

**COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
TUESDAY, 9-6-2011
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING – ROOM 3212 & Room 3220
2:15 PM – 3:02 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Keil, Acting Vice-Chairperson,
Patricia Boge, Shirley Holman, Ann Fisher, Betty Woodruff

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Audrey Kader, Chairperson, Sharon Hampson,

OTHERS PRESENT: Noreen Holmes, Director, County Aging Unit, Kate Bigalk, Aging Unit Intern

CALL TO ORDER

Robert Keil, Acting Committee Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7-5-2011

MOTION: Motion by Patricia Boge and seconded by Ann Fisher to approve the Minutes of 5-3-2011. Pass unanimously. Excused: Kader, Hampson

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA (informational)

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 8-8-2011 & 8-18-2011

Place on file.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KATE BIGALK'S PRESENTATION "My Little Blue House"

Kate gave a Power Point Presentation which was a virtual tour of her own home which she designed according to "universal design" principles. This includes adaptations for accommodating her wheel chair, such as: lowered switch plates; lowered garage keyless entry; no-step entry ways; no upper kitchen cupboards; kick plates on doors; a dishwasher in a drawer; sinks that accommodate a wheelchair underneath; a 400 disk CD/DVD player; and much more. Kate's presentation gives people a good initial introduction to what can be done to help people "age in place". Noreen Holmes feels this is a growing area and one that will be increasingly utilized by the aging population. Noreen also said she is trying to work with the La Crosse Area Home Builders Association to bring a "Certified Aging in Place Specialist" (CAPS) class to La Crosse.

2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Noreen Holmes informed the Commission the 2012 Budget is very similar to the 2011 Budget. Food prices have increased 3-4% as have transportation costs. Though it may not be possible to keep the 0% increase for 2012, the Aging Unit has introduced some savings to keep the increase as low as possible. The 2012 Budget will be discussed at the October meeting.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CON'T

VOTER ID BILL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ELDERLY

Noreen Holmes discussed the requirements for the 2012 elections requiring IDs for voters. A DRAFT brochure from the La Crosse County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, was discussed. Noreen wanted to emphasize that those receiving an ID from the DMV for the first time will not be able to secure the ID when they visit the DMV but will instead have the ID mailed to them, taking about 10 days. This could have strong implications for those who may procrastinate since it may cost them their right to vote. The Aging Unit hopes to help seniors obtain their birth certificates if they need assistance. Transportation will be provided by the County Aging Unit so seniors can go to the DMV to apply for their ID card. There is a meeting on Wednesday, September 7, sponsored by the League of Women Voters to discuss Voter ID implications.

GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM UWL

Noreen Holmes reported that the Gerontology Certificate Program at UWL will be discontinued after June 2012. No new students will be allowed to enter the program. The University feels the program does not produce enough revenue to continue. Noreen expressed her regret that no similar programs exist and we have an aging population that is growing. Noreen will be contacting Viterbo to inquire about their new minor in Gerontology.

AGING UNIT SELF-ASSESSMENT/GWAAR RESPONSE

A letter from GWAAR's Jayne Mullins, Older Americans Act Consultant is placed on file. The La Crosse County Aging Unit is in compliance with federal and state requirements and received kudos from GWAAR for its achievements.

STRAP APPLICATION FOR 2012

Noreen Holmes announced the STRAP program will be continued in 2012 for those who already participate in the program. The Aging Unit will apply for funding.

MEDICARE D FOR 2011

Open enrollment period has changed for 2011. It begins October 15, 2011 and all applications/changes must occur by December 7, 2011. Previous years the end of open enrollment was December 31. It is hoped this will not produce confusion among enrollees.

SEPTEMBER IS FALLS PREVENTION MONTH

Included with this packet was information about falls prevention. La Crosse County Aging Unit has developed a Falls Prevention Coalition which provides many Stepping On classes in the area. Noreen informed the Commission that we are planning to host a website about falls that will contain the information made available today and more.

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT TUESDAY, 8-2-2011

Noreen Holmes reported the Volunteer Recognition event, held on Tuesday, 8-2-2011 at Baus Haus, was well received by the 125 people who attended. Ann Fisher commented on how much she enjoyed Ken Anderson's presentation about the Andy Griffith Show. Noreen Holmes reported the event planning for next year has already begun.

MEAL SITES**SOLBERG HEIGHTS**

Noreen Holmes reported the closing of this site has been considered for the past several years as part of the budget preparation. The closing of this site is currently planned in 2012.

MINI BUS

No discussion

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Statistical information on the ages of folks in the Home-Delivered and Congregate Meals programs.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Patricia Boge and seconded by Ann Fisher to adjourn.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Disclaimer: The above Minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Noreen Holmes, recorder

