

# 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 8-12-2013, at the Erlandson Building, Room #220.

Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Additional members present included Gary Thompson, Francis Hynek, Mary Bringe; Pat Peterson, Director and Laura Groom, Office Assistant. Affirmation of public notice was given.

Motion by: Mary Bringe seconded by Gary Thompson, to approve the 7-15-2013 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Pat gave the Financial Report. Vouchers for JULY were discussed. Motion by: Gary Thompson, seconded by Mary Bringe to approve the JULY vouchers. Motion passed.

In Nutrition, Laura Groom shared the numbers of meals served and the cost per meal for each of the meal sites, as well as the home delivered meals in July and year-to-date. Laura shared that in La Farge our longtime staff member who has done the cleaning has retired. Also in La Farge a volunteer who works at Wal-Mart is assisting us obtain a Volunteer Always Pays ( VAP) Grant for \$350.00. In Viroqua Pat has hired a new driver to permanently fill the vacancy left from the driver who retired in June. Our new driver, found someone, last week, in need of medical care. In Stoddard, our meal site manager found someone that had passed away. Prairie View is closed for the summer. In De Soto, we are seeking a meal site manager/meal hauler. Hillsboro area has a need for a substitute driver. In Coon Valley, Karen Larson Day will be held August 13. Pat is planning to attend the event and help serve.

Pat gave the Transportation report. Our Mini bus had a special trip to the National Eagle Center. We also have a trip scheduled to Lanesboro for shopping in August.

Pat gave the Elder Benefit Report. Shelley continues to provide an important service to our county. Pat will fill in for Shelley this month. Pat has received three calls already today. She shared some scenarios of what kinds questions that she has answered.

There were public comments. Francis Hynek shared his advocacy/public comments regarding writing letters to politicians, Ron Johnson, Ron Kind, Jennifer Shilling, Tammy Baldwin , and Lee Nerison. Francis shared that he has been trying to raise awareness to the need for the programs that Aging Unit administer and the lack of funding for those programs.

New Business:

Pat invited all the committee members to our banquet on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Pat went over the Fair Schedule of Events. Kevin will check on parking the SMRT bus on the Fairgrounds to raise awareness for this program. Gary suggested that we offer signage to target students who might be considering commuting to the La Crosse area for furthering education.

Budget:

Pat shared the HoChunk funds request. The Committee encouraged Pat to use the grant writer employed by the county and attempt to obtain any grants available. The HoChunk Request includes \$50,000 for nutrition, \$4,500 for the caregiver programs, and \$3,000 for Health Promotions. Pat shared the draft 2014 Budget with shortages in many programs. Motion was made to accept the budget as written, by Francis Hynek and seconded by, Gary Thompson. Motion passed. Pat will not be available to go to budget hearings and the committee decided that Laura will attend with two committee members.

Regional Transportation Plan is required for transportation programs with Federal funding. Pat and Linda have met with Peter Fletcher from the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission who will write our county's specific plan.

The Affordable Care Act will affect many people. Unit on Aging staff plan to attend training to be qualified to direct inquiries and phone traffic.

Old Business:

The next Unit on Aging Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, September, 11, 2013 at 11am at the Senior Building at the Fairgrounds.

Motion by: Gary Thompson, seconded by Mary Bringe to adjourn. Motion carried.

Pat Peterson, Director

Kevin Larson, Co-Chairman

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