

**BAYFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Conf Room A and Remote via Teams**

**September 26, 2023**

**3:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT:**

**Subject to change at the  
next ADAC meeting**

**Committee Members Present:**

Bill Bland, Karen Anderson by phone, Tracy Snyder, Lynette Benzschawel, Mary Dougherty by Teams, Alice Evenson BRICK Representative, Dee Sweet

**Others Present:**

Carrie Linder, Heather Gilbertson

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bland called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and introductions were made.

**Discussion and Possible Action-Review of the June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Benzschawel to approve the June 26, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action-2024 GWAAR Budget**

Committee member Bland asked for an explanation of the difference between the ADRC and GWAAR

- There are specific funding streams for each.
- The ADRCs role is to provide people with unbiased information to help meet their needs.
- GWAAR funding provides direct services such as Home delivered meals, congregate meals, caregiver services, etc.
- Expenditures to date compared to prior years staffing, an additional position was funded with ARPA funds, position has been approved.
- Congregate Meal funding is under budget, we have not seen the return of Congregate meal participants since reopening after the Pandemic. Reasons being participants have since passed away, applied for Home Delivered Meals, or moved away to be by family or are still self-isolating.
- The DOT budget seldom changes, we have an allocation and a local match.
- Some NFCSP ARPA funding will carry over into 2024.
- Home Delivered Meals – this budget should be right on target for the remainder of the year.
- Some Health Services ARPA funding will carry over into 2024. Linder wants to spend some time revisioning how this funding can be used to provide other evidence-based programming.
- Linder states that the Budget will be adequate for the coming year.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Benzschawel to approve the 2024 GWAAR Budget. Motion passed.

**Other (Informational Items)**

- **2022-2024 Aging Plan Review** – Linder reviewed what has been accomplished in 2023, discussed the barriers, and plans for the coming year.

- **ADRC Workload and Scope of Practice**
  - Linder attended an ADRC of the North supervisors meeting. All counties indicated the volume of calls to the ADRC have increased. This is partially due to unwinding, and it is also because our population is growing older.
  - Linder reported Information and Assistance staff are diligently working to complete all tasks involved and appointments for new referrals are being booked out approximately two weeks.
  - DHS policy requires calls to be returned within one business day. Linder reported it is proving increasingly difficult to return calls within that timeframe.
  - Linder reported the 2024 ADRC allocation will most likely be different for the ADRC-N. A state-level workgroup has worked to develop a new formula to equalize the generations of ADRC. ADRC-N is a third generation ADRC, so is inadequately funded compared to earlier generations. More information should be available in October.
  
- **Regional Disability Benefits Specialist Vacancy**
  - Linder reports that she is monitoring the Disability Benefits Specialist Program. Sawyer County provided notice last month that the Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) accepted a new position (Elder Benefit Specialist) and Sawyer County is no longer interested in employing the DBS position for the region. Price County is interested in taking on this position and is requesting support from their county board in October. In the meantime, Linder is working with Sawyer County, WIDHS, and the Bayfield County DBS, Jamie Mackin, to ensure a smooth transition. Mackin's caseload for half of the 5 county ADRC is over 100 so it is going to be extremely difficult to cover all 5 counties through this period of transition to hire and train a second staff.
  
- **Social Connections Update**
  - Linder stated the Social Connections ad-hoc committee hosted a meeting with representatives from Washburn, Cornucopia, Cable, and Barnes. However, with the daily workload, progress is on the back burner. It is not lost and will get picked back up. Linder stated Patrick Irving is very interested and may help Linder facilitate the group and next steps.
  - Cable is moving forward on their own small social connections group.
  - Snyder suggested a program that is doing well that focuses on Dementia. A volunteer is connected to a person with Dementia and they work together within a choir group. Another suggestion was the Parkinson's group and singers. Kathleen Russell, runs the program and the practices are held in Bayfield at the Lutheran Church.
  - Linder stated that music taps into the older memories that are locked in the minds of the people who have dementia. Music can help them self-soothe and overcome some of the barriers they are experiencing in their diminished capacity to communicate.
  
- **ADRC Supervisor Meeting** – Review of some of the elements listed above occurred.

## 2023 Meeting Dates

- November 28, 2023

Bland adjourned the meeting at 4:13 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Gilbertson, Clerk III