

## **AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE**

Monday, February 6, 2012

Room 3220, Administrative Center, 400 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.

10:15 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Plesha, Steve Doyle, Dan Ferries, Audrey Kader, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Andrea Richmond

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jerry Sebranek

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve O'Malley, Pete Eide, Noreen Holmes, Pam Semb, Jim Gausmann, Margaret Norden, Pat Killeen, Dave Holtze, Jim Speropulos, Sharon Hampson

### **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2012, MEETING**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Richmond/Ferries to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2012, meeting, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) *Ripples & Waves*
- b) Commission on Aging meeting minutes of October 4, 2011, and December 6, 2011, and public hearing minutes of December 6, 2011.

**Motion carried unanimously.** Sebranek excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Killeen, AARP citizen advocate, spoke about Family Care. AARP is asking to have state senate and assembly representatives contacted to support legislation to remove caps.

### **CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT**

Supervisor Doyle stated there is a meeting scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2012, for those supervisors attending the WCA Legislative Exchange.

### **GIFTED HANDS UPDATE**

Noreen Holmes reported that sales at the Gifted Hands shop were up 58% over 2010 holiday sales. She stated they ran television advertising over the holidays, and they also placed some ads for Valentine's Day. Consignment fees were paid at the beginning of the year. They were able to have a third worker rather than relying on volunteers. Workforce Connections projects they may be able to return to 18-20 hour work weeks as early as of June, 2012. She reported that she will be talking to local attorneys about doing pro bono work to establish 501(c)(3) status so the shop will be able to solicit donations and hold fundraisers. She answered questions about rent, which is based on 16% of sales.

### **UPDATE FROM THE COULEE REGION LONG TERM CARE WORKFORCE COALITION**

Noreen Holmes reported on the Coulee Region Long Term Care Workforce Coalition, which advocates for solutions to a growing shortage in the long-term care workforce. More people have to rely on family members to remain independent when services are not available, but those family caregivers need assistance. There may be more reliance on technological assistance, such as Skype, for status checks. Pat Killeen, AARP, said there is a "perfect storm" coming with an aging population that has increasing need for care and an insufficient number of caregivers. They both cited a demanding job with low pay and few benefits as reasons for not attracting and retaining workers. Supervisor Kader stated that Western Technical College is increasing its training program.

### **REPORT ON SPECIAL VETERAN CATEGORIES**

Jim Gausmann provided a handout regarding special categories of veterans who suffer from diseases that are linked to military service. He reported that the biggest segments of local veterans with service-related illnesses were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides in Vietnam or Korea. There are 10 former World War II prisoners of war in La Crosse County. Gausmann also listed the illnesses that are associated with service in the Gulf War. He stated he has seen the application/approval process take from four months to eight years depending on appeals. Once approved, benefits can be retroactive. He reported

that one of the most beneficial programs in the state is a property tax credit that helps totally disabled veterans remain in their homes.

#### **LAKEVIEW BRANDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Pam Semb reported that the branding project is on hold while Lakeview looks at the more urgent issue of building renovations. The topic may come back to committee at a later date.

#### **HILLVIEW TERRACE UPDATE**

Pete Eide reported that Hillview Terrace currently has 14 tenants with six more applications pending. Residency is ahead of the targeted number, and he anticipates being at full capacity by summer, 2012. The construction project is under budget. Any remaining funds will be designated for Hillview Terrace purpose. Discussion was held about possible uses when construction is done.

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: MARCH 5, 2012**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None suggested.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Richmond/Kader to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Sebranek excused. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**Disclaimer:** The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.  
Margaret Norden, Recorder