

**MEETING OF THE
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) COMMITTEE**
Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 9, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Building Room 033

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Janty, Harold Singstock, Jim Lauer, Jim Ponzer, KristL Laux, Anna Malek, Elizabeth Jones (virtual)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Brooke Slick, Tanisha Alvarado, Rob Paterson

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Nicole Hecimovich, Julie Kotajarvi, Melissa Sell, Alisa Richetti, Lori Duclon (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT: Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim

CALL TO ORDER – AGENDA ITEM A:

Chairman Paul Janty called the meeting to order at approximately 3:01 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM B1 – APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2026, AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Jim Lauer made a motion to approve the January 2026 minutes, seconded by **Harold Singstock**. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM C – PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM D1 – BUSINESS ITEMS – DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST UPDATES – ALISA RICHETTI:

Alisa provided the following updates:

- Valley VNA respite program started this month on the first and third Fridays at 8:00 to 4:30. The program is for individuals with moderate to advanced memory loss. Respite care, activities, snacks, and lunch are provided. Cost is \$75.00 per session. AFSCP funds may cover the costs for qualifying individuals. Valley VNA has also applied for a grant to cover costs, status currently unknown. Alisa will be onsite at the Valley VNA from 8:00 to 10:30 next Friday to provide caregiver support.
- Lyrics and Laughter Program – Valley VNA is offering February, March, and April sessions which focus on music activities. Program is free for individuals with memory loss and their caregiver.
- Mindworks Classes are being offered by Fox Valley Memory Project in Menasha (full) and Oshkosh (openings available). There are also openings for the five-hour respite program held on Fridays.
- Neuroscience Group is offering one-hour care partner sessions starting tomorrow. Free for caregivers. ADRC staff attend the last session in each series to provide additional resources.

- Oshkosh Public Library is working in collaboration with Alisa in applying for a \$2500 grant funding to provide a dementia friendly area in the library called Reflections and Resources. The area will be stocked with caregiver books, activities, iPad with games, Zinnia TV program subscription to provide visual components, and a lifelike cat. Altrusa has already donated \$1000 towards start-up costs. Alisa will donate some "imagination kits" and provide dementia training to library staff.
- Wisconsin Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Day – Alisa attended the event held in Madison featuring the Governor and First Lady as speakers along with a panel of legislators sharing highlights of upcoming bills. Staff also met with local representatives to advocate for Assembly Bill 984 which legally defines the criteria community-based facilities must meet to be designated as a memory care facility. Criteria will include certification and training.
- Menasha Senior Center – Alisa will be providing a presentation on Friday, February 20 about brain health and providing memory screens.
- Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) – income-based eligibility cap has recently been removed (SB152/AB176).

KristL Laux asked if there are respite services available to allow caregivers time away for errands. Alisa responded that homecare agencies can be hired to provide those services or social respite programs can be utilized. Costs can be paid through AFCSP funds for individuals with Alzheimer's diagnosis (annual cap of \$4000), other diagnoses may fit into other caregiver program funding that is available.

AGENDA ITEM D2 – BUSINESS ITEMS – ADRC VIDEOS:

ADRC videos will be shared at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM D3 – BUSINESS ITEMS – AGING RELATED UPDATES:

None provided.

AGENDA ITEM D4 – BUSINESS ITEMS – DISABILITY RELATED UPDATES:

Elizabeth Wagner reported the following updates:

- Disability-related resources have been incorporated into the ADRC newsletters.
- Covey will present at the next meeting regarding services they provide to the younger disabled population.
- ADRC contract will be \$1.2 million, an increase of \$30,000 since last year.
- 2025 had an overspend of \$25,000 mostly due to a part-time position increasing to full-time status. Fiscal staff were able to apply some benefit specialist costs to another aging grant to reduce the overspend down to approximately \$10,000.
- Staff are training on the entry of time reporting into Peer Place software which goes live in July.

AGENDA ITEM D5 – BUSINESS ITEMS – LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

KristL Laux introduced **Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim** who was in attendance to advise about ADRC statewide funding questions and concerns. Kristin gave additional self-introductory details and reported 41 lawsuits have been launched in response to recent federal changes which contradict other laws already in place.

Kristin reported on SNAP changes including new work requirements. States will be required to put in place measures to ensure error rates do not exceed 6 percent. An estimated \$11.4 million will be spent on this in Wisconsin even though this will yield no cost savings as Wisconsin has a 4 percent error rate. Starting in October of 2026, states must cover 75 percent of program administration costs estimated as \$45.5 million annually. Cost savings educational programs are being eliminated despite reportedly saving \$10 for every \$1 spent. Legislative action would be needed to curb the estimated \$70 million shortfall for this biennium; however, at this point republicans currently holding the majority have indicated low interest in funding this measure even though there is a budget surplus. These shortfalls in expenses will likely be passed from the state to counties.

Elizabeth Wagner asked about the legislation supported by GWAAR to protect volunteer drivers in obtaining vehicle insurance. Kristin is on the Committee on Insurance and is recommending a compromise achieved through subsidizing excess premium costs. Kristin advised continuing the conversation on this topic, predicting an upcoming switch in the majority will result in a change of bargaining powers.

KristL Laux stated that the ADRC needs to do more outreach focused on non-elderly adults. Kristin responded with an awareness that counties and municipalities provide many essential functions and if the majority changes there will likely be movement towards doing a better job caring for the people of Wisconsin. Kristin added there are bills coming through to create consistency in zoning, use of manufactured housing, and a \$475 million fund tying TID and subsidies together.

Elizabeth Jones questioned what is being done at the state level to explore building pocket neighborhoods throughout the state aimed at supporting a mix of ages, abilities, and economic situations. Elizabeth spoke of two current housing projects including Pabst Farms and another in Franklin for autistic and intellectually / developmentally disabled adults. Kristin reassured that there are organizations who could partner in this conversation.

Kristin reported that the only legislation getting hearings at this time are those attempting to strip down funding such as for public housing. Last week she attended lengthy hearings on a proposal that attempted to defund housing organizations and have law enforcement move unhoused individuals to "tent cities" which the governor had to veto.

Kristin shared the following bills in the next session: proposed awarding of grants to ten counties for economic support specialists imbedded in ADRCs, removal of virtual currency kiosks (SB386/AB968), drug repository program donations (SB987), fall prevention awareness initiatives, pilot program to hire community EMS practitioners who provide home visits and prevention work, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging for falls prevention awareness, expanded tuition reimbursement for community paramedics and EMS practitioners (SB974), education on financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. Other recommendations that are yet to be introduced: incentivizing the creation of community socialization spaces for seniors, ongoing support for meals on wheels including affordable options for community programs utilizing volunteer drivers, encouraging power of attorney and advanced directives, and financial exploitation education. Fall bills: addressing the no lift policy at nursing/assisted living facilities, task force on elder services. **KristL Laux** commented she would like to see a community gathering space which would include adults with disabilities. **Elizabeth Jones** shared several area programs that provide such spaces: Bridge the Gap after

school program, Friendship Place, RCS in Sheboygan. **Elizabeth Wagner** will contact Valley Packaging/VPI, an organization that provides this type of space in Outagamie County, as well as Lakeside Packaging, about potentially supporting this need. Kristin explained the value of researching identified service gaps and consulting with her to work on acting on solutions.

AGENDA ITEM E1 – REPORTS – COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:

Jim Ponzer reported last month he met with the Steelworker's Union, and this month is working with the UWA for Motor Truck meetings.

Lori Duclon attended virtually and put the public health happenings on the meeting group chat.

AGENDA ITEM E2 – REPORTS – DATA REPORT & DAY TO DAY – BRIAN NAGLER:

No update – Brian was not in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM F – "COMMUNITY BEAT" – SHARING OF COMPLIMENTS/COMPLAINTS FROM COMMUNITY, CONSUMERS, PROVIDERS:

None.

AGENDA ITEM G – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Covey presentation

AGENDA ITEM H1 – NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, March 9, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM I – ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned by **Paul Janty** at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Kotajarvi and Deb Thill, Human Services Department/jk/dt