

LONG TERM CARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Friday, March 5, 2010

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

ROOM 3220

400 NORTH 4TH ST

LA CROSSE, WI 54601

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Johnson, Tara Johnson, Mildred Evans, Tim Garrity, Connie Eide, John Mroch, Pete Eide, Jerry Huber, Noreen Kuroski, Keith Keller, Pam Bendel, Pat Ruda

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Pinger, Betty Wells, Don Bina, Jennifer Bielefeldt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Fisher, Tom Rand, Jim Gausmann, Pam Semb, Kim Wing

OTHERS PRESENT: Peggy Herbeck, Matt Strittmater, Deb Day, Chris Sander

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Round table introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF 9/4/09 MINUTES

T. Johnson/P. Ruda moved for approval of the September 4, 2009 Minutes, and the motion carried.

MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES (MHRS) NURSE PRESCRIBER – MATT STRITTMATER/DEB DAY

Matt Strittmater presented on the history of the development of the position of Nurse Prescriber for La Crosse County Human Services. A Nurse Prescriber can do most of what a psychiatrist offers plus bring the RN quality to the position in a very cost-effective manner. Matt stated that there are only about 100 Nurse Prescribers in the State of Wisconsin and we are fortunate to have Deb Day.

Deb Day comes from the Madison/Dane County area and the VA System in Tomah. She is credentialed in Adult Psychiatric Services, focused on community mental health and has done teaching at UW Madison. The county's development of the Crisis Center is of interest to her and she is excited to be here at La Crosse County. She is continuing her relationship with the VA System. Jerry Huber welcomed Deb and stated La Crosse County is delighted to have her.

MA TRANSPORTATION BROKERAGE – CHRIS SANDER

The idea of a Statewide Transportation Broker has been brought up in the past to try to help the Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation budget. The idea faced much criticism and was then dropped in the previous budget. For the 2009-2011 Biennial Budget, it was specifically written that the State would hire a Transportation Manager to save the State money in the MA Transportation budget. On January 9, 2010, the Department of Health Services (DHS) had a conference call with interested parties to help formulate the Request for Proposal (RFP) that will go out and deal with any concerns. The biggest concern at that conference call was that DHS and DOT are not working together and that they will be moving the State budget issue to DOT from DHS if this happens. The representatives from DHS stated that they were not there to question the initiative, they were there to implement it and they were moving forward, but would make sure that the DOT was brought to the table also. Over 30 other states have hired a transportation broker and have realized savings. Most of these states had a state-run system, rather than a county-run system like Wisconsin does. La Crosse County asked to be a part of writing the RFP and the State said that was not allowed due to the legal implications that could lead to. DHS stated that they were anticipating more revenue to be brought down from the Federal Government with this change, as right now MA Transportation is considered an administrative cost to MA and pays approximately 50%. Once the Transportation Broker is on board, they will be able to obtain client specific information to claim it as a benefit and bring in approximately 60% of costs. The other big

change for our area is that Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC) will be in charge of coordinating their members' common carrier Medicaid transportation and using their per member, per month (PMPM) rate to do that. Therefore, La Crosse County and WWC are working closely to share information to allow WWC to negotiate this into their 2011 PMPM rate. The RFP is slated to be released sometime this spring by DHS.

STRAP GRANT AND EXPANSION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – NOREEN KUROSKI

Currently the Aging Unit spends \$22,000 monthly of DOT monies to make transportation available to the elderly and disabled population. Noreen presented a Power Point on how the Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation Manager (Brokerage) system may affect non-MA transportation in La Crosse County. MA transportation covers clinic/doctor appointments. Non-MA Transportation through the Aging Unit covers transportation costs enabling the elderly and disabled to complete errands such as groceries, banking, physical therapy appointments, etc. At \$14.00 per ride, they incur a loss of \$10.00 per MA ride, with reimbursement receipt of \$4.00. Noreen raised concerns that consumers will utilize the La Crosse County Transportation System vs. the MA Transportation System. If this happens it will negatively impact the elderly and disabled transportation funding.

Tara Johnson questioned if this new transportation plan was moving ahead as this has been discussed by the state for a number of years. Chris Sander responded that a Request for Proposal had been issued for the statewide MA Transportation Brokerage.

There will be a regional feeder route from Vernon County one day per week coming to the La Crosse area. They will also be expanding transportation to Scenic Bluffs. A second route is being developed from Galesville/Trempealeau area to Holmen. Franciscan Skemp has closed a clinic in the Galesville area and is very interested in this route. Noreen is working both with Franciscan Skemp and Gundersen Lutheran to see if they can help support this new route on a Monday through Friday basis with two round trips. STRAP can cover 80% of this type of transportation cost. The STRAP Grant will be in effect through 2011. After 2011, 65% will be covered meaning a 35% match will be necessary.

