COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
TUESDAY, 01-03-2014
LA CROSSE COUNTY ADMIN BLDG Room 3212
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Holtze, Audrey Kader, Patt Boge, Ann Fisher, Robert Keil

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Betty Woodruff

OTHERS PRESENT: Noreen Holmes, Director, County Aging Unit, Andrea Richmond, Sue Betz

CALL TO ORDER
Dave Holtze, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 12-03-2013
MOTION: Motion by Robert Keil and seconded by Patt Boge to approve minutes of 12-03-2013. Passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA (informational)
Aging & Long Term Care Committee Meeting Minutes 12-09-2013
Placed on file

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SEQUESTRATION/FEDERAL BUDGET
There is a $30K decrease in the funding budget for 2014 due to Sequestration. The budget agreement reached restores 41% of the Sequestration cuts. Due to the short timeframe to create appropriations it may be that 41% of cuts are restored across the board. This would mean about $12,000 to the Aging Unit. Aging organizations are sending letters and requests to seek full funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA). Funding for various appropriations should be finalized by January 15th.

ADVOCACY FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT PROGRAMS
Congress has come to an agreement on the major budget issues for fiscal year 2014. The House and Senate appropriators will have just a few weeks to negotiate the details of 12 separate appropriations bills. GWAAR is asking people to write to Senators and Representatives regarding the importance of investing in programs for older adults and the importance of the OAA. Noreen will put an article in the February edition of Senior Life asking the public to write their legislators.

GIFTED HANDS DECEMBER SALES
Sales were about the same in December 2013 as in 2012. Sales were up in November 2013 in comparison to 2012. December sales in 2013 = $7,316 & November = $4,300.

DATE CHANGES 2014 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETINGS
The May, October, and November meeting dates will be changed from the first Tuesday of the month to the last Tuesday of the previous month. The meeting dates for 2014 are as follows; 4 February,
AGING IN PLACE UPDATE
The Aging in Place Conference on November 18th was very successful. There were 85 attendees and 15 vendors. The vendors expressed interest in attending future events.

COMMISSION ON AGING BOARD MEMBER TERMS
Members can serve two (3) two year terms with the County Commission on Aging. Noreen will put a notice in the February edition of Senior Life asking for people to apply for any expiring positions on the Commission.

MEAL SITES
EMPLOYEE MEALS
La Crosse County is the only county in Wisconsin which has not asked employees for donations to assist with their meal costs. With the budget cuts we are facing this year we must look at all possible ways to reduce spending so our programs can continue with the least amount of impact as possible. We are asking that employees contribute $2.00 per meal. A motion was made to continue free meals for volunteers at this time and reassess the need for the number of volunteers at each site, to cut costs. Motion by Audrey Kader and seconded by Ann Fisher. Passed unanimously.

CLOSINGS: BILLY’S LANTERN AND BLACK OAK
Both Billy’s Lantern and Black Oak have discontinued meal service as of December 31st. At this time we are looking for additional sites.

QUEST CARD
We’ve been approved to accept Quest card (Food Stamps) as payment for meals.

TRANSPORTATION
RFP APPROVAL OF PROVIDER
Only one provider responded to our Request for Proposals for the MiniBus, First Transit. We currently pay $35.88 per hour for bus/driver and the cost will go to $37.22 per hour in 2014. If we owned our own vehicle the cost would be $1.36 less per hour. Currently, we own one vehicle used for the MiniBus. First Transit does a good job for us, customers are satisfied, and the cost is reasonable. Move to approve motion by Audrey Kader and seconded by Patt Boge. Passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
None

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Motion by Robert Keil and seconded by Audrey Kader to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Sue Betz, Recorder