

# 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, May 16, 2011, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Erlandson Office Building.

Leo Verbsky called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Those present included Leo Verbsky, Chairman; Karen Dahl, Sherman Erlandson, Kevin Larson, members; Pat Peterson, Director; and Jean Miller, Transportation Coordinator. Cade Cary was not in attendance.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Kevin Larson, to approve the April 18, 2011, minutes as written. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Dahl, seconded by Kevin Larson, to authorize the Vernon County Unit on Aging to get a credit card with a limit of \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Dahl, seconded by Kevin Larson, to approve the payment of the vouchers and to pay the St. Joseph's Healthcare invoice when it comes. Motion carried.

In the Nutrition Report, Pat reported that the restaurant where the Ontario Mealsite has been held has closed. The meals are now being provided by St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hillsboro, and served at the Ontario Fire Station. The committee recommended that meals be transported to Ontario from La Farge rather than Hillsboro to save costs. One of our Viroqua home-delivered meals haulers has given notice, and our home-delivered meals hauler from De Soto will be on medical leave this next month.

The April Mini-Bus Report was given by Jean Miller. One of the highlights was the Special Trip to the Deke Slayton Museum and the Local History Room and Museum in Sparta.

The Volunteer Driver Report was given by Pat. She also talked about LogisticCare that will be doing the Medical Assistance transportation starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Karen Dahl pointed out a need to market our Mini-Bus service to transport clients to La Crosse or Richland Center to get their Voter ID Cards.

Our Elderly Benefit Specialist Report was given by Pat with a note that Shelley Matson will be on vacation for 3 weeks. Backup will be provided by Pat and EBS staff from Richland and Crawford Counties.

Fliers were shared on the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's on May 24 and the Wii bowling tournament to celebrate National Senior Fitness Day on May 25.

There were no public comments.

User fees for Home Delivered Meals will increase to \$ 8.50 per meal in 2012 for those paying full price for meals (those under age 60 and WWC/COP clients). Full cost for Congregate Meals will be \$8.00. Mini-Bus In-Town Hillsboro will stay the same for the next 3 months; then we will reevaluate. Volunteer Driver contracts with WWC are proposed to be set at \$1.00 per mile in 2012.

We are communicating with Crawford and Richland Counties to develop a two times a week transportation route connecting Gays Mills, Soldiers Grove, Readstown and Viroqua. Costs would be shared. Links could also be developed with existing routes to and from Richland Center and La Crosse.

Senior Farmers Market Vouchers are available from June 8 – October 1, 2011, to Vernon County Residents ages 60+ that are income-eligible.

Pat outlined that the 2012 Budget Planning process has started with a review of current costs and revenues. We will plan for less revenue, greater costs and increased demand for services. The additional staffing we have received previous years through the AmeriCorps and Experience Works program is not anticipated to be available in 2012 which means planning so existing staff can handle the workload or recruiting and training volunteers for some projects. This is the time to start communicating with other entities such as Villages to inquire about possible support for our Mealsite locations and to prioritize service if there aren't resources to keep ten mealsites open.

In Advocacy Pat shared that the Viroqua Library has planning meetings on May 19 to discuss proposed new library/community center/cultural center. The 12:30 p.m. meeting will seek senior citizen input.

We are still looking for a handicapped accessible bus, as our lease with VARC runs out June 15. Pat was given a few more leads on vehicles that may be available. Leo Verbsky agreed to contact an individual who has a van with a lift to donate.

The Fair Building Update and Fundraiser will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a food stand and bake sale. AmeriCorps volunteers will do some painting, etc. The new cement floor will be poured on a later date.

Karen Dahl commented on the Alzheimer's Walk and her Senior Saturdays radio program.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 13, 2011.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson, seconded by Karen Dahl to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Pat Peterson, Director

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Leo Verbsky, President

PP/LV/jm