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Vernon County Unit on Aging

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Vernon County Aging Committee Meeting Minutes-1-18-10, 12:30 p.m. Held in the 2nd floor Conference Room at the Erlandson Office Building.

Leo Verbsky called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Those present included: Leo Verbsky-Chairman, Todd Overbo-Vice-Chairman, Karen Dahl, Sherman Erlandson, Kevin Larson, Pat Peterson-Director, and Nancy O'Connor-Secretary/Bookkeeper.

Affirmation of public notice was given. The minutes for the December 14, 2009 Aging Committee and Advisory Committee were reviewed. Motion by Karen Dahl, second by Kevin Larson to approve as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the Financial Report, sharing with the Committee the percentages of expenses and income in each of our programs in 2009. Pat will go to the Finance Committee with line item transfers and a report on any fund balances we have to carry into 2010. Motion by Todd Overbo, seconded by Karen Dahl to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Pat gave the Nutrition report; she reported that the new caterer in Viroqua is off to a good start. Karen questioned the number of participants at Prairie View. Leo offered that Hillsboro is going well.

Pat gave the Transportation report. Our transportation programs are seeing a lot of growth. She also noted we had some cancellations due to the weather. Starting in 2010 riders on the mini bus will be charged a fare instead of making a donation. Older Americans Act funds which require services being offered for a donation are not included in the transportation budget this year. Pat and Lynda will meet with Matt Geise, the city of Viroqua Administrator, about progress on starting a commuter bus service.

In the Elderly Benefit Report; Pat shared with the committee how much this program has grown partly due to people learning about the EBS Program through the ADRC, and also due to more people seeking and accepting public assistance. Due to the increased volume of work, this position needs to be more than part-time.

In Health and Caregiving we paid the Health Department \$750.00 for help with medication management. Karen Dahl is leading "Breakfast for the Brain" here in Viroqua for a group with always more than five participants, and has benefitted greatly herself by this activity. We are looking to train new facilitators to offer "Powerful Tools for Caregivers", in the Hillsboro area.

There were no public comments.

Pat has attended some village board meetings, promoting Express 33, which will be a new multi-county bus program. It will take riders on a weekly basis from Hillsboro to La Crosse, and from La Crosse to the Scenic Bluffs Clinic in Cashton. She also shared information regarding our nutrition and other program services. She shared that county wide we are serving less meals, although in Ontario meal counts have doubled. La Farge meal counts are down, and without the Village of La Farge support, services for the La Farge Senior Center at Kickapoo Haven may be affected. Marketing is an ongoing issue, which we will be working on in 2010. The data we collect does show that we are serving a larger number of younger seniors.

Pat shared a letter from GWAAR with a positive closeout of our 2009 County Aging Plan. Leo was given a copy.

Include Respect I Self Direct "IRIS" is a fairly new program that is now available to people in our area. Pat shared with the Committee that participants in the Family Care program can choose to participate in IRIS with help from consultants to make their own choices in what services they receive or can choose the Managed Care Option that Western Wisconsin Cares provides.

Pat asked for and received the Committee's approval to attending a national Aging Conference in Chicago in March.

In advocacy AARP is encouraging people to call them with questions about health care reform. Pat identified an unmet is that some people need help with their finances, such as balancing their checkbooks. Karen Dahl provided a local resource to help with this.

The next Unit on Aging Meeting will be Monday, February 15 at 12:30 p.m.

Motion by Karen, seconded by Todd to adjourn. Motion carried

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, Chairman
