

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 10, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Dan Ferries, Tara Johnson, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Andrea Richmond

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Audrey Kader, Jerry Sebranek

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Pete Eide, Pam Semb, Jim Gausmann, Kelly Kramer, Margaret Norden, David Tauscher, Gary Ingvalson, Jerry Huber, Va Thao, Cathy Lundstad, Sharon Hampson

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., and welcomed Dan Ferries and Tara Johnson.

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2010

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Richmond/Kruse to approve the minutes of April 12, 2010, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. *Ripples & Waves* – Lakeview Newsletter
- b. Commission on Aging Minutes – March 2, 2010
- c. May 19, 2010, Volunteer Picnic at Hillview
- d. Vital Aging Conference
- e. Senior housing proposal on Lakeview campus staff report

Motion carried unanimously. Kader, Sebranek excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION DISCUSSION AND INPUT

Va Thao stated that the Older Americans Act is due to be reauthorized, and asked for feedback within the next two weeks on what could be done to improve it, and what should be maintained. Discussion was held regarding disaster preparedness and databases among the elderly, disabled, and special populations, such as Hmong elders and veterans. Jerry Huber stated that the Information Technology department is working on a database as part of the County's business continuity plan. Thao is making individual contacts in the Hmong community. Jim Gausmann stated that he is working with the business continuity plan committee on identifying veterans.

33 EXPRESS/STRAP GRANT UPDATE

Cathy Lundstad reported that they hope to have the Hillsboro-La Crosse 33 Express running in one to two weeks. The contract with First Transport has gone through La Crosse County Corporation Counsel, and is now with Vernon County Corporation Counsel. The Galesville-Holmen route will not go ahead because both hospitals have decided not to pursue. There is therefore \$160,000 in grant money that could be directed to other transportation needs; if not, it must be returned to the state. Discussion was held regarding the departure times in Hillsboro and La Crosse, and dental appointment transportation needs. Rider comments will be taken into consideration if there are changes in times and bus stops. Supervisor Johnson requested a follow-up report in August or September, 2010.

REPORT ON VETERANS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG ISSUES

Pete Eide, Pam Semb, and Jim Gausmann reported that veterans that reside at Hillview or Lakeview are unable to get medications provided and paid by the Veterans Administration due to the state law governing packaging of nursing home medications. Nursing homes cannot dispense medications that are not in bubble packaging, and the VA cannot provide medications in the required packaging as soon as they are prescribed, which could result in the nursing home being

issued a violation. Discussion was held regarding other types of coverage for prescriptions, such as Medicare Part D. Gausmann stated that any prescription related to a service-related condition is free, and all other prescriptions are \$8.00 regardless of the actual cost. Eide stated that Hillview and Lakeview are two of only five nursing homes in the state that the VA contracts with to take veterans.

REPORT ON NURSING HOME COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE BILL

Pam Semb reported that the legislation that validates Mississippi Valley Health Services passed, and the Governor will sign the bill at Gundersen Lutheran on May 11, 2011.

WAHSA CONFERENCE REPORT

Pam Semb reported there was discussion regarding legislation to maintain CPE and supplemental payments. Jerry Huber stated that mental health parity will come up again in the next legislative session.

HILLVIEW ASSISTED LIVING UPDATE

Pete Eide displayed an architect's rendering of a proposed assisted living building. He also provided a projected budget and a letter from Wipfli LLP that stated that the projections were conservative and did not over-estimate. He stated that a Resolution to seek bids would not obligate the county to implement a bid or issue a bond, but bids from local construction companies would give an idea of costs. Discussion was held regarding the issue of competing with the private sector. Supervisor Medinger stated that only one assisted living facility in the community was a for-profit business, and that no other assisted living facilities pay property taxes.

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

The item was referred to the June 7, 2010, agenda.

JULY 5, 2010, HOLIDAY MEETING DATE CONFLICT; SUGGEST JULY 8, 2010

The item was referred to the June 7, 2010, agenda.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None requested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: JUNE 7, 2010

The meeting will be held at Hillview with a tour following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Approved, June 7, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder