

**Commission on Aging Disability Board Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2016**

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, Larry Jewell, James Lewis, Gary Peters, Marie Rakow, Bonnie Richardson and David Scribbins

**Members absent:** Beth Busch, Belinda Granger, Cindy Riley and Virginia Wiedenfeld

**HHS Staff present:** Roxanne Klubertanz-Gerber, Becky Dahl, Joanne Welsh and Linda Batten

**Others present:** Carol Clausius, Marlene Mathews and Deb Leverage

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

**2. Posting and Agenda:** Linda Batten verified the agenda was posted properly. Steve Boomfield made a motion to approve the agenda; Gary Peters seconded. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of December 9, 2015 Commission on Aging and Disability Meeting Minutes:**

James Lewis made a motion to approve the December 9, 2015 Commission on Aging and Disability meeting minutes as corrected; Marie Rakow seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Citizen Comments**

- Becky Dahl asked the group to sign a letter of support for the safe route to school trails initiative. They are looking at 8 foot trails which would go to schools out of Richland Center. Such as the middle school and the high school. The 8 foot trails would be for snow plowing in the winter time. Additionally, the trails would have lights to make them safer. Marie Rakow stated that this is a good idea.
- Gary Peters talked about the Point in Time count of Richland Center's homeless population. Volunteers are needed for this. It is being talked about that the time will be from 8:00 to 9:00 at night. They are considering using the old Coast to Coast store. A discussion was held about the homelessness in Richland Center. Marie Rakow stated that sometimes homelessness is a choice. Gary Peters said that "couch surfing" is NOT considered homeless by Federal definition. Roxanne stated that for the size of Richland Center we are lucky to have what we do have.

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

- Marlene Mathews said that in November the Richland Area Senior Citizen group had Fuzz Spangler speak. December was their Christmas Party. They gave donations to 3 different people/organizations. (Veterans Equine Ranch, Joshua's House and Tarra Ruhland). Shirley Braithwaite played and they had games like "Name that Tune". Everyone had a very nice meal. Deb showed pictures of the new officers and gave out the 2016 Program of events for RC Area Senior Citizens group. Sweatshirts and Tee shirts have been ordered for the group.

**6. Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative Report**

- Roxanne gave an update. She is still getting the Stakeholders list together. She hopes next month she will have more to report.

**7. Richland Center Pedestrian Safety Discussion**

- David said there was nothing new to report.

**8. Aging and Disability Resource Center Changes**

- Roxanne reported that the new desk has been installed. Becky wanted to thank Roxanne for all the work she did getting the new signs for the ADRC. She stated that the main sign will change. Roxanne reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews are going to take place for the Transportation Secretary position and that Sharyn Knudson retired on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**9. Board Education:**

- Joanne Welsh gave a presentation on SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program). SHIP offers help on Medicare and navigating programs.
- Because Joanne is a SHIP counselor if she has a question, she can call to get extra help with a problem.
- Joanne can assist people with Medicare. Additionally, she can point out the differences in programs. However, it is up to the client to make the final decision.
- Joanne stated that Medicare has gotten so complex. Sometimes people do not understand the notices they receive. Joanne helps them understand these notices.
- People can go on the SHIP website or they can call the SHIP hotline phone number.
- Joanne is hoping to have Med D clinics this year which will help people navigate the website.
- Rural Americans have a hard time aging in place.
- General discussion was held about VA Benefits. A veteran can get a VA Choice Card to see a doctor in this area if they are outside a 45 mile radius of a VA facility. However, they must have their primary care doctor make this request. It was stated that the VSO can assist people with this.

**10. Schedule Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016 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, February 10, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. was made by Bonnie Richardson; second by Marie Rakow. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Batten  
ADRC of Eagle Country - Richland Center Office