

**AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF WESTERN WISCONSIN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: October 4, 2011

Time: 1:00-3:00pm

Place: Vernon County Courthouse

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Staff/Guests</u>
Jo Ann Nickelatti	Pamela Eitland
Margaret Wood	Jean Klousia
Dan Byerl	Peggy Herbeck
Ole Ytrri	Dean Ruppert
Dorothy Will	Audra Martine
Grady Gutknecht	Erica Larsen
Craig Buswell	Sue Rettler

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Margaret Wood, Chairperson, at 1:14p.m.

Review of minutes from June 28, 2011:

JoAnn moved to approve the minutes with one correction (Margaret Wood is the Chair, not Vice Chair). Dorothy seconded the motion. Passed.

New Member Introduction:

Craig Buswell from Monroe County joined us for the meeting. Craig is on the Human Services Board and works at TORO in Sparta. Welcome Craig!

Partner County Updates:

Vernon County reported that there are a lot of new referrals. The community seems to be very aware of our presence in the community. Our NIATX Project will be highlighted as a model at the next statewide training session. The ADRC had a booth at the Vernon County Fair in September. Jean Klousia presented case studies from Vernon County. They included a situation of a man referred to ADRC by his family after having a brain injury. ADRC workers helped him apply for medical assistance and provided options counseling. The couple chose IRIS because the wife is the primary caregiver and he requires a lot of hands-on care. The couple is more independent and very happy with the outcome. A second family came to the ADRC regarding their mother who had dementia but had declining health and behaviors. The Social Worker met with the couple for options counseling and the mother agreed to have some in-home services to alleviate some of the concerns/issues. A year later, the family returned because the situation had

advanced. The ADRC helped to get the mother on medical assistance and the family chose to enroll in the MCO. The mother is now receiving services in the community.

Jackson County has full staff again. Thanks to Beth Smetana and the staff for stepping up to handle things during the absences. Erica expressed her appreciation to the supervisors. The ADRC is looking to partner with the local hospital for outreach activities. Their EBS will also participate in Energy Assistance sessions to provide outreach at those sites. Jackson County is active in the relocation efforts from Northfield Center because it is closing.

Monroe County reports that there was an initial drop in referrals since the Family Care caps were implemented after the biennial budget passed. The ADRC hosted meetings with providers to inform them that referrals should still be made and that the caps do not indicate a halt of services. One of their staff is now AIRS certified. The waiting list process is working very well. They submitted requests for two urgent funding slots. Sue expressed her appreciation to La Crosse County supervisors and staff.

La Crosse County reported that RN Jen Timm moved to another supervisory position in the Department of Human Services. Her position was filled by Cheryl Neubauer who has been a Social Worker at the ADRC since its inception. Cheryl is a welcome addition to the supervisory team. Nursing services have been changed a bit but are still being provided by a part time RN. Their Social Worker position was also filled from within the county. They are working on a healthcare initiative with Monroe County. There is a research project regarding readmissions of patients within 30 days of discharge and why that occurs and how to prevent it in the future. They are looking at what the role of the ADRC is in discharge planning from hospitals. Over the next few months, there will be continued discussion and planning for possible involvement in the research. The Western WI Cares MCO was chosen to represent our state in a federal overview of serving people in nursing homes and transition to community living (money follows the person). The state is doing another survey about the waitlists that have been implemented because of the state budget. We were advised on Monday that the state may be calling waitlist individuals to inquire about how being on a waitlist is impacting their condition, living arrangement, and lives. Margaret expressed concerns about "cold calls" to individuals who may be wary of strangers calling them. Dorothy echoed concerns for the population who may receive the call instead of their guardian getting the call. The board had consensus about concerns of the validity of the results of the survey. La Crosse County will request that our concerns be heard at the next statewide meeting and will request an alternative to cold call surveys.

ADRC WW Statistics:

Handout on call volume, workload and activities. There was a slight increase in May and June in the number of calls. There has been more community education about waitlists which may have caused an increase in the number of phone calls to the ADRC. Cases have been more complex more recently with multiple issues going on with the people that come to our attention. A second handout outlines met and unmet needs. Audra reviewed the highlights.

Waitlist Update/Policy and Provider Meetings:

Handout regarding enrollment data from our four-county ADRC. Peggy gave a presentation on the overview of the ADRC and the impact of the biennial budget on waitlists and the caps on enrollment into IRIS and the managed care organization. The waitlist numbers by county or area of service were listed in the handout. On September 14, 2011 there were 359 individuals on the wait list. The ADRC gave the same presentation to provider agencies.

Wisconsin Partner Service Award:

Each ADRC by contract is required to have Disability Benefit Specialists. We have four specialists among the four county ADRC. Our ADRC was notified by Social Security that we would receive this award for being good advocates for our citizens and for assisting people in the process of going through the system of Social Security and transition.

Economic Support Regionalization:

The Western Region Economic Assistance Consortium has been working to revamp the administration and delivery of income maintenance programs in our region. The goals are to keep services local, create efficiencies within the service delivery model, and achieve the savings identified by the state budget and the consortium. Regionalization is required by the state biennial budget and will be implemented on January 1, 2012. Community and internal education has been occurring across our consortium. People with questions or concerns should contact their local Human Services Departments.

Upcoming meetings/topics:

Economic Support Update

Next meeting: December 13, 2011 at 1:00p.m. in Sparta. Agenda will be mailed.

Adjournment at 3:16p.m.

Minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next advisory board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Pamela J. Eitland