door-to-Door service covers the area there is no need for the additional route.
- EFSNB Shelter and Food funding: Linder has applied for and received this funding for several years. These funds are used to put together shelf stable boxes called Nutrition in Case of Emergency (NICE); these boxes are used when Home Delivered Meals are cancelled due to inclement weather.
- DOT trust: \$30,915 is earmarked as the local match to purchase an electric bus to replace the Washburn bus.
- Family Caregiver: Higher allocation will help assist caregivers to access information and assistance, counseling, education, direct support, and respite services.

- Home Chore: Funds are used as a gap filling measure for individuals struggling but who don't qualify yet for Family Care yet.
- Preventive Health: Funds are for evidence-based programs like Tai Chi.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Dougherty to recommend approval of 2023 GWAAR Program Aging Budget. Motion passed.

### **Review Social Isolation and Loneliness and Community Engagement Goal**

- State created the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (WCESIL)
  - It may be good to align with the outcomes from the coalition rather than create our own action plan.
- County Isolation and loneliness goals and objectives for 2022 moved to 2023.
 

Ideas:

  - Connecting at meal sites.
  - Lack of transportation to get out into community.
  - Offer additional classes that peak communities' interests.
  - Form a dedicated task force in Bayfield County to form a plan, include public media campaign, and work on implementation of the plan. Beta test with CORE.
  - Building relationships with isolated residents, form trust, and then engage those residents with community activities. How do we pull someone out of their social anxiety bubble?
  - Ask residents if they would want to teach a class on one of their hobbies or discuss a topic in their education field. Tease social isolation people out of their comfort zone by having them participate in one of these classes or discussions.
- Snyder makes a recommendation to establish a working group to discuss key ideas and devise a plan to help with social isolation and loneliness in Bayfield County. Then the working group can report back to the advisory committee.
- Snyder and Dougherty will be key individuals in this work group. Other committee members interested in participating in the work group should contact Carrie Linder.

### **Program Reports – General Overview of A&D Programs**

- Birth to Three (B-3)
  - Linder reports a full team of contracted providers, remote services prevail due to Covid.
- Children's Long-Term Support/Children's Community Options Program (CLTS/CCOP)
  - Kristin Opperman rejoined the team as the second Children's Long-Term Services (CLTS) case manager.
- Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC)
  - Outreach was done over the summer including the fair and the MMC 55+ Senior Expo
- Aging Services
  - Medicare Part D Open enrollment starts on October 15, 2022 and ends on December 7, 2022.
  - DOT 85.21 draft application was presented to the TC.
  - Congregate site in Barnes will be reduces from 4 to 1 day per week. Looking at expanding into other areas from Cable to Grand View and /or possible another day in Iron River.
- Adult Protective Services
  - Three staff participated in a statewide Adult Protective Services Conference Wisconsin Dells.
  - Free lodging and meals were granted as an incentive to bring a Vulnerable Adult I-Team to the conference. Bayfield County has two law enforcement, the District Attorney, CORE Community Resources director, Family Care and IRIS representatives participating.

**Staffing Updates**

- Linder's department is fully staffed. This includes 10 in-office staff, 7 part time nutrition staff and 5 contracted Birth to 3 staff. Grateful for everyone's contributions.

**Other (Informational Items)**

- Senior Meal site locations are becoming outreach posts for Flu Clinics, Expired or Unused Medicine Dropoff locations, Outreach for Medicare Part D Open Enrollment & Dementia Care Information.

**Future Meetings**

- December 5, 2022 (s.85.21 DOT Public Hearing) at 3:00.

Kemmer adjourned the meeting at 4:29pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Gilbertson, Clerk III