

Monroe County Commission on Aging

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Terri L. Hamad, Director
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Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2005
Monroe Senior Citizens Center

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Member's present: Nancy Hamman, Aleta Jackson, Paul Iacoangeli, Mike Pasko, Martin Kaufman, James Seegert, and Loyd Sype.

Member's excused: Richard Springstead and Noel Dentner

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Loyd Sype motioned to approve the February 16, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Aleta Jackson. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Janette Stark, Interested Citizen, Dr. Sherm Timmins Executive Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, Sharon Williams, CEO, and Pat Sheets, Services Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Inc., Gerilyn Powers, RNCM, 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, Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, and Rhonda Zietlow, Assistant Director, Monroe Senior Citizens Center, James Seegert, Interested Citizen, and Adam Yeager, Senior.

Public Time/Monroe Senior Citizens Center:

Aaron announced that there have been several changes at the center within the past few months, some cosmetic, some programmatic, and staff. In addition, he introduced Rhonda Zietlow, the Assistant Director.

Ms. Zietlow reiterated on the appearance of the center's interior décor, which is to rid the center of an institutional atmosphere and make it a warm welcoming place. Ms. Zietlow's main interest is in the health and well being of seniors. The goal is to have a "Center for the People" and her plans are to keep the center busy with health, mental, and physical activities for those seniors.

Aaron announced that the Monroe Cancer Connection has established a relationship with Hematologist Oncology Associates on Dean and Douglas Rd. in Lambertville. They recognized that there is a need in the Bedford area for individuals facing cancer and the problems associated with the disease. The Cancer Connection was there February 8, 2005 and plans to be there again February 16, 2005 to offer support and to educate those facing cancer about the services they provide such as transportation, supplies, nutrition, and durable medical equipment.

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2005.

Motion made by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Michael Pasko to approve the regular commission minutes of January 12, 2005 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Financial:

Ms. Hamad introduced new financial reports (Preliminary County of Monroe Appropriation Reports) that Mr. Londo, County Administrator/CFO, recommended be used in place of the usual financial reports.

Motion made by Loyd Sype to report the Preliminary County of Monroe Appropriation Reports to the commission on a quarterly bases. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

The financial reports were presented for acceptance and placed on file. Motion to accept and place on file by Aleta Jackson. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Loyd Sype warned everyone to be careful of mortgage scams and to be sure that the information they tell you is in the contract.

Mike Pasko announced that he was a student of Dr. Sherm Timmins back in the 80's at the University of Toledo where he was a professor. In addition, he mentioned that Dr. Timmins is an excellent choice as the new Executive Director of the Monroe County Opportunity Program.

Nancy Hamman announced that on February 26, 2005 the women of Bedford are sponsoring a tea and style show at LaRoy's from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This is the first year that Relay for Life will take place in Bedford and the kickoff is March 8 at the high school. The proceeds are donated to local charities and this year the donations are going to Relay for Life. The Relay for Life will take place on May 21 and 22nd at the Bedford High School. For additional information, please contact Mike Pasko, Nancy Hamman, or Meg Smith.

Mike Pasko announced that his son is the poster boy spokesman for Relay for Life in Bedford. In addition, he announced that the Monroe Relay for Life kickoff is this evening at St. Mary's School.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read.

Directors Report:

For complete report, please see attached.

Unfinished Business:

A. Monroe County Aging Consortium Caregiver Fair Sponsorship Request

Ms. Hamad reported that Commissioner Mentel was the only Food Sponsor at last year's Fair. The consortium is open to sponsorships in any amount. Ms. Hamad contacted the Monroe County Planning Department on the purchase of notepads. Two hundred notepads at 25 sheets each would cost \$62.50 and would mirror the look of the commission's letterhead. Pens also mirroring our letterhead would cost \$168.00 at \$0.56 each plus shipping for 300 Bic Click Sticks in white and green. The total cost to participate in the Fair would be approximately \$280.50, which includes the \$50.00 booth rental.

Mike Pasko motioned to grant \$62.50 notepads with the funding out of the printing and binding account, and \$168.00 plus shipping for pens with the funding out of the office supply account. Supported by Aleta Jackson.

