

Add **LIFE**SM to your Years

Vernon County Unit on Aging

318 Fairlane Dr., Suite 219, Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone # (608) 637-5201 -- Fax phone # (608) 637-5501-- www.vernoncounty.org

The Vernon County Unit on Aging Committee met on 11-16-2015 at the Erlandson Building.

Jim Servais called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Additional members present included: Gail Muller, Adrian Amelse, Lorn Goede and Mary Bringe. Also present were, Pat Peterson, Director and Laura Groom, Nutrition Program Manager.

Affirmation of public notice was given.

Review and Approval of previous Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Gail Muller and seconded by Adrian Amelse to approve the Minutes from the 10-12-2015 meeting. Motion passed.

Financial Report: Pat presented the vouchers for October for discussion. Motion by: Gail Muller, seconded by Lorn Goede to approve paying the October vouchers. Motion passed. Pat shared the 2015 financial update.

Public Comments: There were no Public comments.

Programmatic:

Nutrition - Laura shared the October report. She shared that the Emergency Meals have been assembled and are being distributed this week. Pat shared that many of our sites have benefited from the revitalization project. Westby Senior Dining Center has increased their participation the most and now is offering the choice of soup/salad bar. This year's revitalization project has begun in Hillsboro.

Mini Bus/ Volunteer Driver -Pat gave the update on the Mini Bus and Volunteer Driver programs. Pat shared several reports that gave the committee a comprehensive picture of the ridership of the bus. Our bus ridership consists of mainly seniors and disabled persons. There was a lengthy discussion lead by Adrian Amelse on the ridership levels. The overall goal is to increase the ridership. Adrian Amelse had made a motion to have Pat and Kathy meet with Dan Meyer to see if the services provided by both of the departments can increase efficiency through coordination last meeting. Pat shared that she and Kathy had met with Dan Meyer and provided the committee a report of the services that are provided by both agencies and summarized that the coordination of services would not be beneficial to Dan Meyer/ Vernon Manor or the Unit on Aging at this time. Vernon Manor is unable to sell us their services as then they are not available to serve their own patrons which they feel is their first responsibility.

Elder Benefit Specialist -Pat gave the EBS monthly report for October identifying the levels of service within the report during this open enrollment period.

Health and Caregiving- Our "Lighten Up for the Holidays", caregiver event, was held

11-05-2015 and enjoyed by those in attendance. The presentation was about the Hospice programs in our area. Myths about hospice were addressed and questions were answered. We provided a light lunch and the entertainment was square dancing with Sue Hulsether and Friends.

WI DOT 85.21 Mini bus Program - Pat shared that the 85.21 grant is due soon and that she needs to have the approval of the committee to move forward with the submission process. Our first step is to get approval and then hold a Public hearing. After that we are to have a deadline for community input and then we can submit for the grant. There was more discussion on the bus, how to allocate for the funds and the importance of this program. Motion was made to apply for the 85.21 grant and to allocate \$10,000 of the dollars requested into the Volunteer Driver Program. The motion was made by Mary Bringe and seconded Adrian Amelse. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion on 2016 budget hearing- Pat shared a report on the components of the general fund balance and the importance for our department to keep some reserves for the time it takes to get our reimbursements from our funders. Pat also provided information on the county PTO policy.

Update and Discussion on Staffing- Pat shared our challenge in regards to staffing the river Senior Dining Centers in the De Soto and Stoddard areas. Both sites have been without a permanent staff person for over 9 months. The committee suggested that we provide the local churches and Village Clerks with the job opening announcements. St Matthews in Stoddard was mentioned as an alternative site to host a Senior Dining Center.

Discussion Advocacy-Pat shared that she had taken the opportunity to advocate against the use of photo ID's for the use of food share programs. She feels that there will be many of our senior population that will not be comfortable with using the program with that element.

Announcements- The mini bus has several rotary light special trips planned. And Laura again shared about the emergency meals for our homebound seniors.

Our next meeting will be held on December 14, 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Erlandson Building

Mary Bringe made the Motion to adjourn our meeting, seconded by Adrian Amelse. Motion passed.

Pat Peterson, Director

Jim Servais, Chairman
