

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

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2005
Milan Senior Citizens Center

Vice-Chairman Richard Springstead called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Member's present: Noel Dentner, Paul Iacoangeli, Aleta Jackson, Mike Pasko, Richard Springstead and Loyd Sype.

Member excused: Martin Kaufman, Nancy Hamman and Vicky Terrasi

Vice-Chairman Richard Springstead led the Pledge of Allegiance and silent prayer.

Approval of the Agenda:

Loyd Sype motioned to approve the June 8, 2005 agenda as presented. Supported by Mike Pasko. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Pat Sheets, Services Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Inc., Cynthia McEllvain, Program Assistant, Caring Alternatives, Inc., County Commissioner Floreine Mentel, Adam Yeager, Concerned Citizen, Molly Luempert-Coy, Regional Manager, DTE Energy, and Larry VanWasshenova, Executive Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services

Public Time/Time for Milan Senior Citizen Center:

There was no public time.

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2005.

Motion made by Loyd Sype, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve the regular commission minutes of April 13, 2005 with corrections. **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 Mike Pasko. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Loyd Sype commented on numerous scams in California where people's social security numbers are being stolen. There is a church group that is scamming people on car sales where they take the money for the cars and the senior has no car. Seniors are getting calls that "Medicare is ending, we need your social security number". This is another scam going on.

Mike Pasko gave Terri Hamad a copy of the information that the Salvation Army has on a needs assessment that they are getting underway on. He also commented that Noreen Miller, a past COA chairwoman passed away recently.

Richard Springstead discussed that the township approached Berlin Seniors on new quarters for the senior center due to their township's need for additional office space. They offered space at a nearby fire hall, which is not appropriate due to stairs in the building. The seniors may end up in a new pole barn, or the township may build a new hall in the near future.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read. Mike Pasko asked about the invitation regarding the new "Tree House" center. The Tree House center is a place for child victims of criminal sexual abuse can be questioned in a comfortable atmosphere.

Directors Report:

For complete report, please see attached.

Terri Hamad commented on why we had to cancel the May COA meeting. Terri recently attended two of the State sponsored meetings in preparation for the fall Whitehouse Conference on Aging. One was held in Troy, the other in Detroit. Both were well attended by providers, seniors and advocates alike and a wealth of information was gathered for the state.

Terri reported to the Board of Commissioners on April 26, 2005. The presentation went very well. On April 28, 2005, the director's heard a presentation from Jill Kind of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw on the process they undertook to do a strategic plan or blueprint on aging. They were successful in obtaining Robert Wood Johnson funding to help fund the planning and implementation portions of their study.

On May 5, 2005, Marty Kaufman and Terri Hamad met with Mr. Londo and Carolyn Cron on the 2005 operational budget. They explained the need to keep the funds in the budget to pay claims as they come in. They assured Mr. Londo and Ms. Cron that the Commission scrutinizes the budget annually and carefully budgets the funds, as they are needed. The Commission needs to now submit a formal budget amendment request and the funds will be withdrawn from fund balance and placed back into the budget. The Commission reviewed the draft letter to be forwarded to Mr. Londo. The Commission will continue to monitor the activity on the budget throughout the balance of this year and on future budgets.

Mike Pasko rescheduled our picnic on August 14, 2005 at Carr Picnic. We will firm up our plans for the picnic at the July meeting.

On May 14, 2005 the Aging Consortium held its second annual caregivers fair, which was well attended. The breakout sessions were much better attended and more people flooded through the doors at the beginning of the fair.

On May 24, 2005 the staff represented the Commission at the first MEA-retired senior fair. Attendance was light, however we were able to speak with several seniors about our services.

On May 27, 2005, Vicky Terrasi and Terri Hamad met with Alysia Dozier, EMU MSW intern from Eastern Michigan University who would like to come aboard in the fall to be the Commission's intern. She will work directly with the agencies and help analyze data for the study that we would like to do.

Terri Hamad also thanked Molly Luempert-Coy from DTE Energy for working with us through the DTE Foundation to obtain \$1000.00 toward our training program we would like to have this summer/fall.

Terri plans to write to Lay-Z-Boy for additional funds for the training.

Unfinished Business:

A. Strategic Planning Committee Report of April 20, 2005

Paul Iacoangeli commented that we received the \$1000.00 check from DTE. He is pleased that the director's have come on board to work with the Commission on doing a comprehensive study. The committee also talked about bringing Vicky Terrasi back to full time. The additional cost would be close to \$19,000. The committee is going to discuss this further. Aleta Jackson commented that if Vicky were more vocal about her hours the Commission would have figured something about by now. The committee is going to continue to review the cost, hours and job description requirements.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at 1 p.m. at the COA conference room.

