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Vernon County Unit on Aging

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The Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 2-16-2015 at the Erlandson County Office Building.

Jim Servais called the meeting to order at 1:30 a.m. Additional members present included: Mary Bringe(By Phone), Lorn Geode, Adrian Amelse and Gail Muller. Guests that were present: Sue Noble, Vernon Economic Development Association, VEDA, and Gary Thompson, Chair for Ambassador's group. Also present were, Pat Peterson, Director, Kathleen Sullivan, Revitalization Project Manager, and Laura Groom, Nutrition Program Manager.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Review and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Adrian Amelse and seconded by Gail Muller to accept the Minutes from the 1-15-2014 meeting. Motion passed.

Financial Report: Pat presented the vouchers for January for discussion. Motion by: Adrian Amelse, seconded by Loren Goede to approve paying the January vouchers. Motion passed. Pat shared the 2015 financial update. She also showed a chart of funding sources and program costs for 2004 – 2014.

Programmatic:

Nutrition - Laura shared the January reports.

Mini Bus/ Volunteer Driver – Pat shared the transportation reports for January. The committee wants to see some ideas on increasing the ridership on our Mini Bus.

Elder Benefit Specialist -Pat gave the EBS monthly report and examples of one week of problem solving for the EBS.

Public Comments: There were no Public Comments.

Cooperative Care Study- Sue Noble gave a presentation about the study that began in the fall of 2012 exploring the possibility of forming a multi-stakeholder cooperative to provide home care in the Vernon County area. She and Pat Peterson have shared the lead in this project. Those involved are continuing to meet and are looking for a champion to move it to the next step. The Unit on Aging Committee recognized the growing need for home care resources and suggested a regional approach.

Ambassador Report and Requests- Gary Thompson and Kathleen Sullivan joined our meeting to update us on the ambassadors progress. Gary asked to have the committee change the name of the Mealsites to Senior Dining Centers. Motion was made by Lorn Geode, seconded by Adrian Amelse. Motion passed. There was much discussion about developing signage for the Senior Dining Centers. Gary shared a proof and some pricing.

Kathleen also gave an update on the Valentine's week of events and the exciting number of participants across the county.

Update on Staffing- Roxanne Felde has started fulltime as the Unit on Aging Administrative Assistant. She will be also assisting the Personnel Department with the all-staff newsletter. In De Soto Martha Hammond has retired. Both De Soto and Stoddard sites are operating with substitute staff and we are searching for regular staff to fill these positions.

Cost Saving Ideas- Adrian Amelse gave an update from the County's Financial Planning Committee activities. He has been researching options. Findings are inconclusive at the date of this meeting.

Advocacy- Adrian shared that he will continue advocating for the UOA to continue to provide and possibly increase services to this county's seniors. Pat encouraged participation in the upcoming WCA's legislative training in La Crosse on March 13 and awareness of the proposed State Budget for 2016-2017 and effects on older citizens.

Announcements- The Three Year Plan is up for review. Pat provided copies of the updated plan for members to review. She will seek their approval to submit the update to GWAAR at the next committee meeting. AARP tax appointments are now available. Dairy Breakfast Planning will be held March 2 at the Milk Jug. March 26 there will be the next Financial Planning Meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on March 13 at 1:30 pm at the Erlandson Building.

Gail Muller made the Motion to close our meeting and the motion was seconded by Lorn Goede. Motion Passed.

Pat Peterson, Director

Jim Servais, Chairman