MA needs to implement safeguards to protect Elderly & Disabled Transportation so the needs of the non-MA population and the non-medical trips for MA consumers can continue to be met.

T. Johnson/C. Eide moved that a letter be formulated by Noreen Kuroski outlining the concerns the Long Term Care Coordinating Committee has regarding the statewide MA Transportation Brokerage, and the motion carried.

FALLS PREVENTION COALITION – NOREEN KUROSKI

Stepping On Class – three classes have been held, the fourth class is currently in session. The Health Department had a \$ 5,000 grant for this class which the Health Department and the Aging Unit shared; however, the grant did not cover the full staff costs. Although the Health Department is no longer able to continue offering this class, the Aging Unit will continue to coordinate and offer it. The class is being offered at Bethany St. Joseph's to 65 plus older participants.

UPDATING MEAL SITES AND NEW SITE AT BILLY'S RED LANTERN – NOREEN KUROSKI

A new meal site was opened at Billy's Red Lantern located on 14-61 and County Rd YY. This meal site began offering meals on 2-22-10 with 70 participants the first day. This is a Federally Funded Program, and Vernon County participants are welcome.

HOME CARE UPDATE – CONNIE EIDE

Home Care is busy all of the time, while struggling to stay above budget within 1-3% up or down. Of the clients served, 21% are children and their funding source is MA. They averaged 76-82 unduplicated clients. Forty three (43) clients required skilled care. Twelve clients required a Personal Care Worker (two of these clients were adults). This caseload remains stable at this time. Many of the clients require several ongoing visits. Prior authorization for MA services is more difficult to obtain, as each prior authorization is questioned by the state. Connie feels this is due to state budgetary concerns. A cutback of a Home Health Aide by .5 FTE was

made, which was spread amongst 6 positions, so there would be enough staff to serve their clients. Currently they have on staff 2.5 RNs FTE. They have had to deny or turn away referrals due to lack of staff. At this point, Connie reported they are staying within their 2010 budget. Private Insurance or Private Pay consumers are 5% of their budget. Medicare reimbursement is 8-10% of their budget.

CLOSING OF SWIFTHAVEN ASSISTED LIVING – TIM GARRITY

Five weeks ago, Swifthaven gave 30 days notice. Fourteen Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC) members resided at Swifthaven. Four team members from WWC were sent to assess the situation. Their assessment was that Swifthaven would probably not be able to remain open for the 30 days. Within four days they had placed their members in alternative living arrangements. The moves went very well with follow-ups continuing.

Peggy Herbeck reported on the closing of Betts Place of Peace in Rockland. In mid-February the state contacted the ADRC to request participation in the planning and relocation effort for the 17 men that live at Betts community based residential facility. The process of closing a group home and closing a residential apartment complex such as Swifthaven is very different. The closing is being handled under the Chapter 50 WI statutes. The state has developed a resident relocation plan involving many agencies and advocates to ensure that individuals being relocated have choices in where they will move. The ADRC is screening some of the men for possible enrollment in WWC as there may 3-5 that are eligible. The two individuals that are already WWC members have plans developed. One has moved and the second is very close to moving. Human Services Mental Health Recovery Services is also working with one individual. The VA out of Tomah is also very involved in the relocation effort as they serve 14 of the individuals living at the group home. The ADRC is also looking at residency, guardianship, protective placement and representative payee issues. Two individuals are placed by other counties and will be relocated by those counties. The relocation team is meeting weekly by phone or in person. The facility will not close until all residents are successfully placed.

CARE UPDATE – JERRY HUBER/MATT STRITTMATER

CARE Center is the new short term Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Program which is expected to open in April 2010. It is being operated by Tellurian. The staff and coordinators have been hired and are undergoing training. This facility will have eight beds available to La Crosse County residents. The new facility will be highly publicized before opening and there will be an open house for the public. Jerry Huber reported that Gundersen Lutheran is also planning to expand their psychiatric facility to serve geriatric and pediatric mental health patients.

OTHER

Tara Johnson questioned: Is there a need for more bariatric beds in nursing home facilities? What is the current need and how many are available? Discussion: Yes, there is a need with only one facility, Vernon Manor in Vernon County with 6-8 beds available.

Jerry Huber reported that March 4, 2010 was Human Services Lobby Day at the State Capital.

Future Agenda Items:

- 1 – Lakeview Referrals
- 2 – Children w/Special Needs Services Updates/Needs, Disabilities
- 3 – Dialogue with Legislatures/Wish List, Advocacy List
- 4 – Badger Care Basic Program

Next meeting date: June 4, 2010

ADJOURNMENT: *P. Ruda/T. Johnson moved to adjourn at 11:47 a.m., and the motion carried.*

The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.
Denise Bendel, Recorder