

COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
TUESDAY, 4-5-2011
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING – ROOM 3212
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Kader, Chairperson, Sharon Hampson, left at 1:45 pm.

Patricia Boge, arrived at 2:20 pm., Ann Fisher,
Robert Keil, Betty Woodruff

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Shirley Holman

OTHERS PRESENT: Noreen Holmes, Director, County Aging Unit

CALL TO ORDER

Audrey Kader, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1-4-2011

MOTION: Motion by Ann Fisher and seconded by Robert Keil to approve the Minutes 1-4-2011. Pass unanimously. Holman excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA (informational)

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 2-7-2011.

Place on file.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REMEMBERING CATHY LUNDSTAD

Noreen Holmes informed the Commission Board members that Cathy Lundstad an employee of our County Aging Unit passed away on 1-10-2011. Cathy Lundstad was responsible for the Senior Life Paper, "Find a Ride" program and the Annual Appreciation Party in August.

VACANCY POSITION

The vacancy position has now been put on hold due to the economy but hopefully the position will be filled in the near future.

ADVOCACY FOR AGING PROGRAMS

Noreen Holmes sent information regarding a budget repair bill that passed that allows the Administration & Health Services Secretary to make changes to Medicaid programs, Senior Care, Badger Care and Family Care without legislative oversight. Information on aging programs facing cuts, senior care update from CWAG, Elderly Benefit Specialist Program for 2010 Summary Data and Centralization of Income Maintenance Functions Budget Analysis was also provided.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT CON'T
ADVOCACY FOR AGING PROGRAMS CON'T
RESOLUTION TO PROTECT SENIOR CARE PROGRAM**

Noreen Holmes stated that Senior Care saves Wisconsin seniors money every day with a \$30 annual enrollment fee, copayments ranging from \$5 to \$15 and no gaps in coverage and Senior Care provides more comprehensive and less expensive coverage than Medicare Part D. The State plan is to change the Senior Care program to a wraparound with Medicare Part D. Medicare Part D does not negotiate drug prices as Senior Care provides. Seniors enrolled in Senior Care would see the cost of their medications rise and Wisconsin would no longer receive drug rebates through negotiation, further padding drug company profits. The Resolution to the La Crosse County Board would support the continuation of the Senior Care program and rejects the idea proposed to use Senior Care as a wrap around program for Medicare Part D. County Aging Unit projects that the annual cost savings to county taxpayers would be at least \$1,807,280 and statewide savings would be at least \$101,384,000. **MOTION:** Moved by Sharon Hampson and seconded by Ann Fisher to accept the Resolution to protect the Senior Care Program. Pass unanimously. Holman excused. Resolution included with Minutes.

RESOLUTION SUPPORT TRANSIT

Transportation is a vital service for seniors, the disabled and individuals with limited income for La Crosse County and the State of Wisconsin to live better lives and remain independent. It is essential that State transit funds used for share ride taxi and fixed route buses and paratransit systems should not be moved out of the transportation segregated fund to the general purpose fund. La Crosse cannot afford to lose federal funding for the MTU, \$2 million, half of the annual budget, \$46.6 million statewide due to the elimination of collective bargaining and the loss of federal funding will inhibit state aides used as match. The Resolution supports continuing to find ways to coordinate and adequately fund public transit and human services transportation by keeping it in the segregated Transportation Fund. **MOTION:** Moved by Ann Fisher and seconded by Robert Keil to accept the Resolution to Support Transit. Pass unanimously. Holman excused. Resolution included with Minutes

RESOLUTION PRESERVATION OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR MEDICAID CHANGES (MEDICAID, BADGERCARE PLUS, SENIOR CARE, FAMILY CARE)

The State Plan is to change Medicaid programs without oversight from the legislature with too much power in the Executive Branch without existing division of power, legislative oversight that would increase long-term health care costs due to lack of the availability of medical services to treat chronic and acute diseases or conditions. The Resolution supports continuation of the current procedure and rejects concentrating power to make unilateral changes to Medicaid. **MOTION:** Moved by Robert Keil and seconded by Betty Woodruff to accept the Resolution for Preservation of Legislative Oversight for Medicaid Changes. Pass unanimously. Holman excused. Resolution included with Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CON'T
ADVOCACY FOR AGING PROGRAMS CON'T
2010-12 AREA AGENCY ON AGING ASSESSMENT FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Noreen Holmes reviewed and discussed the 2010-12 Area Agency on Aging Assessment for Elderly Nutrition Programs for the County Aging Unit. **MOTION:** Moved by Sharon Hampson and seconded by Betty Woodruff and Robert Keil to accept the 2010-12 Area Agency on Aging Assessment for Elderly Nutrition Programs. Pass unanimously. Holman excused.