B. Monroe County Senior Legal Services Proposed Policy on Service to Clients Update.

Larry VanWasshenova discussed the policy that the Monroe County Senior Legal Services Board approved. They are anticipating changes due to changes being made at the State Bar in the their conflict policy. The commission asked specific questions about the language in the policy. The commission inquired of Mr. Yeager whether he felt his type of conflict had been addressed in the policy. The policy does not cover board /agency conflicts. The policy also does not go far enough to address conflict of interest protocol. There is also no plan to correct the conflict he had with Monroe County Senior Legal Services. The agency is bound by state statute to have 60% of its board members as practicing attorneys. Potential conflicts can arise at anytime when there are generally two opposing sides on a matter. Terri Hamad mentioned that their policy needs to have an "if" "then" kind of policy. For example, "if x conflict happens, then y is the procedure to help them."

Aleta Jackson commented that we might not be able to solve this issue. If Mr. Yeager walked in today for service, he may still have the same issues. The commission and the legal services have put a lot of time and effort in discussing the issue and quite honestly it may not be an issue we can solve. Motion by Paul Iacoangeli to accept fax transmittal correspondence of April 12, 2005 and April 26, 2005 from Monroe County Senior Legal Services and place on file, supported by Loyd. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

A. Presentation by DTE Energy on Low Income and Senior Fuel Assistance

Molly Luempert-Coy from DTE spoke about the new provisions of SB 334, which provide for all utilities to provide funds into the state LIEFF fund. Currently, only DTE contributes to this fund, yet customers outside of the DTE service area are able to gain assistance from these dollars. At this time only 30% of the DTE customers receive assistance from these funds. There is bi-partisan support on this bill, and little opposition. Many local governments and non-profits have supported this bill.

Motion by Loyd Sype to send letter of support to involved legislators on SB 334, seconded by Noel Dentner. **Motion Carried.**

B. Monroe County Senior legal Services Request

Larry VanWasshenova presented a request for funds to update their Bankruptcy software that the Commission supported last year. The cost to update the software is \$455. Everything in the future will be electronically filed. The office will require a scanner in order to do this. Larry has budgeted about \$1000.00 for a scanner. He would like to go through the county IT to purchase a scanner later this year. Motion by Loyd Sype to authorize payment of \$455 for the bankruptcy software update out of the special revenue reimbursement fund, seconded by Aleta Jackson. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Aleta Jackson to have Terri Hamad monitor for lower cost scanner options through the county before December. **Motion died due to lack of support.**

C. Discussion on AAA 1-B Community Care Management

Aaron Simonton of Monroe Senior Center had requested time on the agenda to discuss his issues, however did not attend the meeting to present his concern.

D. Milan Transit Small Bus Advisory Appointment

Motion by Paul Iacoangeli to appoint Audrey Kay Beckman to the Milan Transit small bus advisory council, supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion Carried.**

E. 2005 Budget Schedule

Commission is basically keeping a comparable schedule as last year. Terri Hamad explained that we would be discussing our proposed revenue at the pre-budget workshop. The proposed revenue for 2006 is looking promising at this time. Motion by Loyd Sype, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve proposed budget dates. **Motion Carried.**

F. 2005 Budget Application Review

Terri Hamad also recommended that a 2004 Balance Sheet be required with the application submission. Terri also recommended that the commission review our application forms in the upcoming year for any changes that may need to be made.

Motion by Noel Dentner, supported by Paul Iacoangeli to approve proposed budget applications. Motion Carried.

Public Time:

Commissioner Mentel commented on the questioning of the .5 mil from the Equalization Director. She will also get us a copy of the studies that the Salvation Army and SEMCA is having done upon completion. Commissioner Mentel also noted that the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren workshop that Catholic Charities hosted was poorly handled and the location was inappropriate for seniors. Commissioner Mentel also commented on the need to support DTE's SB 334 and stated she has also addressed the issue of Vicky's position with Mr. Londo.

Loyd Sype questioned the times of Frenchtown Township meetings.

Terri Hamad stated that we also need to look at supporting the MI Choice program in Michigan. The state is looking to cut eight million out of the state's budget, which would consequently cost them \$10 million in federal match. The Commission directed Terri to forward a letter of opposition to the involved legislators regarding the state's proposed eight million dollar cut.

Pat Sheets of Caring Alternatives introduced Cindy MacEllvain as the new Program Assistant at Caring Alternatives.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Mike Pasko. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room, 29 Washington Street, Monroe

Terri L. Hamad, Recording Secretary