COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
FRIDAY, 05-31-2016
LA CROSSE COUNTY ADMIN BLDG, 400 4TH STREET N, ROOM 3212, LA CROSSE
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Richmond, Sharon Hampson, Donna Kateley, Ramona Van Riper, James Hanesworth, Kathy Lucey, Dan Ferries

MEMBERS excused: Dave Holtze

OTHERS present: Audra Martine, ADRC Manager, Jane Jackson, ADRC Supervisor, Sue Betz

CALL TO ORDER
Andrea Richmond called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Andrea introduced Dan Ferries to the committee members and all the members introduced themselves to Dan.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
Dave Holtze resigned due to multiple commitments. Dan Ferries nominated Andrea Richmond for Chair, Sharon Hampson seconded. No further nominations. Kathy Lucey moved to close nominations. All members approved. Andrea Richmond nominated Dan Ferries for Vice Chair, Sharon Hampson seconded. No further nominations. Andrea Richmond moved to close nominations. All members approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 05-03-16
MOTION: Sharon Hampson pointed out that her name was listed as present and excused. She was excused that day. Correction will be made. Motion by Jim Hanesworth and seconded by Ramona Van Riper to approve minutes of 05-03-16. Passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA (informational)
Aging & Long Term Care Committee Meetings 05-09-16
Placed on File

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
OLDER AMERICAN ACT (OAA) REDISTRIBUTION BY DHS
Audra Martine and Amy Simonis attended the first of three planning sessions in Madison to discuss how Older American Act monies should be distributed in Wisconsin. About 20 counties participated. Distribution has been based largely on the poverty rates of senior in counties but the State census does not gather that information accurately any longer. The next two meetings are scheduled for June and July. La Crosse’s allocation amount for future years is unknown at this point.

OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS
-Peggy attended an outreach session at Eagle Crest in Onalaska. Several residents are from out of town and are concerned about transportation. They report feeling isolated. We’ll do what we can to help the residents understand the transportation options available.
The 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection received a grant to provide training to paid caregivers and professionals in the area with concerns specific to the LGBTQ community. The first of three trainings will be on June 7th from 9-3:30 at the Myrick Park Center.

The ADRC will participate with United Health Care, the Health Dept, and other agencies this fall with a "Breakfast in a Bag" event. The event is free for everyone. Audra will e-mail the committee members the date and time.

The ADRC is also partnering with the Health Dept and community members to perform a training session related to Family Assistance Center (which assist the community in the event of a disaster).

PROGRAM UPDATES
-There has been no response from legislature at this time concerning combining the Income Maintenance and ADRCs in Wisconsin.
- The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has put out a new paper concerning Family Care and a meeting could be set soon or they defer discussion. It is possible that a meeting could be scheduled for as early as June 6th if one is to occur.
-There are many committees and boards that oversee parts of the long term care system. There is concern that some overlap in material being discussed. The state is currently reviewing ADRC Governing Boards and their oversight areas.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2017
We’re beginning to look at the 2017 budget. There have been many changes this year including combining the Aging Unit with the ADRC, contract changes within the ADRC, structural/construction, and personnel moves. We are cautious in considering further changes until we see how things evolve, however, there are some programs that will need discussion. Those include the Caregiver Coach program whose grant funding ends this year, the Hmong Elder meal site program which also has grant funding that will end this year and other planning for continuation to discuss, and review how the changes in the transportation program will affect funding over the next few months. A meeting with the leader of the Hmong Cultural Center is scheduled for mid-June.

MEAL SITES
DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM
Audra provided a handout of the nutrition program statistics showing meal counts for congregate and home delivered meal activity from 2012 to 2016. Over the years we’ve had a few sites close and we will continue to monitor activities at each meal site.

DATA REVIEW FIRST QUARTER
Based on statistics from the first quarter it looks as though congregate meal participation is decreasing in 2016 and home delivered meal participation is rising. We’ll monitor the program to ensure participants receiving home delivered meals are home bound and unable to attend meal sites for congregate meals.

DISCUSSION ON CURRENT SITES/UTILIZATION
We’re researching the West Salem site location to see if there would be a better place to have a site that would bring in more participants.

TRANSPORTATION
DATA REVIEW FIRST QUARTER
Most rides in the first quarter were to medical appointments. The minibus accepts all requesters that qualified as over 60 or disabled for any rides needed. No Older American Act dollars are used for
transportation. We are recommending to look at the most cost effective ways to provide transportation going forward.

DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDED POLICY
The ADRC has developed a triaging process that will assist riders to utilize the most effective transportation resource to meet their needs. A few examples being that if someone is on Medicaid, Medicaid pays for transportation to/from medical appointments; if someone is under Family Care, the rider should look into having transportation included under their individual service plan. We’ll also help those who are unfamiliar with public transportation that are eligible to use it; we can assist with schedules and help them learn how to use public transportation.

