

## **AGING & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 12, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

10:15 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Plesha, Audrey Kader, Monica Kruse, John Medinger (exc. 10:57), Jerry Sebranek, Margaret Wood

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Andrea Richmond

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ann Fisher

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Pete Eide, Pam Semb, Noreen Holmes, Jim Gausmann, Kelly Kramer, Margaret Norden, Steve O'Malley, David Tauscher

### **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2010**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Sebranek/Wood to approve the minutes of March 8, 2010, and to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. *Ripples & Waves* – Lakeview Newsletter
- b. Commission on Aging Minutes – February 2, 2010

**Motion carried unanimously.** Kader, Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT**

Margaret Wood spoke about serving meals at Becker Plaza, and Audrey Kader spoke about delivering meals at Sauver Manor and on French Island.

### **VITAL AGING CONFERENCE**

Noreen Holmes reported that the Vital Aging conference will be Thursday, May 20, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cartwright Center on the UW-L campus. The theme is "Living, Loving, Laughing Longer," and is about extending quality of life. Holmes also reported on a conference she attended called "Aging in Place" regarding options for staying in homes longer. It emphasized making seniors and building industries people more aware of Certified Aging in Place (CAP) specialists and their services.

### **PROCLAMATION RE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK**

Chair Plesha read the proclamation which recognizes volunteers at Hillview and Lakeview Healthcare Centers and the La Crosse County Aging Unit the week of April 18-24, 2010. Steve O'Malley and Pete Eide spoke about activities that are planned. Supervisor Medinger asked if all volunteers could be recognized. Supervisors Kader/Kruse offered to amend their motion to recognize a broader base of volunteers. Steve O'Malley stated the Proclamation could be revised by the County Board meeting. **MOTION** by Kader/Kruse to proclaim April 18-24, 2010, Volunteer Recognition Week as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

### **33 EXPRESS/STRAP GRANT UPDATE**

Noreen Holmes presented information on the 33 Express that will make a weekly trip from Hillsboro to La Crosse. They plan 10-minute stops in Ontario, Cashton, St. Joseph Ridge, and four stops in La Crosse. It will also stop at Amish farms within three miles of Highway 33. First Transit got the contract, but the County does not yet have a contract with the State, and it is not expected until August-September, 2010. Corporation Counsel will be reviewing implementation of the contract without having the State contract in place. There have been discussions about another route from Galesville and Trempealeau through Holmen, but match dollars are not available yet.

### **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFIT UPDATE**

Jim Gausmann spoke about the state program for dental, vision, and hearing benefits for needy veterans that is out of funding until at least July 1, 2010. He also stated that the veterans' home mortgage program is out of funds. He spoke about veterans that made an irrevocable switch from the Wisconsin GI Bill to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Due to a difference in eligibility standards, some veterans are now ineligible for free tuition at Wisconsin universities and technical schools under the 9/11 Bill who were eligible under the Wisconsin GI Bill. He presented a spreadsheet on geographic distribution of VA expenditures by county, and reported that 33% of La Crosse County veterans were seen at VA health care, which thus relieves local health care facilities and the St. Clare Health Mission.

#### **LZ LAMBEAU EVENT**

Jim Gausmann reported that the event is a "welcome home" event for Vietnam Veterans, and is a kick-off for a Wisconsin Public Television war stories series. Supervisor Wood noted that "5,000 Pounds," a play at the Pump House by and about veterans, will be returning.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: SEEK BIDS FOR AN RCAC (RESIDENTIAL CARE APARTMENT COMPLEX) FOR HILLVIEW HEALTH CENTER**

Chair Plesha took the agenda item out of order. The Resolution authorizes proceeding with soliciting construction bids for a 30-unit residential care apartment complex on the Hillview campus. Steve O'Malley noted that it does not commit money, but only allows getting bids. Pete Eide and Steve O'Malley reported on the projected revenue and expenses, and spoke at length about a ramp-up process toward full occupancy, and the conservative approach that was taken toward estimating costs and revenues. There was lengthy discussion by the committee, including some questions raised by community members about the County proceeding with the project. Steve O'Malley stated that the County Board resolution that passed at the last meeting approved the concept of a Residential Care Apartment Complex to complete the continuum of care on the Hillview Campus and for bringing back a resolution to seek bids for the project. **MOTION** by Plesha/Medinger to approve the Resolution Re: Seek Bids for an RCAC (Residential Care Apartment Complex) for Hillview Health Center. **Motion carried unanimously.** Richmond excused; Fisher absent.

#### **REPORT ON ARRA GRANT FOR SOLAR HOT WATER**

Steve O'Malley reported that Nick Nichols and Brian Fukuda led the County's effort to compete for a \$200,000 ARRA grant, and that they strategized on maximizing their proposal. The grant money will pay for most of the Lakeview solar hot water project. It will not pay for redoing the roof; however, a ground mount is being considered. They will examine options before issuing bids. O'Malley noted that at present Lakeview's utilities bill is almost twice that of Hillview.

#### **DIRECTION ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY ISSUES, RESOLUTIONS FOR WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE DUE JUNE 28, 2010**

Steve O'Malley asked the Committee for specific resolutions to take leadership on. Pam Semb talked about Legislative Bill 49.49(7). O'Malley and Semb will be testifying in Madison on April 13, 2010. The bill addresses the Attorney General's questions that were raised about the Mississippi Valley Health Consortium.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Prescription drugs issue for veterans to receive medications at less expense.

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: MAY 10, 2010**

#### **JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WITH PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE: APRIL 12, 2010**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

**Approved,** April 12, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder