



**COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday August 21, 2019**

**Call to Order:** The meeting of the Council on Aging Advisory Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chuck Wilson at the Council on Aging office, 3328 US Highway 51 North, Janesville, Wisconsin.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Janice Turner, seconded by Jean Boyle, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Jean Boyle, Tom Brien, Patricia Burhans, Vicki Gobel, Vicky O'Donnell, Mark Richardson, Cherie Scholz-Baker, Janet Smith, Pam Strom, Janice Turner and Chuck Wilson

Excused: Robert Borremans, Sherril Gilbertson

Unexcused: Johnny Owens

Staff Present: Paula Schutt, Lachel Fowler, Julie Seeman,

**Introduction of New Board Members:** Supervisor Tom Brien, introduced as newly appointed board member, replacing Norvain Pleasant.

**Introduction of Visitors:** none

**Approval of July 17, 2019 Advisory Board Minutes:** Pam Strom made a correction to the minutes as follows: The Clinton Senior Center holds a monthly Veterans BREAKFAST, not a dinner as previously recorded. With those changes noted, a motion was made by Pam Strom, seconded by Mark Richardson, to approve the July 17, 2019, Advisory Board minutes. Motion carried.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** none

**Staff Reports:**

Elder Benefit Specialist/Director: Lachel Fowler announced that open enrollment is coming up October 15 through December 7. For the first part of October she will hold her regular outreach dates. During open enrollment, she will not be doing outreach. Lachel recently attended a training in Stevens Point. Attendees were informed that the Medicare Plan Finder system will be changing. She will be attending a refresher course on October 2. She explained

it will be quite difficult for an individual to navigate the system. She informed the board that Medicare advises that everyone look at their plan every year to make sure it is still current. She reported she was very glad to go back to just doing her EBS duties. Paula Schutt formally thanked and recognized Lachel for all her work as Interim Director.

Mobility Management Update: Jennifer not present. Paula reported that the Mobility Manager Grant was submitted.

Health Marketing/Caregiver: Julie Seeman handed out the newly revised adult coloring books she created. They include information on the COA. She reported September 8 is Grandparents day. To help promote this, she applied for excess funds GWAAR was offering and received a grant for \$1,355. She used it to place ads on WCLO talking about grandparents raising grandchildren. She also had brightly colored placemats that will be used at the dining centers. A board member asked about contacting the schools. Julie also reported she has been in communication with the person who is in charge of Kinship Care. Julie has a limited budget, she can only serve 8 families. She currently has 4 enrolled, with only 2 active. Another board members mentioned contacting Park City restaurant to see if they would use the place mats. Julie reported she has also been partnering with Cori Marsh from the ADRC and doing Dementia Live presentations. She has one coming up on September 16 and just completed one in Milton. It is a free presentation. Janice Turner and Vicki Gobel reported they had experienced the presentation. Julie has 8 State of WI Ombudsmen Supervisors coming to the COA on July 18 to go through the Dementia Live Training. She has a Healthy Eating class coming up at Grinnell and a Stepping On with Mercy in October that is quickly filling up.

Julie handed out the Rock County Senior Fair flier. She mentioned several different workshops available at the fair, including yoga, meditation and chocolate and Boost Your Brain. Mark Richardson asked about the Lions club collecting classes. Chuck affirmed they will be collecting glasses as well as hearing aids. Julie said there would also be confidential shredding offered at the Senior Fair. Unfortunately, flu shots will not be offered at the fair, due to the fact that the Rock County Health Department is not sure when they will be receiving them. Chuck Wilson said the Tri Shaws will be at the fair also, and reported on an article in the Beloit Shopper about someone who purchased some tri-shaws and was using them as taxis in Beloit. Julie reported that COA will soon be offering a Caregiver Skills Workshop where they will discuss adaptive equipment, personal cares, and an author will be present as well as information on dental care and an activity on self-care for the caregiver.

In July Julie and Cori Marsh again partnered and offered a Kids Camp for children affected by people with dementia. Spectrum Channel 1 did a story on it and Julie has it posted to the COA's website. They had 16 young adults attend. The camp was a huge success with the kids and the committee is planning on offering it again next year. Lachel asked if there was a support group for kids and Julie said not at this time. Each child went home with a signed copy of the book by Susan Bottom Jones.

Transit Update: no updates

**New Business:**

Paula reported on a recent incident where a person visiting the COA fell. The staff worked together very well doing what needed to be done.

**Old Business:**

Update on ADRC/COA Integration: Chuck began the report by talking about the upcoming Focus Groups that were requested by the facilitator of the Integration Committee. Board member Jean Boyle has recently joined the Integration Committee. The focus groups will be held in a variety of locations in Rock County. The purpose is to give citizens a chance to speak about the proposed integration.

Mark Richardson asked Paula to restate her idea about a "soft start" to integration. Paula explained she had suggested that with the co-location taking place, the two agencies move slowly and assess what needs to be integrated, throughout a 6 months to a year process of working together, with a review scheduled on what had been learned during that time. Paula explained her concerns of just jumping into integration and all the confusion it would cause for the client. She explained we cannot really know what we need to do before we live the experience. Chuck Wilson agreed, not wanting to "put the cart before the horse". Lachel said she thought that some of the rush to integrate might be because of the need to spend the grant money before the end of the year. It was stated that having a goal to ease into it with a 6 months or year time line could be an answer that satisfied the grant. Much of the information discovered by the facilitator is valuable and we would be able to put it to use. It was the general consensus of the board that the path to integration should be slow. Employees input should be valued. Chuck Wilson said another key for success in this change is communication, It was asked if the Health Promotion position was still a position at COA. Paula explained that the person who had that position left around Christmas of 2018. A hold was put on filling it until a decision was made about hiring a permanent COA Director. Paula said she is in the process of reviewing applications for that position and it will be filled soon.

**Reports:**

County Board of Supervisors: Chuck reported that we are currently looking for new board members to replace members that are leaving. Chuck read a letter from Johnny Owens informing the board of his resignation due to his work schedule. Tom Brien did not have any reports to make. Tom made a correction on the spelling of his name. It is "en" rather than "an"

ADRC of Rock County, Vicky O'Donnell: no report

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Pam Stromm, seconded by Tom Brien to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

*Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board.*