

# Add **LIFE**<sup>SM</sup> to your Years

## **Vernon County Unit on Aging**

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The Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on Monday, October 13, 2008 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Erlandson County Office Building. Members present were: Leo Verbsky, Chairman; Todd Overbo; Karen Dahl; Sherman Erlandson; and Kevin Larson. Also present were Pat Peterson, Director; and Linda Kica, Personnel Director.

Leo Verbsky opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m..

Affirmation of proper public notice was given.

Motion by Todd Overbo, seconded by Karen Dahl, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2008, Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Dahl, second by Kevin Larson to approve the Vouchers in the sum of \$23,019. Motion carried.

Pat gave the Nutrition Report and noted that donations received are less than earlier in the year when other demands on the fixed incomes of our patrons were less. Karen Dahl mentioned that a county board supervisor is willing to lead an email fundraising effort and asked Pat to determine what goal needed to be met to meet operational costs and avoid mealsite closures in 2009. There was a suggestion to sell excess supplies and tables through EBay or an auction. Pat is to bring an inventory of applicable items to November meeting. Pat announced that Bess Mc Elhose will be recognized in Ontario on Monday, Oct 20 for 20 years of service as the Mealsite Manager in Ontario and that Lorraine Mageland is retiring the end of October as Mealsite Manager for Viroqua 2. She will be recognized on November 6 at Viroqua 2. The current Mealsite Manager at Viroqua 1 will finish the year at Viroqua 2 and a substitute will staff Viroqua 1 for the remainder of the year.

Pat gave the Transportation Report, noting that September rides on the minibus were the highest for that month in thirteen years. Two new volunteer drivers began this month. The Mobility Manager is going to a national transportation conference in Omaha next week. The Coon Valley Senior Citizens group has signed up for a special trip "leaf watching" around Vernon County and there will be a bus trip to the "Taste of Home" show at the La Crosse Center. Pat shared that the new Managed Care Organization called Western Wisconsin Cares will be contracting for transportation and meals beginning in November and the Unit on Aging has submitted bids and hopes to have a contract with them.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Report. She reported that Shelley Matson is out on leave and she has been in contact with approximately 20 individuals seeking EBS-related services. The supervising attorney from Madison is giving her guidance. The Medicare Part D sign up period is November 15-December 31.

Health and Caregiving includes the upcoming "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" class scheduled to start October 30. National Caregivers Month will be celebrated at the "Lighten Up for the Holidays" event at the Temple Theatre on November 19 from 1-3 p.m.. Beth Lakman and friends will provide musical entertainment and Pat is looking for a speaker. Suggestions for a speaker were given. Three caregivers will be attending "Creating Moments of Joy" workshop in Clark County with tips for dealing with individuals who have dementia.

Leo Verbsky opened the four Mealsite Caterer Bids for 2009. Decisions on contracts will be made at November meeting.

- Tazzees from Soldiers Grove would deliver bulk food to Readstown for \$3.75 per meal as long as it was same meal approved for the Crawford County mealsite they also serve.
- Vernon Memorial Healthcare would continue to provide meals with choices of regular and alternate menus for \$4.50 and \$5.00 per meal respectively.
- Borgens Café is interested in providing meals for Westby and would be a mealsite location if desired for \$4.00 per meal. Also willing to provide emergency meals.
- The Garden St Café bid to provide Ontario meals and also including being a dining site, delivering home delivered meals, offering menu choices and emergency meals for \$5.99 per meal. Once a month meal ok.

Pat presented the Resolution for the 2009 DOT 85.21 Program to pay the 20% cash match needed to receive this funding. This is an annual request for funding that is split between Human Services and the Unit on Aging to support the Minibus Program and has been used for VARC bus serve to transport individuals with handicaps throughout the county to VARC for work and day programming. Motion made by Todd Overbo and seconded by Sherman Erlandson. All aye response and all signed the resolution.

Entered into closed session, pursuant to Wis. Section 19.85(1)(c) following motion by Sherman Erlandson and second by Karen Dahl. Return to open session. Motion by Todd Overbo, second by Kevin Larson to hire a Limited term employee assist with Elderly Benefit Specialist program and contract with La Crosse County Unit on Aging for assistance for Medicare Part D planning. Both would be through the end of 2008.

Pat requested hiring a LTE employee through the end of 2008 to assist the Mobility Manager. Discussion followed including possibility of one LTE to do both New Freedom and EBS duties. Todd Overbo made the motion to approve hiring the LTE, seconded by Kevin Larson. Motion passed.

Advocacy is the number one duty in Pat's Aging Director position and she shared that advocacy is happening to encourage informed voting for this fall's elections. She asked if others had advocacy to also share.

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 17, 2008, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room if the Erlandson Office Building at 12:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Karen Dahl and second by Sherman Erlandson. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

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Pat Peterson, Director

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Leo Verbsky, Chairman