MEDICARE DIABETES SCREENING

Noreen Holmes reported that the YMCA has received a Grant on Medicare Diabetes Screening Project. The course is for 13 weeks and the cost is \$150.00 to help individuals understand and cope with diabetes. Fliers were given to the Commission Board members.

VITAL AGING CONFERENCE THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011

The second Vital Aging Conference will be Thursday, 5-19-2011 entitled "Engage, Enhance, Enjoy" and hosted by La Crosse County Aging Unit and UW-La Crosse Gerontology Programs. The conference schedule begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Ken Anderson, retired teacher and Mayberry Enthusiast will re-visit the wonderful town of Mayberry, North Carolina with "Barney Fife" and discover the gifts of a simpler time and place. Ken Anderson will use his connection to his own small hometown to find ways to enjoy the simple things in life. Invitations will be sent to the Commission Board members for this event.

PROCLAMATION VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK

April is Volunteer Recognition Month whereby volunteers are recognized for their time and energy to La Crosse County programs. The week of April 17-23, 2011 as "The Seasons for Caring" will be proclaimed. Certificates will be presented to volunteers for 100 hours or more during the year as well as a potted plant. **MOTION:** Moved by Betty Woodruff and seconded by Robert Keil to proclaim the week of April 17-23, 2011 as National Volunteer Week "The Seasons for Caring". Pass unanimously. Holman excused.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Noreen Holmes reported LogisticCare Provider held meetings on 3-14-2011 and 3-24-2011 regarding the upcoming changes for medical assistance transportation starting July 1st.

The broker duties will operate a call center and take trip requests from Medicaid clients, their families and/or their healthcare providers, assess their need for transportation, authorize/prior authorize transportation to a Medicaid-billable service, determine level of service based on the client's health care needs, schedule and assign trips to Transportation Provider, contract with a network of transportation providers and monitor their compliance with driver, vehicle and

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CON'T

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION MANAGERCON'T

insurance requirements, pay providers and monitor their performance quality and coordinate and communicate with Medicaid and other agencies.

LogisticCare will be the entity to request transportation. Transportation will be grouped in urgent and non-urgent categories. For non-urgent trips, they must be scheduled two business days in advance, by noon or will not be authorized. Two days includes the day of the call but not the day of the appointment. Valid requests for urgent trips, including hospital discharges will be honored within 3 hours of the time of the request. LogisticCare will have flexibility in rates they can contract for. They will not pay for no-shows or deadhead miles.

LogisticCare has been discussing if they will be able to work with agencies that run volunteer driver systems and may contract with them to continue providing and coordinating those services. If they can, the question will be at what rate and will the agency be able to enter into a contract with LogisticCare. If not possible, LogisticCare will create a volunteer driver network by recruiting their own volunteer drivers who will be independent contractors of LogisticCare. All volunteers will have to meet LogisticCare's compliance requirements. LogisticCare is exploring ways to handle the costs associated with those. Volunteer drivers will have to sign an agreement with LogisticCare.

A flyer will be sent out by DHS to all MA agencies and providers. All Medicaid members will be sent a letter by LogisticCare on or about June 4th explaining the new procedures.

The State 85.21 funding is proposed to stay in the segregated fund (not be put in the general purpose fund to compete with other program) with no increase/decrease proposed in spending levels. There is no direct funding concern regarding receiving 85.21 funds and the collective bargaining issue at this time.

MINI BUS

ESTABLISHING AGENCY RATE FOR TRIPS

Noreen Holmes will discuss the agency rate for trips at the May meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution for Older Americans Day

Establishing Agency Rate for Trips

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Robert Keil and seconded by Betty Woodruff to adjourn.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

APPROVED: 5-3-2011 Ruth Hafner, Recorder

