

**COP/LONG-TERM SUPPORT PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**December 15, 2008**

The Community Options Program (COP)/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee met on December 15, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building. Members in attendance included Shirley Sloniker, Frances Smith, Shirley Kleist, Diane Niggemann, Judi Fillmore, Dennis Fuchs, Nancy Nelson, Ingrid Purvis, and Russ Blennert.

Nancy Nelson made a motion to approve the September 15, 2008 minutes as printed. Shirley Kleist seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Judi Fillmore made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting as printed. Diane Niggemann seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with a summary report of Community Options Program (COP) activities and wait list information. This report indicated that there are currently 111 Taylor County residents who are receiving Community Options Program and Community Options Program – Waiver funded services. The report also shows that there have been 87 COP assessments completed for 2008. There have been 64 COP case plans completed as well. This summary report also indicates that target groups are served at the following percentages under the COP program: elderly, 64.9%; physically disabled, 15.3%; developmentally disabled, 9%, and chronically mentally ill, 10.8%. This report indicates that there is no one on the waiting list currently for Community Option Program or COP-Waiver services. There are seven residents who have requested CBRF services who are currently being provided services in their own homes, but may need CBRF services in the future.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with information regarding the expansion of the Family Care/Managed Care Program in the state of Wisconsin. He indicated that there has been some delay in the implementation of this managed care program in the northwest region of the state. He also told committee members that there may be more information regarding the expansion of Family Care coming via the Governor's State of the State address as well as information in the Governor's next biennium budget.

Russ Blennert presented committee members with copies of the Adult Long-Term Care Functional Screen that is used by the social workers in the completion of the COP assessment and is part of the requirement for eligibility for long-term care services under COP and MA waivers. This is an "electronic" screen that is submitted directly to the State for a determination of eligibility.

Diane Niggemann, Director of the Commission on Aging relayed some information regarding her office's programs that have a potential impact on long-term support clients as well. According to Ms. Niggemann, the area aging offices have now been consolidated to only three offices within the state of Wisconsin. Diane also spoke of some changes in her congregate meal sites which may include a reduction in the number of days at some of the sites. She also described the Red Prescription Bag program that is available to Taylor County residents for their medications.

The next meeting of the COP/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee was set for Monday, March 16, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building located at the fairgrounds.

Shirley Kleist made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Russ Blennert  
Secretary

**COP/LONG-TERM SUPPORT PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**September 15, 2008**

The Community Options Program (COP)/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee met on September 15, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building. Members in attendance included Shirley Sloniker, Frances Smith, Shirley Kleist, Nancy Nelson, Ingrid Purvis, Dennis Fuchs, Reiny Klingbeil, Nancy Doberstein, George Southworth, Judi Fillmore, and Russ Blennert. RuthAnne Pipkorn attended representing the Taylor County Commission on Aging.

Nancy Nelson made a motion to approve the June 16, 2008 minutes as printed. Shirley Kleist seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Nancy Doberstein made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting as printed. Judi Fillmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with a report of Community Options Program (COP) activities and wait list information. There are currently 99 Taylor County residents who are receiving Community Options Program and Community Options Program – Waiver funded services. This report indicates that there have been 68 COP assessments completed for 2008. There have also been 49 new case plans completed for this year. This report also indicates that the four target groups are served at the following percentages of the whole: elderly, 64.6%; physically disabled, 15.2%; developmentally disabled, 9.1%, and chronically mentally ill, 11.1%. There was some discussion among members that the mentally ill target group has increased in numbers regarding COP-funded services most recently. This resulted in discussion among members regarding the functional screen that is used to determine eligibility for the COP program and the Waiver programs. Russ Blennert indicated that the electronic functional screen that has been used for the past few years now takes subjectivity out of the equation regarding functional eligibility. This report also indicates that there are four people on the waiting list for CBRF services who are not on the program at this time. There are also five people on our waiting list for CBRF services who are currently receiving in-home services but whose needs are increasing. There are no people on the waiting list for COP or COP-Waiver services who are residing in their own homes or apartments.

Russ Blennert presented the committee members with three requests for high-cost funding for special one-time projects. This high-cost funding is available from the State of Wisconsin and it is completely new funding but it is contingent upon the approval of the Long-Term Support Committee. Funding for these high-cost projects is approximately 60% federal dollars and 40% state dollars.

- 1) This request is from an 85-year-old Taylor County resident who requires assistance in the form of a wheelchair ramp to his home and also bathroom modifications. The total cost of this project would be \$7,975.
- 2) This request is from a 52-year-old Taylor County resident who is physically disabled and does receive services from this agency through the Community Options Program in order to stay in her own home. The specific request is to repair an existing ramp and also to install a handicapped shower in the home.
- 3) This request is for an extensive bathroom modification for a 76-year-old Taylor County person who suffers from Parkinson's disease and now requires modification to the home in order to avoid placement in a nursing home. The total cost of this project would be \$11,644.