Roll call:

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|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Martin Kaufman – Yes | Loyd Sype – Yes | Michael Pasko – Yes |
| Paul Iacoangeli – Yes | Nancy Hamman – Yes | Aleta Jackson – Yes |

Motion carried.

The commission is still contemplating Food Sponsorship at the fair. The Food Sponsorship request will be place on the March agenda for further discussion.

B. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report of 01/19/05 & 02/09/05

Committee Chairman Paul Iacoangeli commented that possibly in the summer there would be an intern from EMU to help with the strategic planning process.

Mr. Iacoangeli announced that AAA 1-B Aging Matters will provide a two-day workshop on March 22 and 29th, focusing on developing proposals for older adult programs to enhance the chances of success, as well as the specifics of writing strong grant proposals. There will be experiential exercises and attendees will be required to do homework between the two sessions, including drafting a mini-grant proposal, which will receive a confidential critique. The workshop cost of \$50.00 is per participant.

Ms. Hamad announced that AAA 1-B is also doing an Aging Grant Opportunities & Local Grant Makers workshop that will have representatives from many organizations with an interest in funding programs for older adults in southeast Michigan. The workshop is April 4, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a cost of \$20.00. The commission strongly encourages the agencies to attend these workshops.

C. Monroe County Senior Legal Services Conflict Policy Update

Larry VanWasshenova distributed their "Proposed Policy on Service to Clients". They originally thought this would be a simple matter and just draft and implement the policy, however, it did not turn out that way. In the proposal, they recognize that per the 2000 census, there are nearly 22,000 individuals in Monroe County who are age 60 and above and they employ three attorneys so they cannot represent everybody. With this in mind, they drafted the following policy:

- Advice and counsel
- Legal research
- Document preparation
- Legal education
- Referrals
- Negotiations
- Representation

Monroe County Senior Legal Services will give preference to those with the greatest social and economic needs. The following is a list they will give priority to legal assistance related to:

- Abuse
- Protective services
- Long term care
- Housing Utilities
- Income maintenance
- Neglect
- Health care
- Nutrition
- Discrimination
- Defense of guardianships or conservator ship
- Other services as time and resources provide

The conflict policy will be added into this policy when it is completed.

The "Proposed Policy on Service to Clients" will be open to public comments at the end of the month. Contact Monroe County Senior Legal Services for further information of the draft.

The Monroe County Senior Legal Services conflict policy update will be placed on the March agenda for an update.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

Public Time:

James Seegert commented that he enjoyed serving as a member of the commission for several years. In addition, he commented that District 1 had a change of Commissioners this year and months ago, in a subtle way, he was made aware that there would be a new appointee to the Commission on Aging board. Mr. Lievens told Mr. Seegert that in the Primary he made a political

commitment to Mr. Dentner to appoint him to the Commission on Aging board. They had a discussion regarding this matter and Mr. Seegert explained to him the time constraints of being a Commission on Aging board member. Further, in the past, Mr. Seegert left the board for a short period because he was appointed to another board and the previous commissioner attempted to fill this position twice. Mr. Lievens did say that if Mr. Dentner does not attend the meetings he would not be on the board long.

Commissioner Mentel announced that she and Terri Hamad are going with Molly Luempert-Coy, Regional Representative, DTE, to Lansing for the Michigan Warmth Coalition on February 23, 2005. In addition, AAA 1-B was in Lansing today between 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to lobby the state Senators and the House Members on the importance of the Medicaid Wavier that keeps people out of nursing homes. The cost for a person to stay in the home is \$43.00 per day versus \$110 per day in a nursing home.

Commissioner Mentel announced that Sandra Reminga, Executive Director, AAA 1-B, stated that in the States 2006 budget the Governor is planning to cut the care-management monies.

Nancy Young announced the Faith in Action Dinner and Spring Silent Auction would be on Friday, April 1, 2005. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m. Entertainment by "Fiddlers ReStrung". Tickets \$20.00 per person.

Martin Kaufman suggested that regarding Monroe County Senior Legal Services the title on the agenda should state Policy on Service to Clients.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Michael Pasko, supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 09, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Summerfield/Petersburg Community Building, Petersburg, MI.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary