

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, April 12, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Audrey Kader (10:20), Monica Kruse, John Medinger (exc. 10:57), Jerry Sebranek, Margaret Wood

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Andrea Richmond

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Fisher

STAFF & GUESTS: Pete Eide, Pam Semb, Noreen Holmes, Jim Gausmann, Kelly Kramer, Margaret Norden, Steve O'Malley, David Tauscher

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2010

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Sebranek/Wood to approve the minutes of March 8, 2010, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. *Ripples & Waves* – Lakeview Newsletter
- b. Commission on Aging Minutes – February 2, 2010

Motion carried unanimously. Kader, Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

Margaret Wood spoke about serving meals at Becker Plaza, and Audrey Kader spoke about delivering meals at Sauber Manor and on French Island.

VITAL AGING CONFERENCE

Noreen Holmes reported that the Vital Aging conference will be Thursday, May 20, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cartwright Center on the UW-L campus. The theme is "Living, Loving, Laughing Longer," and is about extending quality of life. Holmes also reported on a conference she attended called "Aging in Place" regarding options for staying in homes longer. It emphasized making seniors and building industries people more aware of Certified Aging in Place (CAP) specialists and their services.

PROCLAMATION RE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK

Chair Plesha read the proclamation which recognizes volunteers at Hillview and Lakeview Healthcare Centers and the La Crosse County Aging Unit the week of April 18-24, 2010. Steve O'Malley and Pete Eide spoke about activities that are planned. Supervisor Medinger asked if all volunteers could be recognized. Supervisors Kader/Kruse offered to amend their motion to recognize a broader base of volunteers. Steve O'Malley stated the Proclamation could be revised by the County Board meeting. **MOTION** by Kader/Kruse to proclaim April 18-24, 2010, Volunteer Recognition Week as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

33 EXPRESS/STRAP GRANT UPDATE

Noreen Holmes presented information on the 33 Express that will make a weekly trip from Hillsboro to La Crosse. They plan 10-minute stops in Ontario, Cashton, St. Joseph Ridge, and four stops in La Crosse. It will also stop at Amish farms within three miles of Highway 33. First Transit got the contract, but the County does not yet have a contract with the State, and it is not expected until August-September, 2010. Corporation Counsel will be reviewing implementation of the contract without having the State contract in place. There have been discussions about another route from Galesville and Trempealeau through Holmen, but match dollars are not available yet.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFIT UPDATE

Jim Gausmann spoke about the state program for dental, vision, and hearing benefits for needy veterans that is out of funding until at least July 1, 2010. He also stated that the veterans' home mortgage program is out of funds. He spoke about veterans that made an irrevocable switch from the Wisconsin GI Bill to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Due to a difference in eligibility standards, some veterans are now ineligible for free tuition at Wisconsin universities and technical schools under the 9/11 Bill who were eligible under the Wisconsin GI Bill. He presented a spreadsheet on geographic distribution of VA expenditures by county, and reported that 33% of La Crosse County veterans were seen at VA health care, which thus relieves local health care facilities and the St. Clare Health Mission.

LZ LAMBEAU EVENT

Jim Gausmann reported that the event is a "welcome home" event for Vietnam Veterans, and is a kick-off for a Wisconsin Public Television war stories series. Supervisor Wood noted that "5,000 Pounds," a play at the Pump House by and about veterans, will be returning.

RESOLUTION RE: SEEK BIDS FOR AN RCAC (RESIDENTIAL CARE APARTMENT COMPLEX) FOR HILLVIEW HEALTH CENTER

Chair Plesha took the agenda item out of order. The Resolution authorizes proceeding with soliciting construction bids for a 30-unit residential care apartment complex on the Hillview campus. Steve O'Malley noted that it does not commit money, but only allows getting bids. Pete Eide and Steve O'Malley reported on the projected revenue and expenses, and spoke at length about a ramp-up process toward full occupancy, and the conservative approach that was taken toward estimating cost. There was lengthy discussion regarding a "FAQ" sheet, a public hearing to address concerns from the community, private pay (80%)/family care pay (20%) projections, and occupancy projections. Steve O'Malley stated that the County Board voted in favor of La Crosse County remaining in the long-term care business at Hillview, and recognized the need for a continuum of care to be able to do so. **MOTION** by Plesha/Medinger to approve the Resolution Re: Seek Bids for an RCAC (Residential Care Apartment Complex) for Hillview Health Center. **Motion carried unanimously.** Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

REPORT ON ARRA GRANT FOR SOLAR HOT WATER

Steve O'Malley reported that Nick Nichols and Brian Fukuda led the County's effort to compete for a \$200,000 ARRA grant, and that they strategized on maximizing their proposal. The grant money will pay for most of the Lakeview solar hot water project. It will not pay for redoing the roof; however, a ground mount is being considered. They will examine options before issuing bids. O'Malley noted that at present Lakeview's utilities bill is almost twice that of Hillview.

DIRECTION ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY ISSUES, RESOLUTIONS FOR WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE DUE JUNE 28, 2010

Steve O'Malley asked the Committee for specific resolutions to take leadership on. Pam Semb talked about Legislative Bill 49.49(7). O'Malley and Semb will be testifying in Madison on April 13, 2010. The bill addresses the Attorney General's questions that were raised about the Mississippi Valley Health Coalition.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Prescription drugs issue for veterans to receive medications at less expense.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: MAY 10, 2010

JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WITH PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE: APRIL 12, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Approved, May 10, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder