

Add **LIFE**SM to your Years

Vernon County Unit on Aging

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The Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 6-13-2011 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Erlandson Office Building.

Leo Verbsky called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Members present included Sherman Erlandson, Karen Dahl, Kevin Larson, Karen Mack, Orvis Primmer, Pat Peterson; Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Secretary/Bookkeeper. Cade Cary was absent.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Motion by Sherman Erlandson: seconded by: Kevin Larson to approve the May, 16, 2011 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the financial report. She gave an overview of the Voucher Summary explaining any new vendors. Motion by: Kevin Larson; seconded by Sherman Erlandson to pay the May, 2011 bills. Motion carried.

In Nutrition Pat shared with the committee the number of meals served in May and the average donations. She also gave an update on the Ontario Mealsite where to date, participation has been low. The Rivers End is the new caterer and we are hoping to grow the number of participants.

Pat gave the Volunteer Driver Report sharing with the Committee that individuals receiving MA Transportation to their medical appointments will receive that service starting July 1, 2011 through a brokerage hired by the state called Logisticare. We may experience an increase in demands from individuals needing transportation as they may find it difficult to use this new service.

In the mini bus report Pat shared with the committee the number of riders and days of service, and also information on the special trips.

Pat gave the Elderly Benefit Report sharing state levels of service.

There were no public comments.

In Health and Caregiving Pat shared that April was Volunteer Appreciation Month. We will be offering a "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" class. Diane Banner will attend training to be the leader of a new program called "Share the Care". We are in the midst of distributing Farmer Market Vouchers.

In New Business, Pat shared with the committee that Karen Dahl received the "Older Volunteers Enrich America" N4A Award through the Met Life Foundation. She and Nancy O'Connor will be traveling to Washington DC on June 16, to receive the award.

Staff needs are becoming a challenge. In the past we have had an AmeriCorps volunteer, and also an Experience Works employee help within our office. It is anticipated that participants in these two programs will not be available after July 2011. Field staff has also been affected with the death of an employee, and also two employees who resigned, as they found full time employment.

Pat shared with the committee an assessment letter from GWAAR on the progress we have made completing the goals of the Three Year Plan that was submitted to them. A 2011 goal to accomplish yet is to implement a telephone support program for caregivers.

In advocacy, Pat shared that she was encouraged by GWAAR to contact Senator Dan Kapanke requesting that he not support the proposed Family Care Caps, and elimination Economic Support staff at the local level.

The VARC bus lease will end on June 15, 2011. Motion by Karen Dahl; seconded by Kevin Larson to lease a bus from Buffalo County for \$300.00 per month, until a more permanent solution can be met. Motion carried. Motion by Kevin Larson; seconded by Karen Dahl to send a resolution to the Finance Committee to use Ho-Chunk money to purchase a new handicapped accessible bus for the Unit on Aging. Motion carried. Leo Verbsky agreed to assist Pat in selecting the bus to order.

June 3rd and 4th, 2011 was our clean-up day and fundraiser for the Senior Building at the Fairgrounds. The painting is completed, the new floor is installed. Pat showed the quilt that will be raffled at the Fair with the committee.

When the Garden Street Café closed in Ontario, meals were served at Fire Station and purchased from St. Josephs in Hillsboro. Participation was low. Pat held a meeting with community members there and learned that the citizens there found it important to keep a meatsite open in Ontario. Motion by Sherman Erlandson; seconded by Karen Dahl to contract with Rivers End to provide meals at the Ontario Library basement. Motion carried.

The next Unit on Aging Committee Meeting will be on July 18th, 2011.

Motion by: Sherman Erlandson: seconded by; Karen Dahl to Adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Leo Verbsky, Chairman
