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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
PLANNING MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on March 8, 2010 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The County Clerk, Linda Stone, took attendance. All supervisors were present except as noted:

DISTRICT - NAME

1 Richmond, Andrea
2 Geary Jr., Ralph
3 Veenstra, Joe
4 Johnson, Jai - Excused at 6:40 p.m.
5 Konkel, Bradley - Excused at 7:24 p.m.
6 Billings, Jill
7 Plesha, Roger - Excused
8 Freedland, Maureen - Excused
9 Hampson, Sharon
10 Wood, Margaret
11 Kader, Audrey - Present at 6:09 p.m.
12 Flood, Bridget
13 Brockmiller, Bill
14 Medinger, John D.
15 Mach, Beverly
16 Sebranek, Gerald
17 Meyer, Donald - Excused
18 Johnson, Tara

DISTRICT - NAME

19 Keil, Robert - Excused
20 Bina, Donald
21 Manthei, Dennis
22 Ebert, Ray A.
23 Gamroth, Tammy
24 Pfaff, Leon - Excused
25 Schroeder, Jeffrey
26 Burke, Vicki
27 Pedretti, Marilyn
28 Doyle, Steve
29 Kruse, Monica L.
30 Spiker, Charles
31 Fisher, Ann
32 Benrud, Arlene
33 Berns, Jim
34 Wehrs, Tina
35 Bilskemper, Joe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR REPORT - Steve Doyle

- Supervisor Pedretti asked the Board to keep George Hammes, a former supervisor who has been diagnosed with cancer, in their thoughts and prayers.
- Volunteers: Chair Doyle asked that some of the supervisors make themselves available when we test the voting system. County Clerk Stone will contact them by email with the date and time.
- Supervisor Bina announced that Mark Schultz, who is a former employee, lost his mother recently.
- Supervisor Schroeder announced that there will be a pork dinner served tomorrow night (March 9, 2010) at the American Legion Post 52 to raise money for the Freedom Honor Flights.

PROCLAMATION: MARCH HUMAN SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT MONTH

WHEREAS, staff who work in the Human Services Department and Family Court of the county literally "touch" thousands of lives every day who are in need of temporary or longer term assistance to meet their basic needs or to adjust to transitions in their families; and, **WHEREAS**, citizens who rely on county human services and family court programs range in age from pre-birth to over 100 years of age; and, **WHEREAS**, county human services programs are designed to protect our most vulnerable populations which include children, adults and children with disabilities, the aging, and people dealing with mental illness; and, **WHEREAS**, Family Court and Mediation and Family Court Services strive to maintain the

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dignity, safety and security of families going through difficult transitions; and, **WHEREAS**, the individuals and the entire community benefit from the investment in lives that human services and family court professionals make every day; and, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of March 2010 as Human Services and Family Court Month and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of Human Services and Family Court staff.

Motion by Hampson/Brockmiller to approve **passed** on a unanimous voice vote with 5 excused – Plesha, Freedland, Meyer, Keil and Pfaff and 1 absent at vote – Kader.

Update on Crisis Assessment, Recovery and Empowerment Center (CARE) Fiscal Analysis (Jerry Huber)

Human Services Director Gerald Huber referred to the power point hand-out in supervisors' packets and the presentation on the screen. He explained 8 quick reasons for the need and the purpose of a CARE center.

1. WI Statutes 51.15 mandates emergency detentions
2. La Crosse County has a high incident of emergency detentions (primarily due to fear of law suits being filed against Law Enforcement for failure to protect individuals in danger from themselves).
3. Hospitals are downsizing local inpatient psychiatric beds.
4. Changes in state financing are putting more fiscal requirements on counties for IMDs (Institutes for Mental Disease). Huber noted that it costs about \$1,000 a day to house a patient at Mendota.
5. Federal and state court decisions require the "least restrictive options to service". Law suits could be filed against counties in violation.
6. The changing "culture" of addressing behavioral health crises to divert unnecessary restrictive and costly placements in inpatient settings. About 85% of chapter 51 placements in this area do not go to hearing for probable cause, which indicates that many clients would benefit from a least restrictive option.
7. Enhance the role of the county's mobile crisis team to be more involved in most decisions regarding emergency detentions. Counties now have the responsibility to approve or disapprove chapter 51 detentions. This increases the authority of the mobile crisis team so law enforcement doesn't have to take on the liability.
8. To develop a continuum of care regarding psychiatric crises and substance abuse interventions which are more effective in terms of client outcomes and more efficient in regards to cost to the county and community.

Huber explained further that in 2009 we spent over \$2 million dollars for mental health and AODA inpatient/residential care, and that pays primarily for the facility; very little of it goes for patient services. There are 3 essential assumptions in how the department has looked at budgeting for the CARE center:

1. Utilization of the CARE Center should decrease the number of inpatient admissions.
2. All revenue sources for supporting the CARE Center need to be utilized.
3. The greatest fiscal risk for the CARE Center is likely the first year of operations due to maintaining the current systems and protocols to deal with behavioral health crises and implementing a new system of care without defined benchmarks in operation. He likened it to using parts from a plane in the air to build one on the ground.

The projected cost would be recovered from several sources:

1. \$677,000 from existing line items in Human Services existing 2010 budget for AODA and mental health inpatient and Crisis Services.
2. Projected new revenue expected from Medical Assistance (\$308,300), Client Fees (\$6,880), Insurance (\$50,000) and community contributions (\$162,000).

