

Terri L. Hamad  
Director

## Monroe County Commission on Aging

Board Members

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Paul Simonton

Aleta Jackson  
Secretary

John Sledge

Monroe County Commission on Aging  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2009  
Ash Senior Citizens Center

Gerald Stone

Loyd Sype

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**Members present:** Noel Dentner, Bruce Freimark, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, John Sledge Jr., and Gerald Stone.

**Members excused:** Nancy Hamman, Paul Simonton, and Loyd Sype

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

### Approval of the Agenda:

Noel Dentner made a motion to approve the May 13, 2009 agenda as presented. Supported by John Sledge. **Motion carried.**

**Guests Present:** James Petrangelo, Board Member, and Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services; Floreine Mentel, County Commissioner Area Agency on Aging 1-B Board of Directors; Stephanie Kasprzak, Executive Director, and Diane Tackett, Director of Senior Services, Monroe County Opportunity Program; Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager, Lake Erie Transit Commission; Gerilyn Selmek, Regional Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 1-B; Nancy Young, Executive Director, Faith In Action for Monroe County; Barbara Mazur, Executive Director, Frenchtown Senior Center; Ken Buckingham, President, Priscilla Reiser, member, Betty Begley, Treasurer, and Rosie Emerick, member, Ash Senior Center.

### Public Time/Time for Ash Seniors:

No public addressed the commission at this time.

### Approval of the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes of April 08, 2009.

Noel Dentner made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Regular Minutes of April 08, 2009 as presented. Supported by Aleta Jackson. **Motion carried.**

### Approval of the Final Financial Statements of April 2009:

Ms. Hamad presented the April 2009 Financial Reports. Gerald Stone made a motion to accept and place on file the April 2009 Financial Reports. Supported by Bruce Freimark. **Motion carried.**

### Commission Members' Report:

Aleta Jackson thanked the Ash Center for hosting the commission's May meeting.

### Correspondence:

The Commission reviewed the list of correspondence.



**Director's Report:**

Ms. Hamad announced that the 2009 Older Michigan Day Rally for Monroe County would take place on Friday, June 12, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging with the Lansing Rally taking place on June 24, 2009.

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is having an Area Implementation Plan Hearing on May 28, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging.

After seventeen years of service as a Commission on Aging board member, Loyd Sype has resigned due to health reasons. Mr. Sype has contacted Commissioner Zorn for a replacement.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Strategic Planning Committee Reports of April 2, 2009:**

Noel Dentner reported that the committee discussed shortening the agency mission statement, adding a vision statement, a core value statement, as well as a job description for the board. All of these will be discussed again at the June meeting with the committee and brought before the whole board in June.

**B. Monroe County Senior Legal Services Update:**

Larry VanWasshenova expressed difficulty with clients filling out the cost share intake forms. Eighty-eight out of one hundred and forty-one forms were not filled out correctly.

Mr. VanWasshenova provided the following data:

- They have opened 117 cases in April
- They have closed 112 cases in April
- They have 178 total active cases open as of April 30, 2009
- They have 143 litigated cases of the 178 active cases as of April 30, 2009--most of which are collection of debts or foreclosures. The remaining 35 active cases are non-litigated cases.
- They have spent 40% of 600 hours in April speaking publicly and doing outreach at Health Checks and the Caregiver Fair.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that collections are down from last year and that they are using the Monroe County Opportunity Program's cost share sheet.

Chairman Kaufman requested a copy of that cost share sheet.

**New Business:**

**A. A Blueprint for Aging Services in Monroe County Progress Report:**

**Quality of Life:**

Barbara Mazur reported on what the Quality of Life workgroup has been working on:

- Elder Safety with respect to falls, maintaining a safe home, and elder friendly business
- Spiritual wellness
- Cultural and/or Recreational safety issues with respect to parking lots and downtown parking
- Partnering older adults with young people to provide safety at events
- Meeting with the Monroe County Commission on Aging directors for their input
- Bus hours
- Senior advisors to help make different places "Senior friendly"
- Offer meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Re-engage people in the community with good opportunities

**Transportation:**

Mark Jagodzinski reported on what the Transportation workgroup has been working on:

- Identified gaps in service



- To meet all of the transportation needs in the county, it should be offered 7 days per week 24 hours per day but requires dollars and support to offer that service
- They re-evaluated their objectives
- SEMCOG will be conducting a survey soon
- Meeting scheduled on May 28, 2009 to educate all the township supervisor's on the transportation issue in the county

### **Housing:**

Stephanie Kasprzak reported on what the Housing workgroup has been working on:

