

**JOINT MEETING:
ROCK COUNTY AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) and COUNCIL ON
AGING (COA) ADVISORY BOARD
March 18, 2019**

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairperson Thomas called the meeting of the Rock County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Council on Aging Committees to order at 9:01 a.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019 at the Rock County Job Center.

Committee Members Present: ADRC members: Terry Thomas, Rob Wilkinson, Paula Garecht, Gregg Schneider, and Tom Moe. COA members: Vicki Gobul, Mark Richardson, Patricia Burhans, Pam Strom, Jean Boyle, Sherrill Gilbertson, Norvain Pleasant, Cheri Scholz-Baker, Janet Smith, and Robert Borremans.

Committee Members Absent: ADRC members: Tom McCool, Harold Luther and Carrie Glover. COA members: Johnny Owens, Suzanne Rasmussen, Chuck Wilson, and Janice Turner.

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Thompson, Steve Hare, Darcy Toberman, Jamie Dix, Dawn Fossum, Vicky O'Donnell, Kate Luster, Cori Marsh, Lachel Fowler, Jennifer McIlhone, Ryan Booth, Linda Hardie,

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator, Macy Mawhinney, County Board Vice-Chair, Brent Sutherland, Rock Co. Facilities Management, Craig Gramke, Supervisor Dist #23, Christine See, DHS-ORCD.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Strom moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Borremans.
APPROVED

Roll Call: Mr. Thomas initiated introductions of every one in attendance.

New Business:

A. Roles and Responsibilities of:

- 1) ADRC Advisory Committee: Jennifer Thompson reviewed a typical ADRC Advisory agenda pointing out topics interest such as ADRC statistics, successful cases, Family Care, and staff present on their areas of expertise, etc. The ADRC Advisory Committee currently meets quarterly.
- 2) COA Advisory Board: Lachel Fowler passed out reviewd the COA Bylaws. Mr Fowler also explained a typical meeting includes topics of interest and updates from COA staff. The COA Advisory Board meets monthly.

B. Discussion on ADRC – COA Integration:

- 1) Recap of La Crosse County Information: Jennifer Thompson reviewed the information she received from the Deputy Director of La Crosse County. Ms. Thompson explained La Crosse County was selected as an example as their County organizational structure was much like Rock County's. Ms. Thompson specifically spoke about the time frame of integration, the process they took including meeting weekly, and working with a UW extension facilitator. She mentioned when the COA director left abruptly, the integration plan was put on a fast-track and was pulled together after a 4-2 vote within one year. La Crosse integrated in the HSD building and no staff lost jobs. Mr Richardson pointed out he heard when integration occurred in La Crosse, the "lion's share" of the funding was absorbed by HSD and there were COA services eliminated. Ms. Fowler also said she has heard that services were eliminated. Ms. Thompson said she would follow up with La Crosse to ask more about this as she was not made aware of that information. Mr. Smith, speaking specifically about congregate meal sites, stated that over the last several years meal sites have been decreased/cut; integrating or not, that could continue to happen. In regards to funding, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Smith and Christine See (DHS) all spoke about the funding

streams and how Aging services are required by statute. Positions may change such that when integrated, people may no longer only do Aging work or only do ADRC work, but rather work together in both programs. Ms. Fowler asked about a position in the Aging department who works with specific programs; if the I&A staff at the ADRC assist with those programs, would this person lose her job? Ms. Thompson explained the individual does much more than those two programs; that is why we would want to map out what each position currently does within each agency. Ms. Fowler also thought it would have been helpful if the Aging department was involved in the La Crosse conversation; Ms. Thompson encouraged her to make contact with other counties to share what she has learned. Mr. Borremans explained that his understanding from the State is there is a focus on integration; and there is efficiency in integration--which translates into serving the needs of our community better. Ms. Thompson finished by reviewing the types of assistance Rock County could receive from the State, including financial assistance in CY 2019. Finally she noted that if integration occurred, the two separate committees would join as one-but must continue to meet both department's requirements.

- 2) Review of Statewide Integration: A map was provided in the packets; approximately two-thirds of the state are integrated.
 - 3) Employee Feedback/Input: Mr. Smith explained he obtained feedback from the Aging staff in February and will be meeting with ADRC staff in April to do the same. Mr. Smith addressed a question about the potential to cut jobs stating he does not anticipate any job loss as the intent is not to reduce positions; rather it is client focused. That said, there could be a change over time to address how we want to provide services.
 - 4) Other: Nothing discussed
- C. Update on County Facilities Master Planning Process: Mr. Sutherland provided a handout on the county's master plan. He indicated one of two things could happen: a) a larger building is purchased for the HSD which would include building in space for an integrated ADRC/COA or b) renovate the Job Center to incorporate space for integration of Aging. Mr. Schneider stated the importance of it being on a bus line. Mr. Sutherland agreed noting the HSD survey that was conducted of clients showed the south side of town was most convenient to customers.
- D. Next Steps Toward Finalization of Recommendation: The joint board decided to hold another joint meeting on April 1, 2019. It was requested Ms. Thompson obtain information from another county about their integration process. Mr. Fowler was encouraged to do the same for the Aging side. State staff from both Aging and ADRC will be invited to attend. It was also requested that staff pull together their thoughts on integration and report to the joint committee. Lastly, Mr. Smith will advise the board on the process to create a sub-group of the larger committee to continue planning.

Next Meeting:

- April 1, 2019. 9:00am at the Job Center-Room K

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Borremans, seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/ APS Division Manger

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