

Minutes
ADRC of Eagle Country Governance Board Meeting
February 22, 2019

The Joint Aging and Disability Resource Center of Eagle Country and ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin Governance Board meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 22, 2019 at the Iowa County Human Services Building, 303 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville

Members Present: Belinda Granger, Donna Mcginley, Bette Smart, Marie Rakow, Elling Jones, Donald Stirling, Carol Mixdorf, Dale Hood, Justin O'Brien, Herb Hanson, Therese Hess, Greg Pickett, Dave Janney, Terry Wolkowski, Judy Ellington, Lane Delaney.

Members Absent: Chuck Whitsell, Jack Jasinski, Donald Seep, Joan Flood, Carol Korn, Cathy Palzkill, Carolyn Van De Wiel, Leean White.

Others Present: Becky Dahl, Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber, Roby Fuller, Char Norberg, Susan Blodgett, Quinn Hause, Ingrid Kovars, Stacey Terrill, Nicki Brennum, Rhonda Lechner, Bob Schroeder, Pam Kul-Berg, Mary Mezera, Janet Zander, Amber Russell, Valerie Hiltbrand, Russ Torkelson, Judy Lindholm.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson, Bette Smart, at 9:00 am.

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

Citizen Comments:

None

Board Member Introductions:

Introductions.

Board Education: How to Build Relationships with Legislators

Janet L. Zander, CSW, MPA
Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.
Elder Law & Advocacy Center

Janet Zander presented the boards with information on building relationships with legislators and the four issues the boards have selected to talk about today. Handout of presentation was distributed.

Governing Board Members Identify Top 4 Issues Facing Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities in Southwest WI

a. Family Caregiver Support

b. Direct Care Workforce Shortage

c. Reliable, Accessible and Affordable Transportation

d. Social Isolation and Loneliness

Review Issues, Possible Solutions, What's next in Timelines- Janet Zander

Janet Zander covered the four topics the boards selected to discuss with legislators. Facts, stories, and discussion points were established.

Break 10:50 am – 11:00 am

Welcome and Introduction of Legislators

Legislators briefly introduced themselves. Legislators and staffers present included: Kelly Becker for Sen Erpenbach, Rep Todd Novak and Staffer Jake ? , Sen Marklein,

Discussion with Legislators on Top 4 Issues Above – Janet Zander

Board member and legislators shared stories, had discussion and shared possible solutions to the topics of Direct Care Workforce Shortage, Family caregiver Support, Social Isolation, and Transportation.

Direct Care Workforce Shortage conversation included: balancing payment sources; work schedules with overtime expected (hours/days in a row); high rates of staff turnover; need for training in dementia care; solution proposed to increase Medicaid rates to increase wages in order to be competitive and increase wages encourage longevity....Wisconsin Caregiver Career Program not being available at Southwest Tech; rural homecare workers can't find workers in remote areas, staff gave example of providing transportation for a certified nursing assistant to get to work at an assisted living till bill became too high, with low wages she was not able to pay her transportation bill only option to seek employment elsewhere for higher wages; finding workers are leaving agencies to work for private pay people at a higher rate, leaving worker shortages for people in public programs.

Family Caregiver conversation included: long distance caregiving, importance of finding supports when needed, out of pocket expenses of caregivers, need for paid leave benefits for caregivers, and working caregivers impacted by workforce shortage.

Social Isolation conversation included: secrets can be deadly/ suicide, studies needed to address social isolation in persons with mental health and all disabilities.

Transportation conversation included: individuals who need transportation to work and how this affects where they are able to live, limited transportation and how it is impacted further by the weather, challenges of out of county rides needed for long distances, volunteer drivers – recruitment to replace retiring drivers and insurance issues to use accessible vans.

Welcome Legislators to Stay for Lunch

Adjourn: Motion by Bette Smart, second by Donna McGinley to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ingrid Kovars
Administrative Secretary
Reviewed by Becky Dahl: