

## Southwest Dane Outreach Board Meeting- April 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Pat Farrell at 5:05pm. In attendance were Cheryl Sutter, Lynn Forshaug, Pat Farrell, Julie Schmocker, Cecile McManus, Theresa Judd, Karen Tetzlaff, Mary Ann Nelson and Denise Schwenn. Janis Hiltbrand was absent. The minutes from the December 4, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Cheryl S. made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen T. seconded the motion.

Denise Schwenn, the Financial Director for the Village of Mt. Horeb brought copies of the un-audited draft of the 2024 budget and explained the line items. She also brought copies of the Financials through March 31, 2025. She has revised the monthly financial spreadsheets to be easier to read and understand. The Board did ask Denise to make a few more changes to the Financial Spreadsheet. Denise will send the revisions to Lynn and she will send them out to all the Board Members.

Denise shared info about the "Special Project Fund" accounts that we had talked about in 2023. These accounts would be designated as a Special Project Account, a Scholarship Account, a Resident Assistance Account, and an Equipment Account. Money would be put into these accounts from the Special Project Fund to purchase equipment, pay a scholarship for a senior to go on a trip or participate in a program that they normally couldn't afford or help seniors pay for a need they have (groceries, medication, etc.) The Board designated \$11,000.00 to be used for these accounts in 2026, since the 2025 budget has already been set. We will be able to use money from these four accounts though in 2025.

### Updates:

Volunteers from the VITA Tax Program through Goodwill Industries provided FREE Tax preparation for 77 seniors in the Mt. Horeb area.

Martina Steffes, a student intern has been working with the Mt. Horeb Senior Center since January, 2025 in conjunction with getting her Master's Degree in Public Health. Martina's thesis project pertained to "Fall Prevention". She made a Power Point regarding Fall Prevention and shared it with the Tai Chi Class that is held at the Senior Center on a weekly basis and made brochures on "Fall Prevention" to share with seniors. She also set up a Face Book page for the Senior Center to promote programs and events coming up at the Center.

We have received the first installment payments from the Town of Springdale and Village of Blue Mounds. Lynn will be in contact with the other municipalities regarding their annual contribution.

Lynn has been attending in person meetings at the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County for the first time since the Pandemic. The meetings are regarding possible cuts or the eliminations of programs for seniors with the change in administration.

The Mt. Horeb Senior Center will be hosting a four week "Crossing Bridges" class for seniors (and their caregivers) who are experiencing early memory issues. Dementia Care Specialists, from the Dane County ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) will be conducting these classes. We will also be hosting a "Stepping on Class" which is an evidenced based program to improve people's balance. Wisconsin has the highest number of falls in the Country!

The Dane County Area Agency on Aging has updated their nutrition software which keeps track of the number of meals served, meal assessments for all meal participants, etc. We are very lucky to have volunteers who enter this information into this system monthly.

Alexis Cox, the Nutrition Manager was off for one month due to health issues. The staff and loyal Nutrition Volunteers kept the program running smoothly. Alexis is due to recertify her "Serve Safe" Nutrition Manager's license" in July.

Senior Center Directors and Case Managers in Dane County are getting frustrated with MCO's (Managed Care Organizations) who have taken over the cares of many low-income seniors in Dane County. Some of these clients were formally clients of the local Senior Centers. Once a client goes onto an MCO, these clients are no longer clients of the local Senior Centers. The problem that is now occurring is there are not enough MCO Support Staff to come to the rural communities to assist these seniors with home chore and personal care services. The MCO's are being paid by Medicaid to provide these services and they are not doing so. These seniors continue to call their former Case Managers at the Senior Centers for assistance and the Senior Centers are not getting reimbursed for these services.

Lynn and Julie are looking into starting a Veteran's group at the Senior Center. They have been in contact with Jeff Anderson and Bob Johnson with the VFW.

The AAA (Area Agency on Aging of Dane County) is in the process of hiring a new Manager for the Case Management Program.

Next Meeting- June 11, 2025- 5:00pm

Mary Ann Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cecile McManus seconded the motion.