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COLUMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING AUGUST 16, 2006, 9:00 A.M.

Chair Dr. J. Robert Curtis called the Annual Public Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Brewer's Training Room of the Columbia County Health & Human Services Building. All present signed an attendance sheet.

Micki Bender, Portage, provided testimony on the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program for Columbia and Sauk County. Micki reported that 25 children are currently being provided service through the program, approximately half of them residents of Columbia County. Eighteen volunteers work as CASA volunteers for the program. Micki reported that the program currently has sufficient funding to cover expenses through the remainder of the year, however, she requested that the Health & Human Services Board consider providing partial funding for the CASA program in their 2007 budget. The current budget for the program is \$32,910 for 2007, of which most of the funding pays for the director's salary and rental of an office at the Pauquette Counseling Center.

Jane Biddell, Otsego, provided testimony in favor of tax levy being added to the 2007 Elderly Nutrition Program's Home Delivered Meal budget, to remove all Waiting List clients, and to prevent a waiting list from being created in 2007 for home delivered meals. Jane expressed concern about fellow residents being able to reside in their own homes with the help of the Home Delivered Meal program.

Cathy Tauges, Columbus, provided testimony in favor of tax levy also being applied to the 2007 Elderly Nutrition Program's Home Delivered Meal budget. Cathy is the Meal Site Manager for the Columbus Meal Site. Cathy also expressed concern that the \$4 suggested donation is too much for the average elderly person to pay.

The Annual Public Hearing was concluded at 9:27 a.m. by Chair Curtis. The Board continued on with their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

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