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Vernon County Unit on Aging

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Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 9-13-2010, at 12:30 p.m. 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; Sherman Erlandson, Cade Cary, Pat Peterson, Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Secretary/Bookkeeper.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Pat introduced Cade Cary as our newest committee member.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Cade Cary, to approve the August 9, 2010, minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the financial report. She shared with the committee where we are with revenue verses expenses at this time in our budget. She gave an overview of the Voucher Summary. Motion by Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Cade Cary, to approve the payment of the August vouchers. Motion carried.

In Nutrition Pat shared with the committee the monthly report on attendance and donations at our mealsites. Sherman commented on the attendance in Westby.

In Transportation Pat reported that the special trip to the Kickapoo Reserve was well attended and enjoyed by all who participated. The Volunteer Driver Program served 20 riders in August for primarily medical appointments and some for rides to work. The amount of participants using our transportation programs has doubled. The 33 Express is starting slowly and more marketing will be done to help improve on the number of riders. In October a grant will be submitted by Prairie du Chien to receive funding for a commuter route between Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, and La Crosse.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Specialist Report, sharing with the committee the number of clients Shelley served in August and the dollar amount of benefits she provides to the seniors of Vernon County.

In Health and Care Giving Pat reported there will be "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" Class starting in October. November is National Care Givers Month, and some activities are being planned for that.

There were no public comments.

In new business, Pat gave an overview of the Medication Management Improvement Grant. When our AmeriCorps member and our Experience Works Employee make home visits to our Home Delivered meal participants, it will include an option to have a pharmacist review all medications they are taking.

Pat explained that the MIPPA Grant, a four-county project including Jackson, Monroe, Vernon, and La Crosse, is to be used to market to public benefits that help seniors pay for Medicare benefits and prescription drugs. The current program goes to April 2011. A grant application is being submitted to continue the program through 2012.

Pat shared that on October 16, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., a fundraiser by the Viroqua Men's Choir will be presented at the Viroqua Temple Theatre, with proceeds going to our Transportation Programs.

Pat provided two options of her revised budget to the Committee. She noted that Human Services gave the entire 85.21 Grant to the Unit on Aging, there was room to come up with a balanced budget. Motion by Cade Cary, seconded by Sherman Erlandson to send Option Two, which is the balanced budget, to the Finance Committee for review. Motion carried.

After some discussion, motion by Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Cade Cary, to accept all the Mealsite Caterers' Bids for 2011 as presented.

Our Seniors of Distinction Banquet was held on Sunday, September 12, 2010. Karen Dahl was the Emcee. Musical entertainment was provided by Jim Fortney. Namthip Nilawong, an exchange student from Thailand, presented "Dance of Thanksgiving". Eleven Seniors of Distinction were honored, as well as two recipients of "Friends of the Unit on Aging".

In advocacy, Pat shared that at the Wisconsin Aging Network Conference in Wisconsin Dells on September 30 and October 1, 2010. There are two sessions directed at County Board members. She encouraged anyone who is interested to attend.

The next Unit on Aging Committee Meeting will be October 18, 2010, at 12:30 p.m.

Motion by: Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Cade Cary, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, President
