

## 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](mailto:terri_hamad@monroemi.org) \* [vicki\\_terrasi@monroemi.org](mailto:vicki_terrasi@monroemi.org)

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Terri L. Hamad, Director

Vicky L. Terrasi, Administrative Assistant

Monroe County Commission on Aging  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2005  
Catholic Charities of Monroe County

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

**Member's present:** Nancy Hamman, Paul Iacoangeli, Mike Pasko, Martin Kaufman, James Seegert, 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:**

James Seegert motioned to approve the January 12, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Richard Springstead. **Motion carried.**

**Guests Present:** Janette Stark, Senior, Janet Crego, Home Care Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, Sharon Williams, CEO, and Pat Sheets, Services Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Inc., Amber Totten, Regional Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, County Commissioner Floreine Mentel, Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services, Nancy Young, Director, Faith In Action for Monroe County, Paul Amadi, Program Director, and Angela Venier, HR Manager, Catholic Charities of Monroe County, and Adam Yeager, Senior.

### **Public Time/Catholic Charities of Monroe County:**

Ms. Venier announced that the Annual Hockey Tournament (fundraiser) with retired Red Wings would be on April 03, 2005 at the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex. The opening of the Head Start classroom will take place the end of this month/beginning of February, it will be a double class holding 34 children.

### **Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of December 08, 2004.**

Motion made by Michael Pasko, supported by Nancy Hamman to approve the regular commission minutes of December 08, 2004 as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Financial:**

The financial reports were presented for acceptance and placed on file. Motion to accept and place on file by James Seegert. Supported by Richard Springstead. **Motion carried.**

### **Commission Members Report:**

Loyd Sype reported on a health insurance scam that takes consumers' premiums but has no money to pay any claims submitted.

Michael Pasko announced that in May of 2005 Bedford is participating in the Relay for Life Event. The event is designed to celebrate survivorship and raise funds for research and programs for the American Cancer Society.

Nancy Hamman mentioned that she has invited agencies that are in need of volunteers to give a presentation on their programs at the Bedford Senior Center. Nancy Young, Faith In Action for Monroe County, recently gave an excellent presentation on her program. The center is planning to have Foster Grandparents present their program in the near future.

Martin Kaufman commented on an article in the Christian Science Monitor that is carried in the Monroe Evening News regarding the dislike of the term "Senior Citizens" which was invented around 1938.

**Correspondence:**

The list of correspondence was read.

**Directors Report:**

Ms. Hamad distributed copies of the 2005 Monroe County Board of Commissioners Committee assignments.

Ms. Hamad requested approval to purchase a new Dell Computer System at a cost of \$1,105.98. The computer would replace Ms. Terrasi's current system, which has been hit with viruses causing several of the files to become corrupted.

Motion made by Michael Pasko, supported by James Seegert to approve the request to purchase a new Dell Computer System for \$1,105.98 with funds coming out of the Maintenance-Equipment-Furnishing account.

**Roll call as follows:**

Loyd Sype – Yes

Nancy Hamman – Yes

James Seegert – Yes

Paul Iacoangeli – Yes

Michael Pasko – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Richard Springstead – Yes

**Motion carried.**

For complete report, please see attached.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Area Agency on Aging 1-B Legal Services Meeting Report**

Martin Kaufman reported that he, Ms. Hamad and Mr. VanWasshenova attended the December 09, 2004 AAA 1-B legal service providers meeting and commented that it went well and was very informative.

Ms. Hamad reported that they had a lot of good exchange with the attorneys from other legal services on how to handle potential conflicts. They suggested hiring a contracted attorney to provide some service or advice regarding a conflict, limit the number of cases, budget some funds to the attorney to put aside and require a refund of unused funds at the end of the year.

Ms. Hamad reported that this issue comes into place because the State's definition of Legal Assistance is a "provision of legal advice and representation by an attorney (including counseling or other appropriate assistance by a paralegal or law student under the provision of an attorney), and counseling or representation by a non-lawyer where permitted by law to older individuals". The one thing that this group kept falling back on was under the State's representation that the client's problem requires more than advice and counsel and the case is not referred to another source, the **program may represent** the person in order to achieve a solution. The other attorneys said that in many cases it does not mean that they have to represent as long as they provide some service for the client. Another thing they suggested was that when they have an individual come in and sign a retainer they specifically spell out what service they should expect from the attorney. So if it was just advice, just representation, or start to finish on a case the client knows what to expect from that attorney.

