

Monroe County Commission on Aging

29 Washington Street, (Stoner-Kemmerling Building) Monroe, MI 48161
Telephone: 734.240.7363 * 734.240.7364 * Toll Free: 1.888.354.5500 ext. 7364 * Fax 734.240.7360
E-Mail: terri_hamad@monroemi.org * vicki_terrasi@monroemi.org
Visit Our Website: www.co.monroe.mi.us

Terri L. Hamad, Director
Vicky L. Terrasi, Administrative Assistant

Commission on Aging Appeals Meeting
August 16, 2006
1 p.m.
Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Martin Kaufman at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present: Noel Dentner, Nancy Hamman, Paul Iacoangeli, Martin Kaufman, Paul Simonton, and Loyd Sype

Member Excused: Aleta Jackson

Members Absent: John Sledge and Gerald Stone

Chairman Martin Kaufman led the commission in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Silent Prayer.

Noel Dentner moved for approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Nancy Hamman. Motion Carried.

There were no public introductions and no public time.

Budget Appeals:

Caring Alternatives, Inc.- Sharon Williams-CEO and Peter Fales-President, Board of Directors Presenting.

Ms. Williams questioned the current position of the commission on the future funding of the Home Companion, Medication Management and Older Adult Counseling requests. Paul Iacoangeli commented that a full agency audit is required and that the other agencies have met the requirements. Ms. Williams commented that she has met with her auditor and is attempting to get the full audit underway. Mr. Fales questioned whether the full audit requirement is a new requirement. Ms. Hamad stated that a full audit has always been a requirement, although only loosely enforced by the commission in the past. Mr. Fales inquired whether the funds would be approved if an audit were received. Nancy Hamman commented that having the audit wouldn't necessarily guarantee funding. Ms. Williams expressed concern regarding the staff and the clients who rely on the funding and the future of the programs. Mr. Kaufman stated that the commission would hold a special meeting to consider the requests from Caring Alternatives once the full agency audit is received if needed.

MCOP Specialized Transportation and Resource Advocacy-Diane Tackett-Director of Resource and Chore, Maggie Dusseau-Director of Transportation, Larry Hansen-Finance Director and Stephanie Kasprzak-Executive Director presenting.

Ms. Kasprzak thanked the commission for the opportunity to appeal and the other funds that have been recommended. The revised request is \$84,569, which would be a 23% increase from 2006 instead of the original 36% increased request. The increase is needed in order to comply with union mandated raises and increase the time of two part time staff bringing them up to three full time resource advocates. Diane Tackett reiterated the duties of the resource advocacy department. If funds are not received they will have to reduce the staff to two full time advocates.

Ms. Kasprzak announced that the revised request for the Specialized Transportation program is \$63,173 or a 1% decrease from what was originally requested. Ms. Kasprzak circulated a current rate sheet showing how much a one-way trip is in various parts inside and outside of the county. The current range is \$7.50-\$30.00 one-way depending on whether it is local or outside of the county. They had 25 clients in 2005 that paid nothing toward their trips. In 2005, they completed 4,130 one-way trips. Of those trips, 946 were out-of-town. Currently, they average 344 one-way trips per month mostly local in the county. They are currently requesting the funds to maintain the existing service and to pay the union mandated raises. Ms. Kasprzak commented that they lost several of their regular dialysis clients and had two drivers on medical accounting for their decrease in units from last year.

RSVP-Deb Brescol, Executive Director and Sharon Thom, Director of Community Services (BPS) presenting.

Ms. Brescol is requesting the increase of funds to increase the Monroe office clerk from 21 to 28 hours and small budget increase in other staff related to the minimum wage increase. Nancy Hamman commented on the large unit projections last year and the significant decrease for the coming year. Ms. Brescol commented that on the current year's application that a three-year projection was placed there due to the nature of her other grants and that they would be trying for 80,000 units in 2007. Ms. Brescol also commented that volunteer hours would be more accurate due to a new computer reporting system. She also commented that they have 30 CASA volunteers and that they are looking for new, different opportunities for younger seniors.

Monroe Center-Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, Chris Croley, Finance Director and Rhonda Ziethlow, Assistant Director presenting.

The Monroe center was given another opportunity to provide information on their care services pilot and to update the commission from the action at the regular Commission meeting on August 9, 2006.

After hearing all of the presentations, the commission opted to hold on all funding decisions until the regular September 13, 2006 meeting when the whole commission would be present to vote.

Ms. Hamad commented that Catholic Charities made no request to appeal the funding decision of the commission.

Commission Members Time

Paul Simonton commented that with all of the discussion on the AAA 1-B Area Plan Funding decisions that he wants to go on the record that the COA make community

agencies a priority in the County. Paul Simonton moved to make local agencies a priority for funding in Monroe County, supported by Noel Dentner. Motion Carried.

There was no public time.

Motion by Paul Simonton, second by Paul Iacoangeli to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Terri L. Hamad

Terri L. Hamad, Recording Secretary