

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 6, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Dan Ferries, Audrey Kader (exc. 11:08 a.m.), Tara Johnson, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Andrea Richmond, Jerry Sebranek

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve O'Malley, Pete Eide, Pam Semb, Margaret Norden, Kelly Kramer, Wanda Plachecki, Bryan Jostad, Mary Powell, Ginny Dankmeyer, Larry White, Lorie Graff, Tom Miller, Sharon Hampson, Pat Killeen, Carolyn Mahlum Jenkins, Jean Marck

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2011

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Sebranek/Richmond to approve the minutes of May 9, 2011, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) *Ripples & Waves*

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Sebranek/Kader to suspend the rules. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The committee then took the following item out of order.

APPROVE HILLVIEW CEMETERY SCATTER GARDEN

The matter was referred from the previous meeting. Tom Miller stated that the County has adopted a new policy of paying only for cremation and no longer paying for burials of indigent persons. The Human Services Department would like to offer the option of scattering ashes at Hillview. Miller stated that he checked with the following: The Health Department has no concerns, and knows of nothing to prohibit a scatter garden; the City Attorney stated there was no ordinance to prohibit it; and Corporation Counsel had no objection. Pete Eide stated that the Town and Country Garden Club will advise on plantings. A list is maintained of those who are buried in the cemetery, and scatter garden remains will also be documented. **MOTION** by Kader/Kruse to approve a cemetery scatter garden on the Hillview campus.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Killeen, representing AARP, stated that AARP is planning an activity to identify the barriers to accessing the polls, and wants to develop an education campaign for voters.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ENSURING ELDERLY VOTER REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO STATE VOTER ID BILL

The State Voter ID Bill requires all those without a driver's license to provide a state-issued identification card to be eligible to vote. Noreen Kuroski provided a memo that quoted a 2005 study from UW-Milwaukee that states 23% of Wisconsin citizens over age 65 are without a state-issued photo ID. Her memo stated that the Aging Unit will begin outreach on voter registration at meal sites, senior housing, and other sites, and through the La Crosse Senior Life newsletter. They will also assist with obtaining required birth certificate information and with transportation to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a State ID. Larry White reported that 11 other states have implemented voter ID laws. Ginny Dankmeyer reported that there will be a "soft implementation" whereby voters without proper identification will be allowed to vote at the first election that occurs, but will receive information on acquiring acceptable forms of identification for the next time they vote. Discussion was held on the potential of lawsuits if people are denied the right to vote and are required to purchase a copy of their birth certificate. Dankmeyer reported that obtaining a birth certificate could be especially problematic for people born out of state. Supervisor Johnson asked that staff work with the League of Women Voters and AARP on voter education, and suggestions were made regarding distribution of information, including fliers, websites, and print and electronic media. The subject will return to committee for further updates.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

Supervisor Johnson stated that the current budget bill will have an impact on long-term care due to the cap on future enrollment in FamilyCare through Western Wisconsin Cares. She suggested having Tim Garrity talk about enrollment in WWC; Steve O'Malley also suggested having Corporation Counsel at the same meeting since this will place more responsibility on counties to serve clients handled through the Chapter 51 and Chapter 55 process.

REPORT ON NURSING HOME SURVEY PROCESS

Pam Semb reported that both state and federal governments conduct nursing home surveys. Each survey can result in citations and fines, and there can be as many as four deficiency citations and fines issued for any one deficient practice. Semb reported that over time there has been a shift in philosophy from educating to penalizing. The Wisconsin Legislature is looking at ending the double jeopardy of fines being issued by both state and federal surveyors. Supervisor Ferries asked if fines were a source of revenue for the state, and Semb replied that the fine money goes into a fund for school libraries. Supervisor Johnson asked to have the report emailed to committee.

APPROVE ASSISTED LIVING NURSE CALL SYSTEM RFP

Bryan Jostad provided information that \$35,000.00 was budgeted for a communication system to summon Hillview Terrace staff. The system will include wireless pendants and bracelets for residents, staff pagers, door security alerts, and software to record system activity. Four vendors responded to the Request for Proposal, with two advancing to interviews/demonstrations. They were evaluated by a team from Hillview and Purchasing, and graded on the following criteria: Qualifications and references (20 points), scope of work (100 points), cost (80 points), interview/demonstration (100 points), for a total of 300 points. The results were as follows:

Vendor	Evaluation Score	Cost
Hagen IT	280	\$27,932.00
RF Technologies	245	\$34,986.00
Home Free	Did not interview	\$33,665.00
Status Solutions	Over budget	\$39,184.00

The team recommended Hagen IT for their cost, ability to integrate with the existing Hillview system, expandability of the new system, technical support, and software upgrades at no cost. **MOTION** by Richmond/Kader to approve Hagen IT to provide a communication system for Hillview Terrace. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HILLVIEW TERRACE UPDATE

Pete Eide reported that the first floor framing is complete, and construction is started on decking for the second floor. The inspectors have said the work looks good so far. The budget is on target, and Eide anticipates coming in at cost or under. He and Kelly Kramer are looking at policy and procedure. There will be four resident rate packages, including an ala carte selection. Supervisor Medinger asked about sidewalk access, and Supervisor Richmond suggested contacting the Safe Routes program through the Health Department about possible funding.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Hillview sidewalks
FamilyCare
Voter ID's

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: JULY 11, 2011

Discussion was held about holding meetings off-site. The August meeting will be at Lakeview, and the September meeting at Hillview.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved, July 11, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder