

**ROCK COUNTY AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
May 28, 2019**

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairperson Thomas called the meeting of the Rock County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Committee to order at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Rock County Job Center.

Committee Members Present: Terry Thomas, Rob Wilkinson, Paula Garecht, Carrie Glover, and Tom Moe.

Committee Members Absent: Tom McCool, Gregg Schneider, and Harold Luther.

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Thompson and Sage Duval, A.A.

Others Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to the County Administrator.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Wilkinson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Moe. APPROVED

Citizen Participation: Paula Garecht spoke about membership of SAIL (Sharing Active Independent Lives) in Madison and stated that she hopes that something similar could be started in Rock County. Ms. Garecht passed out paperwork to the board members about it. Terry Thomas mentioned that Steve Hare will be retiring in June. Mr. Thomas said that he was thankful to Mr. Hare for his service, not only to Rock County, but also in helping to start the ADRC.

New Business:

A. One-Time Funding Proposal:

- Jennifer Thompson passed out copies of the proposal she has from the facilitator, Jerry Braatz, to everyone in attendance. Ms. Thompson discussed what the proposal contained and mentioned that at the next meeting it will be announced which members of the ADRC Advisory Committee will be a part of the study committee. Ms. Thompson wanted to make it clear Mr. Braatz will be completely impartial and neutral in his role as a facilitator. Ms. Thompson shared Mr. Braatz will be gathering information, analyzing the information he learns about the community, discussing the information with the study groups, and he will ultimately forward a recommendation based on what he's learned in that process. Ms. Thompson said there are 51 counties in Wisconsin that have integrated the ADRC with their aging department and only 21 counties that haven't, which she shared with Mr. Braatz. Mr. Braatz will also be looking at the population of Rock County and how it is growing. Mr. Braatz is hoping to answer two questions in his investigation. One question is how Rock County could best provide a quality level of service to an aging group of 65 and over that will almost double in size by the year 2035. The other question is will Rock County be able to provide quality services within the parameters of a rapidly growing population if integration occurs or if it does not occur. Ms. Thompson said Mr. Braatz's role is to support ideas, listen, gather the information, and analyze it to determine the answers to those questions and give a recommendation on whether integration is the best decision or not. Mr. Braatz will need cooperation and participation from the study group. It was noted in the timeline Mr. Braatz will be meeting with the Aging staff beginning May 30, 2019 and on June 6, 2019 Mr. Braatz will meet with the ADRC staff to interview each about what their thoughts on integration are, where they see their role in integration, and if they see integration in a positive or negative way. Ms. Thompson mentioned the Aging Department has selected 5 members to join the study committee. The ADRC has yet to select five members, but, once the study committee of ten members has been selected the members will be interviewed by Mr. Braatz individually. Mr. Braatz will relay all the information he's learned from his research

in the community and with staff to the study committee. Mr. Braatz will contact the counties that Rock County is compared to in Wisconsin after he does more research into the demographics of Rock County and who is being supported in the community. Mr. Braatz will also be contacting the counties that already have an integrated Aging Department and ADRC for more information. Mr. Braatz will present his findings to the study committee in August of 2019. Mr. Braatz and the study committee will then select community members for three focus groups. The focus groups will mostly be made up of community members who have an interest in the care of people who are elderly and have disabilities. Mr. Braatz will then complete a final report with his findings which will be presented to the study committee and stakeholders in the community. Ms. Thompson spoke of the possibility of Mr. Braatz also holding a community forum for the public.

- Randy Terronez clarifies that there will be three focus groups in August of 2019 and another three focus groups in September of 2019, for a total of six focus groups. Mr. Moe states that Rock County was fortunate to get the grant to fund the facilitator. Ms. Thompson stated that the total approved grant for funding the facilitator and focus groups was \$18,855.00.
- Carrie Glover asked where the people in the focus groups will be coming from and Ms. Thompson replied that Mr. Braatz is expecting to get ideas from the study committee on who should be in the focus groups and where those advocates should be coming from. Tom Moe asks if they could ask the senior centers to participate. Ms. Thompson said that that could be discussed with Mr. Braatz. Ms. Thompson also stated she and Lachel Fowler would not be on the study committee, but will be in attendance. They will be available for questions and conversations at the meetings, but will be considered "nonvoting." Ms. Garecht asked where the members of the study committee who have already been selected are coming from, and Mr. Wilkinson stated that four of the members came from the Council on Aging Advisory Board and one member came from the Education, Veterans, and Aging Services Governing Committee. Two are also county board supervisors. Ms. Glover had some questions since she had missed some meetings, so the difference between collocation and integration were discussed with her. Ms. Thompson mentioned the acquisition of the property on Center Ave near the Job Center which has been purchased to house the entire Human Services Department and the Aging Department. Collocation is inevitable, but there is still a question as to whether integration would help to serve the growing elderly community in a more efficient way. Paula Garecht stated that resources are shrinking, but the elderly population is growing, so integration may be the key way to continue to provide proper service to the citizens.
- Rob Wilkinson wondered if other members of the study committee would be influenced by the fact that three out of the ten study committee members are also on the Rock County Board. Terry Thomas said that would probably only occur to people who weren't afraid to speak their minds and share their opinions. Jennifer Thompson said that the facilitator will see each person on the study committee as having an equal vote, and will do his best to mediate and ensure that everyone has an equal say. Mr. Thomas said that he thinks that bringing in the facilitator was a great idea because the facilitator could will be less partial than two separate committees would coming together. Mr. Thomas said that he is sure that there will be things that each department does now on their own that they would continue to do whether integration occurred or not, but things like marketing and outreach could benefit greatly from integration.

B. Committee Member Selection:

- Terry Thomas asked the committee who they think should be a part of the study committee. Rob Wilkinson said that he could volunteer. Paula Garecht asked if being a part of the study committee just meant meeting with Jerry Braatz. Ms. Thompson responded that joining the study committee would mean both meeting with Jerry Braatz, being interviewed by him, and receiving the results of the findings. Ms. Thompson went on to say that the study committee wouldn't be meeting much more than six times, because the majority of Mr. Braatz' work will center on investigating and analyzing all the data he receives. Randy Terronez said that the County Board

would be approving the appointments at their meeting on June 13, 2019. Mr. Terronez expects a meeting shortly thereafter, but then not meeting again until August. Mr. Thomas asked if the date will be set by the end of December, 2019. Mr. Terronez replied that it would actually be at the end of November, 2019. Ms. Thompson mentioned that the money that was received for the facilitator needs to be spent before the end of the calendar year, as well.

- Mr. Thomas said that he could volunteer and asked if anyone present would be willing to volunteer to join the study group. Tom Moe and Paula Garecht expressed interest in joining the study committee. Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Terronez if the Chairperson of the County Board will decide who would be the chair of the study committee and Mr. Terronez confirmed. Ms. Thompson mentioned that the facilitator meetings should remain on the ADRC Advisory Committee Agenda until a decision has been made. Mr. Thomas agreed with Ms. Thompson. Mr. Thomas mentioned finding someone from the Human Services Department to join the study committee, as well.

Committee Member Comments:

- Mr. Moe asked how the community members for the focus groups will be found. Ms. Thompson stated that those ideas will probably come from Mr. Braatz after interviewing everyone and getting their thoughts on where those people would be found. Ms. Thompson used the mention of the Senior Center that Mr. Wilkinson had brought up as an example.

Next Meeting:

- July 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Moe, seconded by Ms. Glover.
CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Sage Duval, Administrative Assistant

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