The legal group suggested several other options such as forming a local bar list of attorneys willing to provide a second opinion or give ½ hour free legal advice, a referral network between legal services and private bar attorneys, and a list of local attorneys willing to handle a pro bono conflict of interest case

At the meeting, Ms. Hamad stated that the commission would like to see AAA 1-B go forward to the state to see if they could get the “Service Definition” defined more so that the clients would not be confused about what service they would receive.

The other legal service programs, which do not have the benefit of millage funds, use a Legal Hotline and/or Sliding Fee Scale service for senior legal matters. They attempt to give everyone some service by assessing each case, providing advice, and making alternative referrals. In addition, they look at the client’s ability to pay privately on a case-by-case situation.

Under the Older Americans Act every senior is entitled to **some** service. The agency needs to explain on the retainer what service will be provided.

The other legal service agencies stated that they prioritize cases, seek private bar support for the indigent and serve the most economically and socially in need, and stated that MCSLS needs to state clearly what its’ mission is and who receives the targeted service. In addition, they all obtain (with the exception of Monroe County Senior Legal Services), income and asset information on the initial intake case management software.

The commission discussed the information and they feel that the Monroe County Senior Legal Services Director and Board are the entity that should draft a policy within the State and Commission on Aging guidelines stating that in many cases they **are not** required to represent everyone as long as they provide some service for the eligible client. The policy should be reasonable, fair and in a consistent pattern that would not be quickly challenged. Ms. Hamad presented two key points that could be incorporated into the policy for legal services to consider:

- Having a retainer that states what service can be expected by the client
- Flow plan that tell a client how they would be referred out if they are not able to be served by the agency

When Monroe County Senior Legal Services completes the policy they will request to be placed on the Commission on Aging agenda for discussion.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Election of 2005 Officers**

Michael Pasko moved to nominate Martin Kaufman to remain Chairman for calendar year 2005. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli. Paul Iacoangeli moved that nominations be closed. Supported by Michael Pasko. James Seegert motioned to declare a unanimous ballot. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli. **Motion carried.**

Paul Iacoangeli moved to nominate Richard Springstead to remain Vice-Chair for calendar year 2005. Supported by James Seegert. Michael Pasko moved to nominate Paul Iacoangeli as Vice-Chair. Paul Iacoangeli declined the nomination. Richard Springstead moved to nominate Nancy Hamman as Vice-Chair. Nancy Hamman declined the nomination. James Seegert moved that nominations be closed. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli. Paul motioned to declare a unanimous ballot. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

Paul Iacoangeli moved to nominate Michael Pasko to remain Secretary for calendar year 2005. Supported by James Seegert. James Seegert moved that nominations be closed. Supported by Nancy Hamman. Nancy Hamman motioned to declare a unanimous ballot. Supported by James Seegert. **Motion carried.**

**B. Monroe County Aging Consortium Caregiver Fair Sponsorship Request**

The Monroe Aging Consortium again has invited the Monroe County Commission on Aging to join them as a \$500 sponsor/exhibitor for the second annual "Monroe County Caregivers Fair", on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Monroe County Community College. After careful consideration and discussion of the invitation the commission choose this year to enter the Caregiver Fair as a \$50 non-profit exhibitor. The Commission will still have a table at the fair to display products and services.

Loyd Sype motioned for the Commission on Aging to enter this year's Caregivers Fair as a non-profit exhibitor for \$50. Supported by Nancy Hamman

**Roll call:**

James Seegert – No

Paul Iacoangeli – No

Michael Pasko – Yes

Loyd Sype – Yes

Richard Springstead – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Nancy Hamman – Yes

**Motion carried.**

Ms. Hamad will look into the cost of pens and small pads of paper for giveaways. In addition, she will look into the commission being a refreshment sponsor.

**Public Time:**

Ms. Williams announced that the first of many mailings went out to 23 agencies to promote Caring Alternatives, Inc. Medication Monitoring and RN Health Assessment program.

In addition, with the efforts of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B Monroe Vendor Council's Training Coalition and funds contributed by Monroe County Community Foundation, Lay-Z-Boy Foundation, Monroe County Commission on Aging and Caring Alternatives, Inc. there will be a "Training For Home Care Staff Trainers" training. Agencies that provide direct care services to older adults in Monroe County can designate up to two individuals to be trained. Trainers will learn how to use the American Red Cross Family Caregiving program to train their staff, volunteers and family caregivers basic home care skills. Each enrolled agency will receive a leader's guide, videotape and 1 set of workbooks. A donation of \$10 towards materials is requested. Training will be held at the Monroe County American Red Cross on February 10, 2005, 8:30 to 11:30 am.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Richard Springstead, supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Monroe Senior Citizens Center, Monroe, MI.

*Vicky L. Terrasi*

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary