COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
TUESDAY, 4-2-2013
LA CROSSE COUNTY ADMIN BLDG Room 3212
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Kader, Sharon Hampson, Ann Fisher, Betty Woodruff, Robert Keil, Patricia Boge

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Charles Spiker

OTHERS PRESENT: Noreen Holmes, Director, County Aging Unit, Larry White, Outreach Specialist, County Aging Unit, Amy Brezinka, Caregiver Coach Coordinator County Aging Unit

CALL TO ORDER
Sharon Hampson called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1-8-2013
MOTION: Motion by Betty Woodruff and seconded by Ann Fisher to approve minutes of 1-8-13. Passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA (informational)
Aging & Long Term Care Committee Meeting Minutes – 1-7-13, 2-11-13, 3-11-13
Placed on file

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
FALLS PREVENTION COALITION UPDATE FROM LARRY WHITE
The coalition started Feb 24, 2010. They’ve presented 19 ‘Stepping On’ classes to over 200 seniors and presented ‘Stand Strong for Life’ to over 100 seniors. They have assisted UW-La Crosse produce 12 programs on fall prevention to over 250 seniors. Spoken to 24 groups with over 1,075 seniors on falls prevention. They have developed a Falls Prevention Resource Guide and a website www.lacrossestopfalls.org. They promote falls prevention awareness month. Designed, developed, distributed 4,000 Falls Prevention magnets to the First Responders, Fire, and Police Departments and will distribute an additional 4,000 magnets to older adults in La Crosse County. They will implement ‘Remembering When’ Fire and Fall Prevention Program of the National Fire Protection Association. They are applying for funding to train 6 professionals to teach Tai Chi Fundamentals program to older adults at risk of falling. Working with UW-Madison School of Pharmacy to secure funding to develop and ‘Expanding the Role of the Community Pharmacist in Falls Prevention Programs’ in La Crosse County which will facilitate a one-on-one meeting between older adults at risk of falling and a local pharmacist.

AGING IN AMERICA CONFERENCE
The conference was held in Chicago in March. Noreen Holmes, Larry White, and Va Thao, all from the Aging Unit attended, and spoke, at the conference. The focus of the meeting was that people are living longer due to modern medicine, programs such as Strong Seniors, better
preventative care, and topics such as what to do in retirement were addressed. Topics from this conference will be presented at the Vital Aging Conference on June 6, 2013.

**SELF-ASSESSMENT AGING PLAN WITH APPROVAL FROM COMMISSION**
This three year aging plan was from 2010-2012. We have a new plan for 2013-2015. Self-Assessment was approved by Ann Fisher and seconded by Robert Keil unanimous approval to send forward.

**VITAL AGING CONFERENCE – JUNE 6, 2013**
The flyers are complete. Cost of the conference is $25.00, which includes lunch and snacks.

**CAREGIVER COACH UPDATE AND INTRODUCE AMY BREZINKA**
Amy joined the Aging Unit in February, 2013. She is currently developing the Caregiver Coach program. She is working with caregivers, local hospitals, speaking with support groups, businesses with seniors, and learning the support currently available in the La Crosse area.

**STATE FUNDING FOR AGING PROGRAMS**
Transportation funding, if Governor Walker’s budget is approved, moves transportation funding from a segregated fund to the general fund where transportation would compete with other programs for funding. Elderly & Disabled Transportation funding will receive cuts for 2013. La Crosse only lost 1% of its funding in 2013 compared to other counties who lost anywhere from 10-14%. Noreen is attending the Joint Finance Committee meeting on April 10th in Wisconsin Dells to testify against the changes in transportation and transit funding.

**OLDER WORKERS PROGRAM**
Workforce Connections has increased the hours of their Older Workers Program from 18 to 20 hours each week. Experience Works has increased the hours of their Older Workers Program from 16 to 18 hours per week.

**GIFTED HANDS UPDATE**
There are two new people working at Gifted Hands. The Aging Unit has been sending office help over to help balance books at the end of the day, deposit sales at the bank and supplement Saturday help.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
**CAREGIVER EDUCATIONAL SERIES – SOLVING THE CAREGIVER PUZZLE**
Sessions held every month, excluding June, September and December at St Paul’s Lutheran Church, 420 West Ave So, La Crosse. The June, September and December events are “Before the After”, sponsored by Causeway, a member of the Caregiver Coalition. Va Thao has been holding the classes.

**EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION ON AGING PROGRAMS**
Looking at possible 5% decrease in funding to the meals program, if there is no agreement in Washington. Cuts wouldn’t start until the end of April.

**MEAL SITES**
**NEW SITE MANAGER FOR CARROLL HEIGHTS**
Shawn Patton replaced Tammy Gensch in February at the Carroll Heights meal site. Shawn had previous experience with the meal sites so training was minimal. Thank you, Tammy, for all of your hard work. Welcome Shawn.

TRANSPORTATION
5310 APPLICATION FOR VEHICLES
Dave was here in February to talk about the application for 5310 program. Since then, resolution went through to be able to submit application for grant.

APPROVAL OF AGING UNIT AS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR RESOLUTION
It has not been approved at this point in time.

SMRT BUS UPDATE
Transportation has increased recently from 280 riders to over 400 riders daily.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
Next committee meeting will be April 30th instead of May 7th.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Try to get Peter Fletcher to come to meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Motion by Audrey Kader and seconded by Robert Keil to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Disclaimer: The above Minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.

Sue Betz, Recorder.