- They surveyed the housing needs of older adults and found that people want to remain in their homes for as long as possible
- The foreclosure crisis hit
- They developed an education campaign to provide at the Caregiver Fair in April on the following:
  - Long Term Living
  - 10 year plan to end homelessness
  - Making Connections
- They are looking at job descriptions for a Housing Guru
- Development of an Advisory Council for Housing issues
- Incorporate many traditional and non-traditional partners
- Housing Trust Fund
- Barrier free units needed

### **Social Services:**

Larry VanWasshenova reported on what the Social Services workgroup has been working on:

- What are the current social services and assessed gaps in these areas
  - Directed Services
  - Educational and Financial
  - Legal and Professional
- Untraditional needs such as farms and animals
- Funding development
- Adult Day Care needs
- Assisted in the development of the Senior Source guide
- Examined Senior Sources at Monroe County Opportunity Program
- Developed a Senior Source Guide

### **Health and Nutrition:**

Aaron Simonton reported on what the Health and Nutrition workgroup has been working on:

- They aligned their goals and objectives according to the state, federal and Area Agency on Aging 1-B goals that consist of these areas.
  - Awareness and Education
  - Access and Outreach
  - Coordination
  - Medicare specialists assisting older adults around the county
- Provide a list of services for the underinsured as well as the uninsured
- Physical location of programs to insure better delivery of services
- Engage political advocacy to meet these goals and objectives
- Coordination is generally under funded
- Primary care physicians are generally the starting point to get the information out to the patient.

### **B. The Monroe Center for Healthy Aging Line Item Transfer Request:**

Aaron Simonton commented that due to the unforeseen changes in personnel and a reorganization of their administrative structure, they had to change the contractual kitchen staff to paid staff positions due to fiscal non-compliance. In addition, they completed their general audit



for 2008, and the ending balance was a deficit of \$5,643.42, which is \$2,356.58 less than the Commission on Aging approved, to cover the \$8,000.00 anticipated deficit.

Aaron Simonton requested the commission's consideration to approve a line item transfer of \$27,646.00 for fiscal year 2009 including the \$2,356.58 from fiscal year 2008.

The center needs to return the \$2,356.58 to the Commission on Aging and re-request it at a future meeting.

John Sledge made a motion to grant the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging the line item request for \$27,646.00. The balance from 2008 for \$2,356.58 must be returned to the Commission on Aging 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 Aleta Jackson.

**Roll call:**

Noel Dentner – Yes	Aleta Jackson – Yes	Bruce Freimark – Yes
Martin Kaufman – Yes	John Sledge – Yes	Gerald Stone – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**C. The Monroe County Senior Legal Services Line Item Transfer Request:**

Larry VanWasshenova requested the commission's consideration to approve a line item transfer of \$500.00 from Office Supplies to Insurance for fiscal year 2009, due to the increase in premiums.

Bruce Freimark made a motion to grant the Monroe County Senior Legal Services the line item request for \$500.00 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 Noel Dentner.

**Roll call:**

Aleta Jackson – Yes	Bruce Freimark – Yes	Martin Kaufman – Yes
John Sledge – Yes	Gerald Stone – Yes	Noel Dentner – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**D. Request for Match to Area Agency on Aging 1-B Applications:**

• **Monroe County Senior Legal Services:**

The Monroe County Senior Legal Services provided a verbal request for continued match funding for legal services.

• **Frenchtown Friendship Club:**

The Frenchtown Friendship Club provided a verbal request for continued match funding for the Adult Day Care.

• **Monroe County Opportunity Program:**

The Monroe County Opportunity Program provided a verbal request for continued match funding for Chore, Resource Advocacy, and Home Injury Control programs.

• **Faith In Action for Monroe County:**

Faith In Action for Monroe County provided a verbal request for continued match funding for respite and transportation. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B provides 80% of the director's salary.



Noel Dentner made a motion to table all match requests until the June 10, 2009 Commission on Aging meeting. Supported by Gerald Stone. **Motion carried.**

**Public Time:**

Barbara Mazur announced that she has a contract with the Veteran's Administration to provide services to veterans in the Adult Day Care.

Larry VanWasshenova questioned what would happen if no match letter accompanies the Area Agency on Aging 1-B grant application.

Floreine Mentel addressed the full board regarding a Frenchtown Place senior who is currently being evicted, mail order medicine companies, and the Monroe Bank & Trust Learning Bank. In addition, Ms. Mentel announced that the 1812 Battlefield's open house would be on May 16 and 17, and the Michigan Week Banquet is on May 21, 2009.

Gerilyn Selmek announced new grant initiatives with the VA, and Medicaid Waiver. In addition, Ms. Selmek reported that they had seventy-four new attendees at the recent caregiver fair.

**Adjournment:**

Bruce Freimark made a motion to adjourn, supported by Aleta Jackson. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bedford Senior Center, 1652 Samaria Road, Temperance, MI 48182.

*Vicky L. Terrasi*

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary

