

Manitowoc County

Aging & Disability Resource Center Nutrition Project Council

Date: January 13, 2025

Location: Manitowoc County ADRC, Education Room

Members Present: Emily Siemers, Laura Affelbeck, Lori Fure, Virginia Coffman, Kevin Hagerty, Diane Hagerty

Excused: Gary Thomas

Meeting called to order at 1:00 by Emily Siemers, Nutrition Program Coordinator

Motion made by Kevin Hagerty, seconded by Laura Affelbeck, to accept the meeting minutes from May 13, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kevin Hagerty, seconded by Diane Hagerty, to accept the meeting agenda for January 13, 2025. Motion carried.

Public comment – none.

Evaluation of the program:

- a. The “Right Meal for You” Meal Prioritization Assessment form from GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources) was reviewed. Per the GWAAR Nutrition Team this assessment form is “to create a consistent and streamlined approach for prioritizing ENP (Elderly Nutrition Program) services that align with the intent of the OAA (Older Americans Act) by assuring **older adults at the highest need for meals, and greatest risk (economic, social, and nutrition insecurity)**, are being served with available resources.” After a trial period last year and following ACL (Administration for Community Living) recommendation, this form has been adopted as the required standardized process for any county with a waiting list. The assessment categorizes clients into 3 priority levels (high, moderate, and low). Staff are being trained on the assessment form and the goal is to roll it out March 1st.
- b. The Annual Nutrition Satisfaction Survey results were shared with the Council. 123 responses were received (about 1/3 of the participants). The majority of the responses were positive regarding the quality of the meals, the variety provided and the interaction with the drivers of the home delivered meals. The biggest reason given by clients that they feel prevents them from attending congregate meals is transportation and illness/condition/mobility issues.
- c. The County Aging Plan Goals relating to nutrition in both the prior plan and the new plan were reviewed. Both of the prior goals have been met and will continue. The goal to improve health and immunity has been accomplished with the Stepping Up Your Nutrition Class. 3 classes were held in the past 2 years. 2 classes are scheduled for this spring. The Farm Market Vouchers for home delivered recipients began this past summer. 13 individuals participated and feedback was very positive. This program will continue with the hope to increase participation. There are currently 2 new nutrition goals for 2025-2027 Aging Plan. The first involves nutrition education. In addition to required topics, education highlighting certain menu items is to be provided. Partnering with Foodwise will be explored for programs at the various centers. The second goal is to provide culturally authentic Hmong meals to Senior Nutrition Program participants using a voucher system. Further details regarding the Aging Plan can be found on the ADRC website.

Promotion and Outreach efforts:

- a. Radio spot by Emily regarding the Nutrition Program occurred in December. The January radio spot will focus on Stepping Up Your Nutrition.
- b. If anyone has suggestions, the Manitowoc Site is in need of a volunteer driver (M, F).

Planning updates:

The ADRC applied and was chosen to partner with The AARP Wish of a Lifetime to provide flowers and cards to be delivered to all home delivered participants for Valentine's Day.

Advocacy: No elder input noted.

Meal Site and Home Delivered Reports:

- a. Last year's Congregate Meal totals were reviewed. Kiel and Kewaunee showed increase. Manitowoc and Two Rivers were stable.
- b. Annual Home Delivered Meals showed some decline after implementation of the prioritization program.

Other items:

- a. Kiel is using a new caterer – North Shore from New Holstein.
- b. New heated containers are being introduced. They show improved temperature compliance.
- c. Possible groups to provide birthday cards for home delivered participants was discussed.

Next meeting: TBD

Emily Siemers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1405. Seconded by Kevin Hagerty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hagerty