



COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday April 21, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting of the Council on Aging Advisory Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Chuck Wilson. All present were participating via ZOOM or the telephone.
- B. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Pam Bostwick and seconded by Pat Burhans to approve the agenda.
- C. Roll Call:**
Present: Janice Turner, Patricia Burhans, Rena Dewar, Tom Brien, Karen Ferguson, Vicky O'Donnell, Debbie Kraus, Sherrill Gilbertson, Chuck Wilson, Pam Bostwick, Jack Kooyman, Sue McGinniss

Excused: Vicky Gobel

Unexcused: none

Staff Present: Paula Schutt, Lisa Messer, Jennifer McIlhone, Ryan Booth
- D. Introduction of Visitors:**
- E.** Approval March 17 Advisory Board minutes. A motion was made by Tom Brien and seconded by Karen Ferguson to accept with correction of several typos. Corrections noted and motion carried.
- F.** Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements –none
- G.** Monthly “This is Good to Know” Report - Paula introduced Amy Zabransky who works for the Board on Aging and Long Term Care State Ombudsman Program. Amy thanked Julie Seeman for introducing her to Rock County initially. She reported that there are three parts to the agency. #1 The State Health Insurance Program with the Medigap Hotline. #2 Ombudsman Program (Regional) (A Swedish word that means advocate). #3 Volunteer Ombudsman Program is in 32 Counties. Amy reported that their agency has authority under the Older Americans Act to do the work they do. She explained their job is to educate residents and then help them advocate for themselves. She said that residents are educated as to their six rights. #1 the right to dignity #2 The right to privacy #3 The right to grievances #4 The right to access to programs and meds #4 the right to be notified of medical choices #5 the right to be notified of discharge information. Amy announced that Matt Rohloff, the acting Ombudsman has stepped down and he has had someone replace him. Tom Brien asked how COVID had affected the program. Amy replied that due to COVID the volunteers had not been allowed in nursing homes since last March. She has maintained her volunteers. Sue McGinniss reported she had a positive experience in Grant County with the program and asked if Amy thought that she had to do a lot more education in Rock County to residents because

the nursing homes did not. Amy said it is different with every nursing home. She is currently taking applications for volunteers. Janice shared that she worked at Evansville Manor for 40 years. She said part of their admission packet was to introduce the Ombudsman Program.

H. Staff Reports:

1. Caregiver Specialist Julie reported that Supervisor Wilde from EVAs committee proposed and crafted a resolution to support Gov. Evers proposed additional caregiver funding. It will be presented to the County Board and forwarded on to the Governor. She is now getting a lot of referrals from outside agencies.
2. Elder Benefit Specialist Lachel reported that so far this year she has served 238 clients who are repeat clients and 53 new clients. The monetary impact of her services totals \$190,092.00. She is busy working on Homestead Tax Credits (she has finished 217 so far) and Debbie Kraus has arranged for her to be at Grinnell for outreach and she has also been asked to begin her visits again to The Gathering Place. She is recreating her former Outreach schedule now that facilities are beginning to open up.
3. Mobility Manager – Jennifer is at a conference and not able to attend
5. Transportation Supervisor - Ryan reported that Transit has hired three new drivers who are currently doing on the road training. They will mostly be working Saturday to relieve full time drivers. Paula and Ryan have talked with Josh Smith on ways the Transportation Program can utilize their portion of the Rescue Plan Funding. Statistics for this past month include 130 trips per day utilizing 8 buses per day. Tom Brien mentioned the COVID information program put out by united Way. Ryan explained that the Health Department was heading up the Vaccine Transportation Program and they were assisted by both City of Beloit and Janesville Transit, Rock County Transit and United Way.
6. Lisa Messer, Health Promotion Coordinator reported they just finished a Living Well with Chronic Conditions. Rock County partnered with Sheboygan County and the participants had excellent reviews on the class. Sherril, our Advisory Board member is getting trained to teach Mind Over Matter and we are hoping to offer it in June. We are getting a staff person from Mercy to offer Stepping On and we are hoping for a summer workshop. Amy from Nutrition and Health would like to teach another in person Healthy Eating Workshop this summer. We have purchased another seat for the Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less online workshop. There is three left for the year. Sue McGinniss stated that she applauds the staff of COA and all the work they do is wonderful and the variety of programs offered is great.
7. Executive Director - Paula mentioned that COA is crafting their three year plan as well as the Health Dept and she had been contacted to possibly hold a Community Conversations session for the Health Departments Plan. Paula extended her thanks to Advisory Board members Sherril Gilbertson, Janice Turner and Pat Burhans for stepping up and agreeing to have an hour long conversation and share their ideas. Paula reported it was an excellent conversation with some wonderful ideas and thoughts shared. Paula

announced that COA is also has several scheduled discussion sessions scheduled in May to gather information from the community. Paula presented a resolution to EVAS Committee recognizing Older Americans Month. Yuri Rashkin asked if we were doing some kind of event or activity to celebrate. Paula has invited all of the County Board Members to take their turn sometime in May either handing out meals at a dining center site or riding along helping to deliver home delivered meals. If anyone is interested in this activity they should contact Linda Hardie, Nutrition Program supervisor and make arrangements.

Angie Sullivan reported that Jefferson County recently did an AMP book club and there was a Spanish speaking individual that participated who wanted to offer an AMP book Club for the Spanish Community. Rock County has been invited to participate and invite people as well since it is virtual. Paula is working with Angie Sullivan and Jefferson County to set up the plans for this to happen.

Last month Paula had mentioned that she and Jennifer Thompson had interviewed five different counties that had integrated and Jennifer was putting together a worksheet that had all the answers on it. She will forward it.

I. New Business: No new business

J. Old Business - Paula gave an update on the Aging Plan Survey which on our website. We have received 134 responses so far. Biggest concern from those responses is health, cost and access to medication and assistance in the home. Chuck suggested handing out survey at the Janesville VA Clinic. The RSVP director has asked her to speak at the Rotary Club in Beloit in May.

K. Board Membership Report Reports:

1. County Board of Supervisors, Tom Brien Tom reported that this past week there was a group of County Board members that toured the new facility. It is scheduled to be ready in July.
2. ADRC of Rock County, Vicky O'Donnell: no report.

L. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m. by Tom Brien and seconded by Sue McGinniss. Motion carried. *Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board.*

<p>The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or email countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.</p>
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