A motion was made by Nancy Doberstein to approve the high-cost funding projects as

described. Frances Smith seconded the motion. The motion was passed by committee members.

There was discussion by Russ Blennert and committee members regarding the status of the progress of the Long-Term Care Re-Design by the State of Wisconsin. Russ Blennert distributed a memorandum from the State of Wisconsin which describes that counties will continue to be responsible for adult protective services, which includes guardianships, protective placements, annual court reviews, elder abuse and adult-at-risk investigations after counties move to a "Family Care model" of management of the COP and Waiver programs. This memo from the state indicates that the amount of funding for all of these adult protective services provided by counties would be very minimal and, in fact, for Taylor County the amount of funding is stated to be \$24,780 per year. Russ Blennert described that these services are mandated by the state and, in fact, required of counties by statute. However, funding for the management of the operations of these functions is minimal and it appears will continue to be quite minimal. RuthAnne Pipkorn of the Commission on Aging stated that the Commission on Aging is not currently funded to provide disability benefit counseling for those people who are under 60 years of age, but only for those over 60. Under the state's proposed Family Care plan, such a disability benefit specialist would be available for people under 60 years of age at a regional aging and disability resource center. In response to questions from committee members, Russ Blennert indicated that a decision to move to engage in participation in the Family Care model would be a decision that would be made by members of the Human Services Board and the County Board itself.

The next meeting of the COP/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee was set for Monday, December 15, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building located at the fairgrounds.

George Southworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Doberstein seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Russ Blennert  
Secretary

**COP/LONG-TERM SUPPORT PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**June 16, 2008**

The Community Options Program (COP)/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee met on June 16, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building. Members in attendance included Shirley Sloniker, Frances Smith, Dennis Fuchs, Shirley Kleist, Nancy Nelson, Nancy Doberstein, George Southworth, Ingrid Purvis, Reiny Klingbeil, Judi Fillmore, Diane Niggemann, and Russ Blennert.

Shirley Kleist made a motion to approve the March 24, 2008 minutes as printed. Judi Fillmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Frances Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting as printed. Nancy Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with a report of Community Options Program (COP) activities and wait list information. Currently there are 95 Taylor County residents receiving Community Options Program and Community Options Program – Waiver funded services. There have been 58 new COP assessments completed for 2008. There have been 35 case plans developed during this time as well. The target groups that are served are served at the following percentages of the whole: elderly, 64.2%; physically disabled, 15.8%; developmentally disabled, 10.5%, and chronically mentally ill, 9.5%. This report also indicates that there continues to be a waiting list for Community Options Program services in Taylor County, although the list has continued to go down quite dramatically of recent. Currently, there is only one person on the waiting list for in-home services in Taylor County. There are no people on the list for an increase in in-home services. Currently, there are four people who are being served but are on the list for CBRF funding and there are also seven people on the waiting list for CBRF services who are not on the program. There was some discussion among committee members regarding the relatively small waiting list and specifically for in-home services in Taylor County as compared with much of the State. There was also discussion regarding the nursing home relocation slots that have been accessed by Taylor County which has had a positive effect on serving people in the community.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with one request for special high-cost funding for a one-time limited project that is available from the State of Wisconsin. Funding for the COP high-cost project is approximately 60% federal and 40% state funding.

- 4) This request is from the family of a six-year-old child who is a participant in the Children's Waiver Program in Taylor County. The specific request is for funding of \$8,859 for the construction of a backyard enclosure that would limit the wandering behavior of this child and would provide for his safety. A motion was made by Diane Niggemann to approve the high-cost funding for this person. Frances Smith seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Russ Blennert and Diane Niggemann presented committee members with a general update of the Long-Term Care Re-Design, or Family Care as it is known. Informational maps were distributed which indicated the various Family Care organizations in and around the state and also indicated start-up dates for Family Care participation by counties and groups of counties. There was a great deal of discussion regarding Family Care and Family Care implementation by the State of Wisconsin and discussion regarding the merits or value of Family Care implementation versus the current COP and Waiver Programs that are now serving people. Russ Blennert and Diane Niggemann will continue to monitor the Family Care implementation and provide feedback.

Diane Niggemann, Director of the Commission on Aging and committee member informed the committee of some of the upcoming events sponsored by the Commission on Aging. These include "Living Well with Chronic Conditions," a "Final Affairs" seminar, and an "AARP Driver Safety Course."

Diane also informed committee members about the RX Take Home Bag Program she is sponsoring to assist Taylor County residents with management of their medication.

The next meeting of the COP/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee was set for Monday, September 15, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building located at the fairgrounds.

George Southworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley Kleist seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Russ Blennert  
Secretary

**COP/LONG-TERM SUPPORT PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**March 24, 2008**

The Community Options Program (COP)/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee met on March 24, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building. Members in attendance included Shirley Sloniker, Dennis Fuchs, Frances Smith, Nancy Doberstein, Shirley Kleist, Nancy Nelson, George Southworth, Ingrid Purvis, Reiny Klingbeil, Judi Fillmore, Diane Niggemann, and Russ Blennert.

Shirley Kleist made a motion to approve the December 17, 2007 minutes as printed. Nancy Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Nancy Doberstein made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting as printed. George Southworth seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Peggy Nordgren of the UW-Extension Office presented the committee with the results of a Family Caregiver's Survey that had been distributed to employees of Taylor County. Results of the survey indicated that of the 106 employees completing the survey, 59% are caregivers. In addition to other things, the survey did look at the amount of time employees are spending in care-giving duties and the impact that these duties would have on one's employment. Peggy plans to continue to survey other employees in Taylor County. This is part of an AARP pilot program regarding caregiver issues. She plans to start a "prepared to care" educational program beginning in November 2008.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with a report of Community Options Program (COP) activities and wait list information. This report indicates that currently there are 96 Taylor County residents who are receiving Community Options Program and Community Options Program – Waiver funded services. There have been 20 new COP assessments completed to this date in 2008. There have been 15 COP case plans developed during this time period as well. The target groups served under these programs includes elderly, 67.7%; physically disabled, 14.6%; developmentally disabled, 12.5%, and chronically mentally ill, 5.2%. There continues to be a waiting list for the Community Options Program in Taylor County. Currently, there are seven people on the waiting list for Community-Based Residential Facility funding, 13 people on the waiting list for in-home services, and there are four people who are receiving services in their home but are on the waiting list for CBRF funding. There have been some changes in the makeup of the waiting list; some have been taken off the waiting list and served, while other new persons have been placed on the waiting list over the past three months. There was some discussion regarding the lack of new funding for the COP program by the State of Wisconsin, which has directly resulted in the waiting list situation in Taylor County. Russ Blennert did discuss with committee members that new nursing home relocation slots have been accessed for some folks who have met the particular criteria for this funding. Additionally, Taylor County has pursued high-cost funds for particular services that apply and meet the criteria for this one-time funding as well.

Russ Blennert presented the committee with five requests for special high-cost funding for one-time limited projects for Taylor County residents. High-cost funding for these projects has been approved by the State of Wisconsin. State policy also requires that the Long-Term Support Committee approve these requests as well. Funding for the COP high-cost awards is approximately 60% federal and 40% state funding.

- 5) This is a request from a 74-year-old Taylor County woman for whom a nursing home relocation slot has been approved by the State of Wisconsin for her residence at a Community-Based Residential Facility. High-cost funds were also requested, however, to pay for the room and board portion of her residence which is not a service that the MA Waiver Program funds. The request that was approved by the state included funding for her room and board for the first six months which totaled

\$2,076.

- 6) This is a request for an 80-year-old woman who lives in rural Taylor County and who is wheelchair dependent with a number of serious health issues. She requires a wheelchair ramp in order for her to enter and exit her residence. The total cost of the wheelchair ramp is \$3,069.
- 7) This request is for a 70-year-old developmentally disabled woman who has limited mobility because of a number of physical issues. She resides with her extended family, and the house she resides in requires adaptations to the bathroom to make it more accessible for her, which would include a walk-in shower and other changes to the bathroom. The total cost of this modification would be \$2,480.
- 8) A request has been made for high-cost funds for a 70-year-old man who requires bathroom modifications to his home in order for him to continue to live there with his wife. Modifications include a walk-in shower and other more extensive changes to his bathroom to accommodate him. This particular project involves cooperative funding with the Commission on Aging for a portion of the project. The high-cost funding that was submitted and approved by the state totaled \$3,033.
- 9) COP high-cost funds are requested for a Taylor County man who has a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Funding is requested for an adjustable bed that is required for his particular physical disability. The total cost of this equipment would be \$4,116.

Shirley Kleist made a motion to approve the funding for the high-cost requests. Nancy Doberstein seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Russ Blennert reviewed the 2008 COP Plan Update, an update that is submitted annually to the Department of Health and Family Services. This update is a means for the state to gather information regarding Taylor County's Community Option Program. Judi Fillmore made a motion to approve the 2008 COP Plan Update as printed. Diane Niggemann seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Diane Niggemann presented the committee with information regarding some of the programs upcoming through the Commission on Aging. "A Powerful Tools for Caregiving" course will be starting April 4. Also starting in May, there will be a series of AARP driver safety classes available to Taylor County residents.

The next meeting of the COP/Long-Term Support Planning and Advisory Committee was set for Monday, June 16, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Taylor County Community Building located at the fairgrounds.

George Southworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley Kleist seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Russ Blennert  
Secretary