RECOMMENDATION OF PROCESS CHANGE TO HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Audra provided the committee members with a Request for Board Action Report giving the background, reason for the report and action needed to move forward with the new transportation contract that will be effective the first of July. There was a motion to approve the request by Sharon Hampson and it was seconded by Dan Ferries. All members approved. Signed copy of recommendation attached.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: Motion by James Hanesworth to adjourn, seconded by Dan Ferries. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Report to the La Crosse County Commission on Aging

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

SECTION: Aging and Disability Resource Center

SUBJECT: Minibus Program Changes to Authorization Process

PREPARED BY: Audra Martine

REVIEWED BY: Jason Witt

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon approval, screening for July 1, 2016 start date would begin

MEETING DATE: 5/31/2016

REQUIRED REPORT
APPROVAL/DENIAL
REQUIRES FURTHER APPROVAL

County Board
Other (identify):

Background: The Aging and Disability Resource Center’s Minibus service will experience a transition to a new vendor, Abby Vans, on July 1, 2016. Due to the change in contract terms and increase in contracted cost, the ADRC is needing to create a new authorization process for individuals requesting rides.

Reason for Board Report: On July 1, Abby Vans will begin serving the Minibus consumers. The ADRC has developed a triaging process that will assist ride requesters to utilize the most effective transportation resource to meet their needs and that provides continuity to the transportation service system. Previously and currently, the Minibus accepted all requesters that qualified as over 60 or disabled for any rides needed.

In order to properly assess what transportation resource is available to best meet the individual’s need an assessment process has been developed/proposed that will consider the following points:

- If the individual is currently funded under a program that is required to provide transportation (for example, Medicaid pays for transportation to/from medical appointments; Family Care may pay for transportation if it is approved in the individual’s service plan) we would explain to them and assist them with requesting coverage through their program.

- As the City of La Crosse MTU serves some of the same territory as the Minibus, is accessible, provides a more flexible ride schedule and may be more cost effective for the customer if their rides are within the covered territory, we would discuss with the customer if they are able/willing to utilize fixed route MTU service if it meets their transportation needs and is a better option. Barriers/concerns with this option will be problem solved with the individual (for example, if they have not attempted to use the MTU service before, we may offer options for support in learning how to ride).
• As the City of La Crosse MTU Paratransit serves some of the same territory, it is accessible, costs less to the consumer per trip, provides a more flexible ride schedule, and uses the same bus/transportation provider as the Minibus, we would discuss with the customer (if they are unable to use the fixed route MTU service) whether they may be eligible for Paratransit service. If they may be eligible, we would assist them in the application process and offer to fund them through the Minibus until they have a response/outcome so they will not have interruption to their transportation needs being met.

• As the Shared Ride service, available in Onalaska/Holmen/West Salem serves some of the same territory and costs less to the consumer per trip, we would discuss with the customer if they are able/willing to utilize the Shared Ride service if it meets their transportation needs and is a better option. Barriers/concerns with this option will be problem solved with the individual.

• Transportation funding from the ADRC would continue to be utilized to serve individuals with Minibus service when other options are not the most effective, for trips beyond the county boundaries (through our Volunteer Driver Program or other means), and for temporary Minibus authorizations while their other funding options are assessed.

• During our discussion with an individual requesting transportation, if concerns are expressed that indicate the person might need more help in meeting their needs, the ADRC staff will also discuss community options available to them that could improve their situation (this may include private insurance covered service, Veteran’s benefits, free services, or how to access options that are privately paid for by the customer). If paying for services or support is a concern for the individual, the ADRC can explore with them resources that may be available to them on a short or long term basis (free services, grant funding, community funds, etc.). The ADRC can also assist in considering eligibility for Family Care/IRIS (Include, Respect, 1 Self-Direct) or other options available through Medicaid and/or Medicare programs.

Our goal in making these proposed program authorization processes is to create a thoughtful approach that considers the customers short and long term needs for transportation and other services. We believe this approach provides a more independence-focused method to La Crosse residents in provision of transportation by offering options that allow greater flexibility, less cost, greater community integration, and an improved utilization of the overall La Crosse area transportation system. For the ADRC program, making this transition will also provide, over time, stabilization of cost by focusing our program on meeting unmet transportation needs of individuals who are aging and/or disabled.

Action Needed: We are asking the Commission on Aging to support our recommendation to Health and Human Services Board to utilize a new authorization process for transportation as of July 1, 2016, with communication to the public/initial assessments to begin upon approval.