

VETERANS, AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

Monday, August 6, 2012

Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 N. 4th St., La Crosse

9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Plesha, Dan Ferries, Dave Holtze, Sharon Hampson, Andrea Richmond (exc. 9:55 a.m.)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve O'Malley, Pete Eide, Kelly Kramer, Pam Semb, Jim Speropulos, Marion Naegle, Dean Ruppert, Jen Timm, Peg Jerome, Beth Brendel, Todd Wilson, and Curtis Johnson

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Holtze/Richmond to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

Ripples & Waves

Commission on Aging Minutes – 7/3/12

Aging in Place September 28, 2012

Volunteer Recognition

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

UPDATE ON ASSISTED LIVING

There are two empty apartments out of 30. There are many people on the interest list and tours are given weekly. There are a few small items left to finish up on construction. Rental costs vary from \$1900 for a studio, \$2400 for a one bedroom apartment and \$2900 for a two bedroom apartment. There are different care packages which include staff on site 24 hours, housekeeping, and linen changes weekly.

NEED FOR LAKEVIEW

O'Malley noted that it is going to be very critical to examine and determine the need for the County to stay in the business of Lakeview services which should be verified by data, facts, as well as information from the private sector of the community. He also received seven emails from surrounding area facilities encouraging La Crosse County to stay in the business and continue with Lakeview services.

• HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT PERSPECTIVE

Dean Ruppert, Deputy Director of Human Services, spoke in support of keeping Lakeview open. He explained the needs of the clients at Lakeview and that they are not able to reside at nursing homes because of their behavioral and mental issues. Staff has been monitoring the needs and costs of services to these 51 clients. Because they are La Crosse County residents, costs come out of a portion of the Human Services budget dedicated for this purpose. He feels the number of beds needed is 45 to 55.

• PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDERS

Curtis Johnson, Director of Finance for Trempealeau County Health Care Center spoke to the need for Lakeview. His facility provides services to 250 to 300 people and he contracts with 70 Wisconsin counties. He feels Lakeview's costs are significantly less than hospitals. There is no shortage of people with needs, but there is a shortage of facilities for these people. He also added that it is a good time for financing with interest rates low.

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Todd Wilson spoke on behalf of Bethany Lutheran Homes. The support for Lakeview is overwhelming throughout the organization. Lakeview has a specialty that most nursing homes don't have. There are many different varieties of behavioral health and Lakeview has staff trained to take on the difficult people that nursing homes won't take and hospitals don't have room for.

Beth Brendel spoke on behalf of Vernon Manor. Lakeview is an asset to the surrounding area. As a social worker, she feels it is nice to have the facility so close to home so families don't have to travel to Madison for visits.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY STAFF TO REPLACE THE LAKEVIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER WITH SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES, CONTINGEN UPON FURTHER EVALUATION OF NEED AND COSTS.

Built in 1974, Lakeview is in need of major repairs costing between \$12 and \$13 million. It is the consensus recommendation by County Administration, Finance, Facilities and Nursing Home staff that Lakeview Health Care Center be replaced with up to three Small Neighborhood Facilities. Lakeview serves clients with very difficult behaviors requiring a high level of staffing and Lakeview is the best facility for these clients. The County Administrator will bring a recommendation to conduct an independent business and management analysis for the evaluation of need for Lakeview, type and sizing of neighborhood facility or facilities, costs and pros and cons of co-location on current Hillview Campus vs. separate presence at the Lakeview Campus. In addition, the Administrator will bring a recommendation on a cost estimate to conduct a preliminary site analysis comparing infrastructure costs between the Lakeview Campus and Hillview Campus.

MOTION by Richmond to call the question.

MOTION by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution. **Motion carried unanimously**

TIMELINE

The goal is to break ground and occupy the facilities by 2014. If not, there will have to be updates done to the old building.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ferries requested discussion on changing the start time of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hampson/Holtze to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Disclaimer: The above minutes were approved on September 17, 2012.

Marion Naegle, Recorder