

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, April 11, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Dan Ferries, Tara Johnson, Audrey Kader, Monica Kruse (exc. 10:34 a.m.), Andrea Richmond, Jerry Sebranek

MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Medinger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2010

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Sebranek/Kruse to approve the minutes of February 7, 2010, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

a) *Ripples & Waves*

Motion carried unanimously. Medinger excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Killeen, volunteer AARP advocate, distributed a handout about the Governor's budget that places arbitrary limits on enrollment of adults under the Medicaid Family Care program. He also spoke about the lack of Legislative oversight in the Governor's proposal.

NOTE: The Chair took the following three Resolutions out of order.

RESOLUTION RE: PRESERVATION OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR MEDICAID CHANGES (MEDICAID, BADGERCARE PLUS, SENIORCARE, FAMILY CARE)

The Resolution recognizes that changes to Medicaid are necessary to more effectively use taxpayer dollars, but opposes the State's plan which places too much power in the Executive branch without Legislative oversight. The Resolution supports continuation of the current procedure, and rejects concentrating power to make unilateral changes to Medicaid.

MOTION by Johnson/Kader to amend the fiscal note to read: "Major changes in Medicaid eligibility without Legislative oversight will have a negative financial impact on clients and counties. However, full effect of those costs is impossible to determine at this time." **Motion carried unanimously.** Medinger excused.

MOTION by Johnson/Richmond to approve the Resolution Re: Preservation of Legislative Oversight for Medicaid Changes (Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, Family Care) as amended.

Motion carried unanimously. Medinger excused.

RESOLUTION RE: PROTECT SENIORCARE PROGRAM

The Resolution states that SeniorCare saves Wisconsin seniors money with cost effective enrollment fees and co-payments and no gaps in coverage. The program is also able to negotiate lower drug prices, which Medicare Part D does not do. The cost savings projection for County taxpayers would be \$1,807,280, and \$101,384,000 statewide.

MOTION by Johnson/Richmond to amend the Resolution to split the first Whereas clause into two clauses, with the second clause stating, "WHEREAS, Senior Care provides more comprehensive and less expensive coverage than Medicare Part D;" **Motion carried unanimously.** Medinger excused.

MOTION by Kruse/Ferries to approve the Resolution Re: Protect SeniorCare Program as amended.

Motion carried unanimously. Medinger excused.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT TRANSIT

The Resolution recognizes transportation as a vital service for seniors, the disabled, and individuals with limited incomes. Transportation services support retail, health care, education and recreations with an economic return of \$3.61 for every \$1.00 invested in public transit. The Resolution supports keeping a segregated Transportation Fund to adequately fund public transit and human services transportation.

MOTION by Richmond/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Support Transit. **Motion carried unanimously.** Medinger excused.

PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2011

The Proclamation recognizes volunteers who give time and energy to La Crosse County programs, and proclaims the week of April 17-23, 2011, as "The Seasons for Caring." **MOTION** by Richmond/Kruse to proclaim April 17-23 as Volunteer Week 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Medinger excused.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

REPORT ON VETERANS SERVICES STAFF CHANGES

Jim Gausmann reported that Sue Otten, a 31-year staffer in Veterans Services, has retired. They will be filling the position as soon as possible; a VA work-study student is helping to answer phones in the interim. Gausmann also reported briefly on the budget impact on veterans, which is mostly uncertain.

REPORT ON NURSING HOME ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

Pete Eide and Pam Semb provided results of an analysis by NorthStar Economics, Inc., regarding the impact of Wisconsin nursing homes on the state's economy. They provided the following data:

	Hillview	Lakeview
Total Direct Expenditures	\$12,937,827	\$11,879,470
Economic Impact on Community	\$28,726,067	\$26,335,764
Total Jobs Created	491.2	409.9
State Tax Revenue Generated	\$1,846,123	\$1,475,043

REPORT ON DEALING WITH GAY AND LESBIAN POPULATIONS IN NURSING HOMES

Pete Eide and Pam Semb reported that they include issues regarding respect, privacy, and resident rights in their annual in-service training. They seek to hire employees who treat diverse populations equitably. Discussion was held regarding life partners' rights to be informed, and how HIPAA rules mandate that confidential patient information can only be discussed with someone designated as a health care power of attorney.

ASSISTED LIVING UPDATE

Pete Eide reported that underground pipes are done. There will be two days of road closures due to construction. There will still be access to Carroll Heights and Hillview.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY NAME

Kelly Kramer distributed a list of 76 suggested names. Steve O'Malley reported that the ordinance regarding naming of buildings gives the oversight committee the authority to recommend a name to the County Board for approval. Discussion was held about a selection process, and whether to include Hillview staff in the process. Committee members may also send their preferred selections or deletions to Kramer or Pete Eide. **MOTION** by Kader/Ferries to approve having the Hillview staff participate in recommending a name. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger excused.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Discussion about Hillview cemetery
Approval of Assisted Living Facility name

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: MAY 9, 2011

ADJOURN

MOTION by Sebranek/Ferries to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger excused. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Approved, May 9, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder