

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

MAY 8, 2008

Chairman Teichmiller called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Aging Committee at 9:00 a.m., on May 8, 2008, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Room 2, in Eagle River, Wisconsin

Present: Black, Gussick, Hansen, Johnson, Kneip, Nielsen, Platner, Rollmann and Wise. Staff present, Director Fortmann and Richmond. Members Excused, Montgomery Also present were County Board Chairman Favorite, County Board Supervisor Radtke, Carol Radtke, Verdelle Mauthe, Joe Costanza, Vilas News Review and Eric Johnson, Lakeland Times.

*Picture of the group was taken by newspaper representatives

Approve Agenda: Agenda has been properly posted. Nielsen moved, Rollmann seconded to approve as mailed.

- May be changed at the discretion of the Chair. Carried.

Approve Minutes: Gussick moved for approval, Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on April 9, 2008. Carried.

Agenda Item #4 Report of the Northern Area Agency on Aging:

May Report discussed

- Older Americans Study
- How to find Hidden Money
- Non Emergency Medical Transportation Requirement
- New Aging & Long Term Care Director appointed in Lac du Flambeau to replace Mary Peterson
- Nielsen updated the progress of the re-organizational structure for combining Agencies on Aging into one Agency

Agenda Item #5 Program and Committee Reports

Directors Report:

- Welcome to Erv Teichmiller and Mary Platner, newly appointed members
- Platner commented the one page ad in Vilas News Review was very nice
- New method for Complaint Intake
 - Already had one try on the new process
 - Fortmann has orange file folder for complaints
- External Funds
 - United Way Grant has been filed and we are awaiting our interview date
 - Funds from OCI (Office of Commissioner of Insurance), Fortmann will meet with Gengle and Terri Miller from UW Extension to work on outreach
- Contract with Maren Rahn
 - Staff reviewing format
 - One Presentation at each of the six meal sites
- An aide from Congressman Kagen's office was at the Kalmar Senior Center
 - Fortmann wants our seniors to be informed voters
- Working on draft for Volunteer Registrations
 - Criminal background checks
 - Driving record checks
 - Confidentiality Issues

- Fortmann attended Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) meeting in Hayward on April 22
- Reviewed Commission on Aging budget
- Attended the Alzheimer's Dinner Dance in Rhinelander on April 26
- Attended meals sites in: Land O'Lakes, Kalmar, Phelps, Boulder Junction and Fibbers
- Received request from Daybreak Adult Day Center to be a part of the Commission on Aging
 - will bring information before the Committee before any decisions made
- Meeting with Oneida Village with LaFata and Richmond regarding food quality
- Meeting with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Meeting for Joy of Giving
- Requested permission to speak with Spine and Sport regarding a flyer they have sent to us to do presentations at Senior Clubs and Nutrition Sites.
- Recognized and presented Certificates to Fred Radtke for 9 years of service to the Commission on Aging and to Steve Favorite for 2 years of service

Friendly Visitors/Family Caregiver Support:

- * Barron reports
 - a. Powerful Tools for Caregiving class started
 - b. Attended Palliative Care Meeting and is working on Workshop
 - c. Home Support Program assisted three families
 - d. 4 Friendly Visitors, visited 5 persons, with 94 miles driven

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

- No report, meeting with key stakeholders following committee meeting

Chore:

1. Sixteen households reimbursement for 107 hours of service = \$3,450.14
2. No Handyman expenses reimbursed
3. Budget remaining, \$19,422.94.
4. One household on the waiting list.

Alzheimer's:

1. Six households received reimbursement in the amount of \$815.00
2. Budget balance of the budget is \$9,214.21.
3. There are no households on the waiting list.
4. Fortmann has been asked to serve on the Daybreak Committee. We do share resources with both Adult Day Centers
5. Nielsen stated that this program is under utilized. Teichmiller suggested that there could be some emotional barriers attached.

Escort:

1. Twenty clients driven > 2989 = \$1,593.93 cost
2. Volunteers donated 158 hours of service
3. Cash donations = \$2,252.81 year to date.
4. Fortmann stated this program is doing very well.

Nutrition:

1. 2951 meals served in April
2. Cost = \$21,365.37
3. Donations = \$6,851.50
4. Numbers are looking much better than in March
5. There is heavier use of this program in summer months
6. Richmond set up training for our site managers for Food Safety Class on June 27
7. Home Delivered meals are way up in Eagle River area because this is our largest population base

Benefit Specialists

Gengle reports

1. 35 clients assisted
2. 49 issues addressed
3. Economic impact = \$316,507.80
4. Year to date economic impact = \$825,556.67
5. All calls received by Benefit Specialists in 2007, 59% were related to Medicare Part D, but the financial impact was only 20%.
6. Fortmann discussed with Representative Kagen's aide about how much time and money has been spent on Medicare Part D.

CWAG Report

Radtke reports

1. Need more grants and memberships to help with financial deficits.
2. Legislature Committee assigned Fred Radtke to 2008-2010 Platform Committee
3. Annual Convention is July 10-11, 2008 in Green Bay. Bart and Cheri Starr will be speakers.
4. Next Meeting date is on July 9, 2008, in Green Bay
5. District Meeting date is on October 31, 2008 in Merrill.

Agenda Item #6 Old Business

Monthly Expense Report

1. Total monthly expenditure = \$36,878.98
2. Year to date = \$136,468.38, approximately 23% of the total budget.
3. Fortmann would like to be as close to zero balance at end of year as possible.

Agenda Item #7 New Business

Travel Requests

Motion by Rollmann, second by Gussick to approve the following:

- a. May 9, 2008, Headwaters Transportation Committee in Rhinelander for Fortmann & Richmond.
- b. May 14, 2008, Alzheimer's Planning Session in Rhinelander for Richmond
- c. May 16, 2008, Nutrition Director's Meeting in Merrill for Richmond
- d. May 29, 2008, Headwaters Transportation Committee in Mole Lake for Fortmann, Richmond, Nielsen
- e. June 24-25, 2008, WAND (Wisconsin Assoc. for Nutrition Directors) in Stevens Point for Richmond
- f. May 16, 2008, Wisconsin Counsel for Blind in Fifield for Nielsen

Fred Radtke requested that Fortmann put his travel for CWAG (Coalition for Wisconsin Aging Groups) on our travel list since he is acting as our representative when he attends.

Motion by Black, second by Kneip that we authorize Radtke, as our representative, to travel to and from CWAG meetings. Carried. Gussick suggested that we bring that before the County Board Chair to confirm.

Prayer at Nutrition Sites:

- Teichmiller requested that we keep our discussion to twenty minutes since we have already at length discussed this topic.
- Corporation Counsel was present to answer any questions and address issue of employees of County cannot lead, organize or discourage anyone from prayer, but participants are allowed to prayer either silently or audibly.
- Black read his letter regarding the Constitutional Amendment.
(NOTE: Copy is available in the Commission on Aging office.)
- Kneip addressed highlights from her letter to the Editor
- County Board Chairman Favorite stood up and thanked Corporation Counsel for lending us her opinion and as County Board Chair, he feels that the County's employees cannot lead prayer in our official capacities.
- Fortmann stated that if we handled it improperly to begin with, he apologizes, but that he recommends that we follow the Policy and Procedures that have been given to us. A copy of 8.4.27.5 from Policies and Procedures Manual was distributed.

Motion was made by Wise, second by Hansen that we follow the 8.4.27.5 Section of Policy and Procedure Manual.

-Hansen stated that she understood the policies that County employees cannot lead prayer but wanted to make sure that the participants could still pray.

-Black requested an amendment be made to the motion requesting that our site managers say a disclaimer that if they are leading prayer, it is not in their official capacity as County employees. No second given to this amendment.

- Platner asked for site manager, Mauthe, to give her comments. Mauthe responded that at her site they do not say prayer. Only twice have they given a generic "thanks" for the food at a holiday.
- Kneip stated it was discrimination if the group stands up for prayer and she would decide not to, then she is not "part" of the group.
- Joe Costanza asked for clarification of public or private sites.
-Stated that even though sites held at a restaurant are public, if they are acting in capacity as nutrition site, it is operated by Commission on Aging.
- Radtke gave his opinion that the problem started at Boulder Junction site inviting different Pastors to come and say prayer before the meal. Those not of that faith were upset. He would recommend that we discourage prayer said out loud, keep it silent so everyone can do what they want.
- Teichmiller stated that we have not stopped prayer, just the county employees cannot lead the prayer.
- Corporation Counsel was thanked for coming and assisting our Committee with this issue.

All in favor of Motion to adopt the 8.4.27.5 Section of the Policy and Procedures Manual were Black, Gussick, Hansen, Johnson, Nielsen, Platner, Rollmann, Teichmiller and Wise. Favorite voted as County Board Chairman in favor of the motion also.

Nay, Kneip.

Request for Office Equipment:

-There was a request to purchase a three panel tabletop display system to expand our outreach.

-Cost is \$299.00

There was a motion to accept request to purchase by Rollmann, second by Platner. Carried.

Request for DOT Trust Funds:

Northwoods Senior Club has requested funds from our Department of Transportation Trust Funds to repair the alternator on their van. They have received two estimates and Fortmann recommended that we go with the \$281.00 estimate from Auto and Tire Clinic in Eagle River. Motion by Nielsen, second by Black to approve request for DOT Trust funds. Carried.

Resolution of Scheduling Conflicts:

-There are a few conflicts with other department committees. Teichmiller asked that Fortmann work these out with the other committees.

Agenda Item #8 Letters and Correspondence:

- Nielsen stated that he received a letter from Representative Meyer regarding supporting the bill to increase funding for the Benefit Specialist Program. Richmond stated that we have already sent a Support Letter to the State.

Agenda Item #9: There was a motion by Nielsen with a second by Platner to approve the payment of the April bills. Carried.

Future Meeting Date:

JUNE 12, 2008, AT THE BOULDER BEER BAR IN BOULDER JUNCTION, AT 9:30 A.M. FOR THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO CALL RICHMOND FOR LUNCH RESERVATIONS.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Nielsen with a second by Platner to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Carried.

Minutes reflect the recorders notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Susan Richmond
Administrative Secretary

Joe Fortmann
Director