

Add **LIFE**SM to your Years

Vernon County Unit on Aging

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The Vernon County Unit on Aging met on Monday, November 16, 2009, in the 2nd floor Conference Room at the Erlandson Office Building. Members present were: Leo Verbsky, Chairman; Sherman Erlandson, and Kevin Larson. Also present were Pat Peterson, Director and Nancy O'Connor, Secretary/Bookkeeper.

Leo opened the Meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Affirmation of proper Public Notice was given.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson. Second by Kevin Larson to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Pat gave the Financial Report, sharing with the committee that our expenses are currently staying even with our budget. Income in nutrition program is lagging from budgeted amounts. Motion by Kevin Larson, second by Leo Verbsky to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

The nutrition report included that the number of Hillsboro mealsite patrons continue to increase. The 2010 Ontario caterer price per meal was negotiated to \$5.45 per meal. Pat Peterson discussed an interest in developing a frozen meal program to offer additional home delivered meals per week. Pat needs to find a new volunteer in Hillsboro to help at the mealsite.

The transportation report explained that the major funding source for the volunteer driver reimbursements currently is Western Wisconsin Cares. The Amish population continues to utilize the minibus. An agreement with La Crosse and Monroe counties may lead to a weekly Hillsboro to La Crosse multi-county bus route. Lynda Wilke continues to work on regional transportation initiatives.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Report, sharing that almost \$600,000 in benefits have been accessed by Vernon County residents through the help of the EBS this year. Shelley provided five information sessions on Medicare Part D planning this month with over 60 total in attendance. Her hours in December will be increased to 37.5 hr/wk due to MIPPA funding.

Inga Gerber presented a discussion developed by Pat Peterson on the "Sandwich Generation" at the Methodist Church in Viroqua targeting caregivers. It was well received. This may be offered to other area churches and groups, too.

There were no public comments.

A brainstorming activity was used to look for ways to deal with expected budget deficits in 2010. Ideas generated included: considering use of volunteers for some functions that currently have paid staff, delivering 1 hot meal and 3 frozen meals to reduce staff and mileage costs, finding business sponsors, consolidating transportation routes, use of a central kitchen, seeking donations or fundraising opportunities and evaluating mealsites to prioritize should closure be necessary.

Pat Peterson shared Grant County's policy for recruiting board and advisory members. Leo Verbsky suggested considering past county board members. Pat Peterson will write up a proposal for review at the December meeting.

The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2009 from 2:00-4:00 pm and will have a combined business meeting with the Advisory Committee and the Nutrition Advisory Committee followed by a gathering including committee members and Unit on Aging staff.

Under advocacy, Pat Peterson shared that Tom Frazier, the long term director of CWAG, is retiring in December. Anthony Amotto has been hired to fill his position.

The "Lighten Up for the Holidays" caregiver event will be held at Vernon Manor on November 18. Participation is encouraged.

Pat Peterson encouraged those affected by Medicare Part D to give attention to making informed decisions.

Motion by Kevin Larson, seconded by Sherman Erlandson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, Chairman

PP/LV/no