

AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 21, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Dan Ferries, Tara Johnson (exc. 11:25 a.m.), Audrey Kader, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Andrea Richmond, Jerry Sebranek

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Pete Eide, Pam Semb, Noreen Holmes, Jim Gausmann, Kelly Kramer, Margaret Norden, Nick Nichols, Maureen Freedland, Robert Gummer, David Tauscher, Brad Konkel

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2010

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Sebranek/Richmond to approve the minutes of June 7, 2010, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda item:

- a. Commission on Aging Minutes – May 4, 2010

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

POLICY REGARDING POLITICIANS VISITING SENIOR HOUSING AND MEAL SITES

Noreen Holmes provided copies of the state's policy for politicians visiting senior meal sites. She also provided a copy of a memo she wrote to county meal site managers, which encourages having politicians have one-on-one discussions, serve meals and clean up alongside volunteers, and deliver speeches no longer than five minutes. Supervisors Medinger and Plesha spoke about a long-standing attitude of elected officials and candidates being unwelcome, both while campaigning and as interested visitors after elections are over. Holmes stated that there is an understanding with the City Housing Authority that elected officials and candidates are welcome at Senior Meal Sites in City Housing Authority Buildings. Supervisor Kader recommended a committee from the County Aging Unit and/or County Supervisors meet with the City Housing Authority. Supervisor Richmond stated that the policy at other nutrition sites also needs to be clarified. **MOTION** by Kader/Ferries to direct staff to send a letter to nutrition sites to clarify political access for campaigning or visiting all nutrition sites, and to have a subcommittee meet with representatives of the City of La Crosse Housing Authority to discuss further access. **Motion carried unanimously.** Supervisors Kader and Medinger volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE

Jim Gausmann reported on the following events and changes in veteran benefits:

- Effective July 1, 2010, veterans who are receiving prescriptions for conditions that are not service-related will have their co-pay raised from \$8 to \$9 per prescription per month. The new co-pay also applies to prescriptions that are service-related for veterans whose incomes are more than \$39,050 (if single) or \$44,605 (if married). All others will continue at the \$8 co-pay.
- An event to honor Korean War veterans will be held on the 60th anniversary of North Korea's invasion of South Korea. The commemoration will be on June 25, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., at Oak Grove Cemetery at the site of the marker for Pvt. Earl Dansberry who died in North Korea as a prisoner of war.
- The Service Members Care Act was signed into law, and provides reimbursement to caregivers of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans.
- Three conditions have been allowed as presumptive illnesses for Gulf War veterans: Chronic fatigue syndrome, irritable bowel syndrome, and fibromyalgia. They do not require proof that they are conditions related to active duty to receive benefits.

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN CONSIDERATION IN SELECTION OF ARCHITECT

Pete Eide introduced Robert Gummer, PDC Architects, who was chosen as the architect for the Hillview assisted living facility. Eide reported that sustainability criteria were included in considerations when selecting an architect. Gummer provided a list of sustainable design approaches employed by PDC Architects.

INCORPORATION OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ELEMENTS FOR THE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Robert Gummer spoke about his firm's experience with LEED and Green Globes Initiative (GBI) design. He reported that the first assisted living facility to be LEED certified anywhere in the country is outside Chicago, and that assisted living buildings are probably lagging because of the time and cost involved. He reported that his firm incorporates sustainable design as a standard practice. Their design and services for the Hillview project include storm water management, energy-saving lighting and heating, assistance with energy rebates from Focus on Energy, Energy Star rated appliances, specifications for contractors regarding material storage and recycling, and low VOC paints, floor coverings and finishes. Discussion was held about going through a "LEED-like" process from selection of the building site (which was chosen in part for southern light exposure and to preserve wetlands) through commissioning, but not to pursue time-consuming documentation and calculations for LEED certification. Committee consensus was to go through a LEED and/or other certification checklist to see what is already included in the design or can be incorporated as an alternative bid, and to follow sustainable practices. Nick Nichols, La Crosse County Sustainability Coordinator, will continue to be involved in the process. Nichols stated that going through a checklist would not create delays; he further recommended pursuing Energy Star certification. Supervisor Freedland spoke about the process involved in the design of the Law Enforcement Center addition, and shared the checklist that was used by that committee. Further discussion was held regarding the construction timeline, and elements such as roof design and materials, solar hot water, and geothermal energy.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Incorporating Veterans into committee name
Final bids for assisted living contractors

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: AUGUST 9, 2010

Discussion was held regarding an additional meeting in July, if necessary, but no date set.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Richmond/Ferries to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Approved, August 9, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder