

Monroe County Commission on Aging
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Terri L. Hamad, Director
Vicky L. Terrasi, Administrative Assistant

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Budget Appeal Hearing Minutes
August 17, 2005
Commission on Aging Conference Room

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Member's present: Noel Dentner, Nancy Hamman, Paul Iacoangeli, Martin Kaufman, Michael Pasko, Richard Springstead, and Loyd Sype.

Member's excused: Aleta Jackson

Chairman Martin Kaufman led the Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer.

Approval of the Agenda:

Michael Pasko motioned to approve the August 17, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Richard Springstead. **Motion carried.**

Introduction of Guest:

No guests present at the time.

Public time:

No public present.

Ms. Hamad presented the 2006-2007 Operational Budget that was submitted to the finance department, and a spread sheet containing which agency's applications were correct, needed corrections, and who reported health care cost per month. In addition, she discussed the letter to the agencies inquiring if any of them are doing employee cost share for health insurance.

The following budget appeals were held:

Bedford Senior Citizen Center:

Sharon Throm, Director, Bedford Community Education and Pamela Rybka, Director, Bedford Senior Citizen Center present.

The Bedford Center requested \$175,436 for fiscal year 2006. The commission recommended to the County Board of Commissioners to grant \$160,304 to the Bedford Senior Citizens Center for fiscal year 2006.

Pamela Rybka commented that she was not expecting the full request, however with the business that Bedford area does and the services that they provide, \$1,604 more is not adequate to meet their needs. In addition, she is aware that there was some misunderstanding at the budget hearing regarding capital improvements. Ms. Rybka stated that she is not requesting any funds for capital that the request is for operations. Employee benefits are increasing the operating cost. In addition, Ms. Rybka pointed out that on page 3 of the application she had made an error reflecting that the increase would cover the cost of a new roof.

Ms. Rybka requested the commissions' consideration to grant an additional \$5,000 to the previously recommended \$160,304 to off set the cost of employee benefits.

Richard Springstead motioned to grant the Bedford Senior Citizens Center the additional \$5,000 making total recommendation \$165,304. Supported by Noel Dentner.

After discussion regarding the appropriate time to motion an appeal, Richard Springstead withdrew his motion and Noel Dentner withdrew support.

Living Independence for Everyone:

Frankie Foidl, Executive Director, Living Independence for Everyone present.

Living Independence for everyone requested \$373,976.94 for fiscal year 2006. The commission recommended to the County Board of Commissioners to grant Living Independence for Everyone \$346,731 for fiscal year 2006.

Frankie Foidl distributed a revised request of \$363,017 for fiscal year 2006. The revision reflects no wage increase and employees contribution of \$63.59 per month towards their health care benefits. This is the only way she could reduce her cost without cutting services.

Ms. Foidl was questioned why there has been a large sum of funds being returned to the Commission on Aging? Ms. Foidl replied that the large sums returned are from staff changes and less repairs to the vehicles.

Ms. Foidl requested the commissions' consideration to grant an additional \$16,286 totaling \$363,017 for fiscal year 2006. This additional request would keep her from closing the Frenchtown Senior Center on the weekends.

Monroe County Senior Legal Services:

Larry VanWasshenova, Director, and Kay Prucka, Paralegal/Fiscal Manager, Monroe County Senior Legal Services present.

The Monroe County Senior Legal Services requested \$245,926 for fiscal year 2006. The commission recommended to the Count Board of Commissioners to grant Monroe County Senior Legal Services \$223,095 for fiscal year 2006.

Larry VanWasshenova requested the commission to seriously consider their original request of \$245,926 only because they have that much deficit in their budget.

Martin Kaufman commented that since mostly attorneys staff the agency that it would be worth the while to pursue grants specifically designed for the type of service they provide.

Mr. VanWasshenova replied that in order for them to receive any money from the State Bar Organization the clients have to be need based, which conflicts with the Area Agency on Aging and the Commission on The federal grants they receive are through the Area Agency on Aging, and as far as private grants, they do not fund lawyers. Mr. VanWasshenova stated that unfortunately the only two places they could cut are in the salary portion of the budget. Even if they have their employees pay all of the increase in the cost of their health care it would only make a \$4,000 difference out of \$22,831. In addition, he does not see how realist that is to have the employees pickup the total increase in the health care, because usually employee's pickup a portion of the cost; maybe half and half which then would be a \$2,000 difference which would not make up the \$22,831. The other was a 2% increase in salaries and Mr. VanWasshenova feels that if the employees have to pay for their health care it is hard not to compensate them with a salary increase.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that they might be forced to layoff one attorney in the middle of the year, which would create a backlog. Currently, they staff three (3) full time attorneys, which includes the director, a paralegal, and three (3) secretaries.

Mr. VanWasshenova requested the commissions' consideration to grant their original request of \$245,925 for fiscal year 2006.

The commission recessed at 2:29 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:34 p.m.

Caring Alternatives, Inc. – Medication Set-Up Program

Sharon Williams, President/CEO, and Cheryl Riddle, Accountant, Caring Alternatives, Inc. present.

Caring Alternatives, Inc. requested \$30,000 for fiscal year 2006 for the Medication Set-Up program. The commission recommended to the County Board of Commissioners to grant Caring Alternatives, Inc. the requested \$30,000 for fiscal year 2006 however on a fee-for-service bases.

Ms. Williams commented that she is not here to appeal the \$30,000 allocation but to appeal the stipulation (fee-for-service) of that \$30,000. Ms. Williams wants the commission to be aware of the impact that stipulation will have on the Medication Set-up Program, specifically in the areas of increased cost and limitations to program expansion. The projected cost increase of changing the way the program is administered currently would be approximately \$4,000 additional cost to the program yearly. The program has clients that are on a fee- for-service (cost sharing), clients that pay a fee, and clients that do not pay anything. Some of that they inherited from the Health Department program and some of it is where the client resources are. With this variety the agency never knows who will be leaving or coming on the program.

Ms. Williams commented that she is also concerned that the commission wants her to run this program on a fee-for-service invoicing when historically the commission puts an agency on this type of invoicing when the agency is either having a delivery of service problem or financial issues. Ms. Williams question if the commission is dissatisfied with the performance of her agency in delivering this service.

Martin Kaufman commented that the commission is moving towards implementing more programs on a fee-for-service basis with all the agencies.

Other things Ms. William wanted the commission to be aware of under a fee-for-service invoicing arrangement is that the commission would no longer be a grant funding source they would be a third party payor and would become more attached to the liability issue in the delivery of service. It would increase her accounting and bookkeeping cost, which would increase the cost of the program, client confidentiality, limit the growth of the program and clients served.

The Commission approved budget appeals for the following:

Bedford Senior Citizens Center:

Nancy Hamman motioned to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to grant the Bedford Senior Citizens Center an additional \$5,000 for operations for fiscal year 2006. Supported by Noel Dentner.

Nancy Hamman motioned to amend the recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to grant the Bedford Senior Citizens Center an additional \$5,000 for operations for fiscal year 2006 providing they submit a new budget reflecting the changes. Supported by Noel Dentner.

After the commission further discussed that all budgets and information from the agencies applying for senior funds, must be complete, accurate, and in compliance with the rules, regulations, and policies of the Commission on Aging.

Ms. Hamman withdrew her amended motion to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to grant the Bedford Senior Citizens Center an additional \$5,000 for operations for fiscal year 2006 providing they submit a new budget reflecting the changes. Supported by Noel Dentner.

Ms. Hamman withdrew her first motion to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to grant the Bedford Senior Citizens Center an additional \$5,000 for operations for fiscal year 2006. Supported by Noel Dentner.

Mike Pasko motioned to direct Ms. Hamad to send a letter to the Bedford Senior Citizens Center requesting they submit a new budget reflecting \$165,340 for fiscal year 2006 within five (5) working days for the commission to consider. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried. One no.**

Living Independence for Everyone:

Michael Pasko motioned to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to accept and grant the Living Independence for Everyone revised budget for \$363,017 for fiscal year 2006 with the stipulation that the funds be used only for the specific line items proposed. Transfers from the approved line items are prohibited without the advance written permission of the Commission. Any funds not used in accordance with the Directive of the Commission shall be returned forthwith. Supported by Richard Springstead.

Roll call:

Nancy Hamman – Yes
Martin Kaufman – Yes
Loyd Sype – Yes

Noel Dentner – Yes
Paul Iacoangeli – Yes

Richard Springstead – Yes
Michael Pasko – Yes

Motion carried.

Monroe County Senior Legal Services:

Noel Dentner motioned to deny the Monroe County Senior Legal Service appeal to allocate their original request of \$245,926 and keep them at \$223,095 for fiscal year 2006. Supported by Nancy Hamman.

Roll call:

Noel Dentner – Yes
Paul Iacoangeli – No
Nancy Hamman – Yes

Richard Springstead – Yes
Michael Pasko – No

Martin Kaufman – Yes
Loyd Sype – No

Motion carried.

Caring Alternatives, Inc. – Medication Set-Up Program

Noel Dentner motioned to deny the Caring Alternatives, Inc. appeal and keep the Medication Set-Up Program on a fee-for-service for fiscal year 2006. Supported by Richard Springstead. **Motion carried.**

Motion died due to lack of quorum.

Public time:

No public present.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. for a lack of quorum.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary