

**BAYFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

Courthouse Conference Room A, via Phone Conference

September 21, 2020

3:44 p.m.

DRAFT: Subject to change at the December meeting.

Committee Members Present

via Conference Call:

Lynette Benzschawel, Martha Oie, Sam Ray, Betty Schell, David Zepczyk

Committee Member Excused:

Karen Anderson

Committee Member Absent:

Richard Kemmer, Red Cliff Representative

Staff Present

via Conference Call:

Carrie Linder, Jane Cook, Elizabeth Skulan

Call to Order and Introductions

Linder called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. No introductions were made.

Discussion and Possible Action-Review of July 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Benzschawel to approve the July 27, 2020 Minutes, second by Schell. Motion carried.

2021 Budget – Status of Requests and Recommendations

The department budget was presented at the last DHS Board meeting and to the Executive Committee. Linder reviewed GWAAR Budget and a comparison between 2020 and 2021.

There is a decrease for congregate meals of \$20,000 due to not hosting the traditional congregate sites in 2021.

The HDM meal budget was increased by \$88,400. Several factors are driving that. Grab and Go meals must be categorized as HDM, as we are providing seniors nutrition but in a different way than traditional congregate meals. The Federal government has relaxed the eligibility criteria so anyone 60 and over is now eligible for this service if they are self-isolating. Participants in the Cable and surrounding area started receiving 6 rather than 4 meals per week in mid April. Deliveries occur Monday, Wednesday and Friday, two meals each day vs. Monday through Thursday, with one meal each day. Volunteers who deliver, and seniors receiving the meals have reported liking the change.

DOT –Increase is due to an increase in the allocation and subsequent increase in the local match.

Home Chore and Elder Abuse- no change.

DOT Trust - \$40,300 electric bus match and charging station. Special project grant with BART and the trust fund will provide the match for local share. Unit to be installed somewhere on county property for BART and the community at large to use.

Total increase for the GWAAR budget is \$94,927.

Closure of Port Wing Congregate Meal Site – Review and Recommendations

Grab and Go began in Iron River and Port Wing late spring. Linder received notice from Bear Paw Café owners in Port Wing, in July that they were going to close their doors and provided Linder with 30 day notice. They were going to offer the service through September but then stated August 28 was their last day of service. When a meal site closes, a formal process normally takes place to obtain feedback, analyze data, seek other options, etc. The notification did not allow for this process

to fully occur. Linder reviewed the completed Dining Center Closure Approval Form with members. At this time, this is considered to be a permanent closure with the date of closure for August 28, 2020. Linder recommended revisiting reopening of a congregate site occur after winter and focus on contacting those who are at high nutritional risk, low income, and living alone to discuss what assistance may be available to them.

Motion for recommendation for the closure of the PW meal site.

Motion by Schell, to close Port Wing Meal Site and focus efforts on those people in high nutritional risk, low poverty level, and living alone, second by Oie. Motion approved.

Home Delivered Meal Program – Route Project

Linder gave a brief history and background on the HDM routes. Cable Lions have been providing delivery in the Cable/Namekagon area. Red Cliff Elderly Program has been providing delivery to the area around the Red Cliff tribe. Two Bayfield County drivers cover the remainder of the county. With the pandemic, an increase in the number of meals being served brings concern as routes are long and getting longer for the two county employed drivers. Drivers start at Chartwells of Northland College at 8:15 and end their day by 3:00. The length of time meals are held at the proper temperature affects quality. Linder is hopeful she will work with the UWEX Office with the purpose of exploring different options on how meals can be delivered. This project is to improve the quality of the meal and meet safety needs for the consumers and drivers.

Nutrition Program Updates

- A. Grab and Go – Brief review by Linder.
- B. Comments from HDM participants – Linder briefly reviewed Satisfaction Survey Results from HDM participants. One ongoing request is removal of spinach. Currently working with the vendor to come up with some different options to incorporate it into main entrees. Ashland County Aging Unit has historically taken the lead on designing the menus and having them analyzed by a dietician to ensure nutritional content is being met. Always a fine balance to address nutritional needs and those who are trying to eat something dictated by their doctor or by their own palette. No easy task to meet everyone's preferences and dietetic needs.
- C. Review number of meals for 2nd Quarter of 2020 – Brief discussion. Congregate meals have not been provided since April. Cable meal count increased due to provision of 6 meals per week from 4/week. A significant decrease in Red Cliff area; will continue to reach out to elders in that area. A general increase across a majority of the county.
- D. Resuming vegetarian options for some routes – had been providing vegetarian options prior to pandemic. Will hopefully resume in October. Comments show consumers are receptive to this option.

Other (Informational Items)

COVID Operations – Ample PPE for staff in place. Go kits available if entry into home is warranted. Just ordered goggles (eye protection) for ENP staff use.

Future Meeting Date

Next meeting: December 7, 2020 follows ADAC Meeting scheduled earlier for same day.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:31 p.m. by Zepczyk, second by Ray. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jane M. Cook, Clerk III

07/28/2020