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Other strategies for fiscal risk management of the CARE Center would be for Huber, as Human Services Director, to meet with the CEOs of the Health Care Systems, heads of Behavioral Health of both Gundersen Lutheran and Franciscan Skemp and the Foundations of the 2 Health Care Systems to determine their fiscal commitment to the project. Future federal grants through the BJA should be considered for future expansion and ongoing implementation and concepts of shared fiscal risks and "settle-ups" need to be explored to assure continuity of operation beyond the first year of implementation. Huber identified Vicky Riley, our new project coordinator, Donna Gunderson, who is the lead person in our mental health recovery unit and Tom Engels, Director of Business Development at Tellurian UCAN Inc. Engels is our lead with Tellurian, which has done similar projects in other counties. Huber and Engels responded to questions from the Board.

Update on Solid Waste and Recycling Collections Evaluation with Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska (Hank Koch)

Solid Waste Director Hank Koch updated the Board on the solid waste and recycling collection evaluation. Changes are occurring across the country and improvements are available. Since La Crosse County has a large financial commitment invested in the County Landfill facilities and household hazardous waste program, any changes in how cities manage and fund solid waste and recycling collection services will significantly impact our disposal system. This project was first conceived in the joint La Crosse County / City of La Crosse Sustainability Plan and we have worked jointly with both cities to develop a scope of services for this evaluation, which was suggested as a way to look at how a collaboration, or the regionalization of solid waste activities, could improve service, be more sustainable and efficient and provide cost savings. The seven page evaluation document referred to was included in the supervisor's packets, is available in the County Clerk's office meeting folder, and is temporarily available on the County's web site as an attachment to the agenda for this meeting. Its purpose is to provide information to City and County policy makers that are required to make decisions that will affect customer service, sustainability, cost-effectiveness and coordination of services among different local governments. The Cities of Onalaska and La Crosse are scheduled to vote on the proposal March 9th and 11th, respectively. The cost of the study by Foth would be about \$50,000 and would be funded approximately half by the county and half by the cities of Onalaska and La Crosse, utilizing the 2010 and 2011 Government Landfill Tipping Fee Rebates. Because there's a lot of pressure on local governments to look at how they are funding these services, this study will also look at that. Many communities are moving away from using tax levy and changing to special assessments or volume based fee methods that show people what they are getting and to make it fair between industrial, commercial and private citizens. Koch responded to questions from the Board. Administrator O'Malley also pointed out that the study and analysis will not be making recommendations, but only supplying information to the policy makers on the choices that communities need to make.

Presentation by WIPFLI CPA and Consulting: Consideration of Hillview Health Care Center Assisted Living

Michael Edwin, a director with WIPFLI's Health Care Senior Services Practice out the Madison office, addressed the Board. WIPFLI is a full service CPA Consulting firm. Edwin, who conducted the market study, presented the results via slide presentation for a residential care apartment complex (RCAC). WIPFLI also surveyed residents of Carroll Heights to identify interest in a continuum of care. He spoke on demographic trends for long-term care consumers; he noted that by 2026 the age 65 populations will double in our country and by 2015 the age 85 and over market will do the same. A high percentage of those individuals that move into assisted living residents do so within 25 miles of their home. He spoke on market trends, client projections, the competitiveness of the market and how the related risk of the status quo (nursing home only) may be higher than the risks associated with the assisted living development. Discussion ensued; Edwin and Hillview Administrator Pete Eide responded to questions from the Board.

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RESOLUTION #86-3/10 RE: AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF A RESIDENTIAL CARE APARTMENT COMPLEX ON THE HILLVIEW CAMPUS

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has been committed to providing long term care services to its citizens since the 1880's; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County expanded its services to senior citizens by opening the Carroll Heights Apartment complex for independent seniors in 1982; and, **WHEREAS**, long term care is undergoing dramatic changes whereby the elderly and disabled will be looking for, and required to seek alternate, less restrictive and more affordable choices for care; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Aging and Long Term Care Committee recognizes the need to develop a continuum of care on the Hillview Health Care Center campus in order to provide options for services to those elderly and disabled who can no longer function independently but are not appropriate for nursing home care; and, **WHEREAS**, after consultation with WIPFLI CPA and Consulting, and extensive market study research, it was determined there is a need for a high quality, affordable, moderate income assisted living facility in the County; and, **WHEREAS**, the market study report, as well as the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, predict a future where there is a need for more County and State assisted living type services; and, **WHEREAS**, the market study report and analysis determined that a Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC) is the most desirable type of assisted living facility to complement the services already provided on the Hillview Health Care Center campus; and, **WHEREAS**, development of such a facility would complete the continuum of care concept at Hillview Health Care Center and Carroll Heights as well as support revenues for Hillview campus operations. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors approves the concept of a Residential Care Apartment Complex on the Hillview campus. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Administrator, Finance Director and Hillview Health Care Center management team is directed to prepare the anticipated cash flow projections and financing options, and refine the size and placement of the RCAC including the number of beds and location on the campus. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Administrator, Finance Director and Hillview Health Care Center management team are directed to bring back to the Aging & Long Term Care Committee and the County Board a procurement/construction process timetable that would enable construction to begin in 2010. **FISCAL NOTE:** Hillview's 2010 budget includes \$3,496,400 to be funded by borrowing for construction of this facility.

AGING AND LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Motion by Kader/Medinger to approve. Discussion and questions continued. Kader moved the question but Chair Doyle ruled there were still supervisors on his list that had already requested to speak. When all had, he called for the vote. The motion **passed** on a roll call vote with 24 ayes, 4 nays – Ebert, Manthei, Bina and Berns and 7 excused – J. Johnson, Konkell, Plesha, Freedland, Meyer, Keil and Pfaff.

SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Supervisor Medinger asked for statistics on the diversity of the La Crosse County work force.

ADJOURN

Motion by Brockmiller/Kruse to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 7 excused – J. Johnson, Konkell, Plesha, Freedland, Meyer, Keil and Pfaff.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE)

I, Linda Stone, La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the Planning Meeting held Monday, March 8, 2010 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2010.