

## 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  
August 09, 2006  
Berlin Senior Center

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

**Member's present:** Noel Dentner, Paul Iacoangeli, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, Paul Simonton, John Sledge Jr., Gerald Stone and Loyd Sype.

**Member excused:** Nancy Hamman

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

### **Approval of the Agenda:**

Noel Dentner motioned to approve the August 09, 2006 agenda as presented. Supported by John Sledge. **Motion carried.**

**Guests Present:** Nancy Young, Director, Faith In Action of Monroe County, Larry VanWasshenova, Executive Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services, Bridget Kyser, Services Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Inc., Gerilyn Powers, Regional Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, Rhonda Ziethlow, Assistant Director, and Chris Croley, Finance Director, Monroe Center, Rita Sanders, Vice-President, Mary Walker, Treasurer, and Betty Begley, Ash Seniors, Margaret Springstead, Treasurer, and Richard Springstead, Director, Berlin Seniors.

### **Public Time/Berlin Seniors:**

No public presentation to the Commission at this time.

### **Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2006.**

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by John Sledge to approve the regular commission minutes of July 12, 2006 as corrected. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Pre-Budget Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2006.**

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve the pre-budget minutes of July 14, 2006. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2006.**

Motion made by Loyd Sype, supported by Noel Dentner to approve the budget hearing minutes of July 18, 2006. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2006.**

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Loyd Sype to approve the budget hearing minutes of July 20, 2006. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2006.**

Motion made by Aleta Jackson, supported by Loyd Sype to approve the budget hearing minutes of July 25, 2006. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2006.**

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve the budget hearing minutes of July 27, 2006. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of August 01, 2006.**

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Aleta Jackson to approve the budget hearing minutes of August 01, 2006. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Financial Statements:**

The financial reports were presented. Motion to accept and place on file by Aleta Jackson, supported by Loyd Sype. **Motion carried.**

**Commission Members Report:**

Noel Dentner commented that the article in the Monroe Evening News about the Monroe Center for Independent Living for the Monroe Aging Consortium was a nice article. Another good article he read was on "Mission Grows To Help Those Living Alone" in The Christian Science Monitor section of the paper.

Aleta Jackson proudly announced that she has a new granddaughter.

**Correspondence:**

The list of correspondence was read.

**Directors Report:**

No information to report at this time.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Strategic Planning Committee Report of August 3, 2006:**

Paul Iacoangeli commented that the committee is looking at revising the Commission on Aging Contract for Services and the Commission on Aging Unit Definition Contract.

**B. Non-Compliant Reporting Agencies:**

Ms. Terrasi reported that all agencies are in compliance for the month of June.

**C. Catholic Charities of Monroe County Service Update:**

No representative for Catholic Charities of Monroe County showed to provide an update.

**D. Monroe Center Reorganization Plan:**

Mr. Simonton reiterated that over the past several years that there has been a steady decline in participation in the congregate meals program and that there is a much greater need for home delivered meals. While there is still a very important need for nutrition services the current staffing structure was established to accommodate a larger daily attendance. At the same time the meal program has seen a shift in participation, the Care Management and patient services programs have continued to increase dramatically. As part of the centers strategic plan they have done surveys, focus groups and research, which is moving them more towards health maintenance, and chronic care management services that are not provided anywhere else in the county.

Aaron Simonton requested the commissions' consideration to shift \$14,488.00 from the Food Service staffing line item and reallocate that amount to the Care Management/Patient Services staffing. The shifting of the funds for the next few months would give them the time to build up the Care Management/Patient Services program so that in 2007 they would be established.

They are working with the hospital's discharge planner for after care and they are seeking a lot of individuals coming out of the hospital during the late hours, they want to be able to provide the type of assistance that helps that individual make a good transition when they get home so that they are not

bouncing back and forth to the emergency room. They are also seeing a lot of request from baby boomers to help with their family members for the first time.

