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Vernon County Unit on Aging

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Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 11-15-2010, 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, Kevin Larson, Karen Dahl, Advisory member: Karen Mack, Nutrition Advisory members, Don & Donna DeWitt, Bev Morgan, citizens, David & Elizabeth Veum, Pat Peterson, Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Secretary/Bookkeeper. Cade Cary was absent.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Motion by Karen Dahl: seconded by: Kevin Larson, to approve the October 18, 2010, minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the financial report, explaining some of our new vendors. She gave an overview of the voucher summary; she also shared with the committee where we are at this point in our budget, as far as expenditures and income. Motion by Kevin Larson: seconded by: Sherman Erlandson, to approve the payment of the October vouchers. Motion carried.

In Nutrition Pat shared with the committee the monthly report on attendance and donations at our mealsites. She commented on the amount of illness and deaths we have seen in recent weeks.

The Mini Bus report was not available; Pat did share some details of the special trips we have had with the Committee.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Specialist Report, sharing with the committee the monetary impact to Vernon County Residents through the end of October is close to \$800,000.00 dollars. The time is now for Medicare Part D open enrollment. MIPPA is a marketing tool which helps make senior citizens aware of benefits at possibly lower costs to them.

In Health & Caregiving, we are in the middle of a "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" class. Pat & three others who are trained facilitators are sharing the role of leading that class. November is National Caregivers Month. Our event called "Lighten Up for the Holidays" will be held on November 29th at the Viroqua Church of Christ. Laura Gentry will present a program called "Laughter Yoga". All caregivers and the public are invited.

In public comments Bev Morgan said it is good to see our Department looking ahead in a positive manner. She also advocated keeping the Westby Mealsite at Borgen's Café, its current location. Don DeWitt asked if the one day service of transportation in Hillsboro could be better served by a volunteer driver or local bus service, or is it busy enough to warrant the use of the Mini bus on that day.

In new business: Motion by: Karen Dahl, seconded by Sherman Erlandson, to keep the Westby Mealsite at Borgen's Café.

A winter camp will be the next special trip held at the Logan's Mill in Westby on November 30, 2010, consisting of a craft project lead by La Donna Curran, and a sing along lead by Bess McElhose.

Pat provided information on the Wheeler Report to the committee in regards to County workman's compensation responsibility for contracted providers who are not County employees. Committee decided to gather more information on the subject.

A review of the 85.21 Public Hearing was shared by attendees. They generally felt good about how our transportation programs serve the needs of all Vernon County residents and supported the 2011 plan.

Pat reminded the committee members that it is Medicare Part D open enrollment time, and to share that information with the public.

In advocacy, Dennis Brault will represent Vernon County as an ambassador to the WI County's Association Conference. GWAAR will be adding an advisory board to their organization as technical support to Aging Units. Karen Dahl's foreign exchange student from Taiwan entertained the residents at Park View Manor with her dance routine.

The next Unit on Aging Committee Meeting will be December 13, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. at the Viroqua Medical Office Building, followed by an information sharing session, and Holiday gathering with all Unit on Aging staff, Nutrition Advisory Council, and Aging Advisory.

Motion by: Karen Dahl, seconded by Kevin Larson, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, President

PP/LV/no