

**Commission on Aging Disability Board Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2015**

The Commission on Aging and Disability met in conference room A/B in the Community Services Building at 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581

**Members present:** Steven Boomfield, Beth Busch, Belinda Granger, Larry Jewell, Gary Peters, Marie Rakow, Cindy Riley, David Scribbins, and Virginia Wiedenfeld  
**HHS Staff present:** Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber, Jodi Carlile, Diane Cox, and Angela Porter  
**Others present:** None

**1. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by David Scribbins.

**2. Posting and Agenda:** Angela Porter verified the agenda was posted properly. Marie Rakow made a motion to approve the agenda; Virginia Wiedenfeld seconded. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of October 14, 2015 Commission on Aging and Disability Meeting Minutes:**

Gary Peters made a motion to approve the October 14, 2015 Commission on Aging and Disability meeting minutes; Marie Rakow seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Citizen Comments**

- None.

**5. Reports from Aging and Disability Organizations**

- None.

**6. Disability Benefit Specialist Program Quarterly Report**

- Jodi Carlile, Disability Benefit Specialist gave an update on the Disability Benefit Specialist Program.
  - Statistics between 2014 and 2015. Age group was higher last year 50-59 now more 20-29.
  - Statewide 2014 monetary impact which is the approximate value of any benefits equates to monetary impact. Statewide 2014 was over \$77,695,056 million with average of one full-time DBS to be \$971,188. Includes: Foodshare, Medicare, etc. for each person they work with. When people are able to access insurance and other programs that help with food, shelter and medical expenses, their local communities also experience a positive economic impact. DBS report the approximate value of any benefits that they help someone to obtain or retain; this data is used to calculate the monetary impact of DBS services. In 2014, DBS services helped to net over 77 million in public benefits for WI residents, stabilizing household budgets and lessening the pressure on local crisis and emergency services. Federal funds accounted for 83% of the benefits gained while State funds accounted for 15% and other funds, such as private donations, made up the remainder (2%). (WI DHS Services publication July 2015).
  - Jodi gave an example of one person (male) with mental health and physical issues. He came in with a handful of mail and bills. One was an ambulance bill from 2012, hospitals, clinics, etc. one as recent as February of this year. In looking at the system, Jodi compared the coverage he has had in the past with the bills. He was afraid to call the clinics since he didn't know about the coverage. Jodi helped call the clinic and get the bill covered through insurance he had. This was a successful beginning to working with this individual to help him, as he is going through the disability application process.
  - Disability Rights Wisconsin – state agency contracted to guide the DBS program and supervises the DBS'. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> bipartisan budget passed for 16/17. There was supposed to be a 20% cut for SSDI, this was eliminated from the budget.
  - Stronger penalties were put in place for Social Security fraud. Along with the creation of the Cooperative Disability Investigation units, jointly run by the SSA and Office of the Inspector General, to help investigate fraudulent claims.
  - Requires claimants, requesting waiver of SSDI or SSI overpayments, to authorize SSA to obtain financial records from any financial institution to determine whether repayment of the overpayment would "defeat the purpose of the Social Security Act."
  - SSA Announced that the Substantial Gainful Activity for non-blind individuals will increase from \$1090 per month in 2015 to \$1130 per month in 2016. SGA for blind individuals will not change for 2016 and remains at \$1820 per month. This is the first measure used to determine eligibility for social security disability benefits. If a person can earn this base amount, they typically may not be eligible for benefits.

- Marketplace - In order to receive Marketplace premiums and cost-sharing subsidies, individuals must file a tax return for the year they received the subsidies. A tax return must be filed to reconcile any differences in the projected income upon which the subsidies were based and the actual income received in the tax year.

## **7. Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative 2016**

- Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber gave an overview of the Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative for 2016.
- Roxanne has been working with Prairie du Chien on this initiative. Roxanne was at Train the Trainer program this week. This is to train staff on how to be dementia friendly. Once 51% of staff are trained this will be considered dementia friendly and will get a sticker for their window. The Initiative wants to educate the community and help them work with those with dementia in the community.
- Roxanne stated that Becky DeBuhr from the Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance stated that about 71% of people in WI, that have dementia, are still living in their homes.
- Roxanne is working on a list of stakeholders and will be reaching out to community members in 2016.
- Richland County plans on hosting a Train the Trainer event in the next couple months.
- According to statistics 35% of the county will be over 65 by 2035.
- There is an increasing need to keep people in their homes as long as possible and provide support in their community.
- The Richland County Health & Human Services and Aging and Disability Resource Center will be the first to be trained to be dementia friendly and will then spread the information into the community.

Marie Rakow stated that years ago when people had dementia they were put into institutions. We have come a long way.

Roxanne – having people that understand dementia more and the community awareness will help the entire community.

Virginia Wiedenfeld stated that even if people have to go to facility, the facilities are more home-like versus institution.

## **8. Richland Center Pedestrian Safety Discussion**

- David Scribbins said there are no new developments on this topic.
- Marie Rakow stated she mentioned to Terri Nelson about the signs in the streets. They had a concern about cost, but Marie stated the cost would be worth it if it saves a life.
- In Dane County, they had an undercover officer crossing the street and if a person (driver) didn't stop they were pulled over and fined. There was a news report on this.
- This has to be a driver and pedestrian collaboration for these initiatives to work.

## **9. Board Education: Financial Exploitation**

- Diane Cox, Richland County Adult Protective Services gave information to the board about financial exploitation. This is a serious concern for Adults-At-Risk and is a rising problem.
- This is the hardest issue for Adult Protective Services to work with. People being exploited by family members and care takers are the most under reported than any other type of abuse. The trend now is an elderly person needing long term care and the children are protecting the assets for their inheritance. Inheritance doesn't happen until death and the money they have is for their care. Elderly need to use their available finances for their care before worrying about any family inheritance.
- An issue is people are trying to apply for medical assistance and they have gifted money just before they applied. What happens is the person doesn't qualify to receive medical assistance for a period of time due to the "gift". There have been several cases of family members purchasing the property but it wasn't purchased at fair market value. The person went into a nursing home and the child had a choice to either purchase at fair market value or give it back. Due to situations like this the elderly person can go over a year without coverage in a nursing home due sales at not "Fair Market Value" or "Gifts". The current 'look back' for gifts and sales is five years. If people are thinking about gifting property or money they need to speak with a financial advisor or elder law attorney. People need to plan ahead. If you are currently at the stage of needing care it would be too late to move property or assets.
- The big issue is children are trying to prevent money being spent and they are avoiding moving a person to a needed nursing home situation to avoid the costs and save their inheritance.
- There was a question on a gift versus a divestment. Diane state it would depend on if you are in a long term care program and what the amounts are. This also has to be looked at on a case by case basis.

- Diane state the family farms issues also need to be addressed with an elder law attorney. Large estates need forward planning. The family farm used to pass through the generations with elders never leaving the farm. This is not the case today and passing the family farm down takes proper planning.

**10. Schedule Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms A & B of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581.

**11. Adjourn:**

- Motion to adjourn until Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. made by Marie Rakow; second by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Porter,  
ADRC of Eagle Country - Richland Center Office

Linda Batten  
ADRC of Eagle Country - Richland Center Office