Rhonda Ziethlow commented that the re-designation of this money from food services for the rest of the year towards case management and patient services would allow them to give ten extra hours to their current Care Management Coordinator to fill some of those needs and fill the part-time position with 30 hours towards Patient Management Services. They see two definite areas because one has to do with medical and health issues whereas their case management has done the whole gamut of things but mostly personal and financial support of coordinating those services.

Paul Iacoangeli commented that if the Commission on Aging approves the request to transfer these funds this would lead to the creation of a position at a cost to the Commission of \$32,000 for staffing in 2007. In addition, he is concerned with duplication of this type of service and that there is already an agency that provides 24 hours access if someone is discharged from the hospital and commented that the service is great if these are the people that need to be providing this service, then maybe the Commission needs to look at the whole picture to try to consolidate the service so that there is one agency providing the service. If there were only one agency directing all these services, it would be a better process for everyone. The Commission needs to be very cognizant of the fact that they would be creating another position, some of these services already exist, and should the Commission let the Monroe Center continue on this track before they look at an efficient way to decide what is beneficial to the seniors.

Martin Kaufman questioned if this could be a pilot program for the remainder of this year. Mr. Simonton stated that each of the agencies' programs is unique however, they will hold a summit with the other agencies, to find out what services they are providing.

Lloyd Sype motioned to approve the transfer of funds from the Food Service staffing line item to the Care Management/Patient Services line item as a pilot program for the remainder of 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 Gerald Stone. **Motion carried. One abstention.**

#### **New Business:**

##### **A. Election of Commission on Aging Secretary**

Paul Iacoangeli moved to nominate Aleta Jackson as Secretary for the remainder of calendar year 2006. Supported by Noel Dentner. Are there any other nominations for Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Secretary? Paul Iacoangeli moved that nominations be closed for Secretary. Supported by Gerald Stone. Aleta Jackson accepted the unanimous ballot for Secretary. **Motion carried.**

##### **B. Monroe County Senior Legal Services Request**

Larry VanWasshenova requested the Commission's consideration to grant an additional \$284.00 in funding to purchase an Acrobat 7.0 Writer that is needed for them to apply for an IOLTA grant from the State Bar of Michigan.

Motion by Noel Dentner to grant the Monroe County Senior Legal Services request for an additional \$284.00 in funds to purchase an Acrobat 7.0 Writer 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 Paul Iacoangeli.

#### **Roll call:**

John Sledge – Yes

Gerald Stone – Yes

Lloyd Sype – Yes

**Motion carried.**

Noel Dentner – Yes

Paul Iacoangeli – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Aleta Jackson – Yes

**C. Commission on Aging Office Equipment Request**

Ms. Hamad requested the Commissions consideration to purchase a new printer for \$268.42 and a flat panel monitor for \$239.00 for her office.

Noel Dentner motioned to approve the request to purchase a new printer and monitor for the office out of the office's Maintenance and Equipment line item. Supported by Paul Iacoangeli.

**Roll call:**

Noel Dentner – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Gerald Stone – Yes

Paul Iacoangeli – Yes

Aleta Jackson – Yes

Loyd Sype – Yes

John Sledge – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**Public Time:**

Gerilyn Powers announced that Sandra Reminga, Executive Director, Kathleen Kirschenheiter, Associate Director, and Judith Wahlberg, Chief Fiscal Office of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B are all retiring effective November 2006. She is also acting as the Oakland supervisor as well as being the supervisor for Monroe.

Ms. Powers also announced that Area Agency on Aging 1-B renewed contracts with Faith In Action for Monroe County, Living Independence for Everyone, Monroe County Opportunity Programs Resource Advocacy Program, Caring Alternatives, Inc. Elder Abuse Program as well as granted Caring Alternatives, Inc. the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren grant.

In addition, she announced that currently there are thirty people on the waiting list and that she is trying to hire new Social Worker.

Richard Springstead thanked the Commission for coming and holding their meeting at the Berlin Center.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Noel Dentner, supported by Gerald Stone. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Frenchtown Senior Center, 2786 Vivian Road, Monroe.

*Vicky L. Terrasi*

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary