

Terri L. Hamad  
Director

## Monroe County Commission on Aging

Board Members

Martin Kaufman  
Chairman

29 Washington Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Bruce Freimark

Noel Dentner  
Vice-Chairman

Telephones: 734.240.7363 \* Toll Free: 1.888.354.5500 \* Fax 734.240.7360

Nancy Hamman

Aleta Jackson  
Secretary

E-Mail: [mccoa@monroemi.org](mailto:mccoa@monroemi.org)

\* Website: [www.co.monroe.mi.us/CommonAging](http://www.co.monroe.mi.us/CommonAging)

Paul Simonton

John Sledge

Monroe County Commission on Aging  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2009

Gerald Stone

Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**Members present:** Noel Dentner, Bruce Freimark, Richard Gunn, Nancy Hamman, Aleta Jackson, Martin Kaufman, Paul Simonton, John Sledge Jr., and Gerald Stone.

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

### Approval of the Agenda:

Aleta Jackson made a motion to approve the October 14, 2009 agenda as presented. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.**

**Guests Present:** Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, Linda Russeau, Fiscal Accountant, Monroe Center for Healthy Aging; Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services; Cheri Boron, Executive Secretary, Living Independence for Everyone; and Floreine Mentel, County Commissioner and Area Agency on Aging 1-B Board of Directors.

### Public Time:

Aaron Simonton addressed the Commission regarding the Plante & Moran audit and the communication they missed with them. Mr. Simonton commented that he received three emails from Plante & Moran. The first was in April listing the information needed for them to perform the 2008 Agreed Upon Procedure (AUP) as well as requesting a time to meet with him to do the audit. The second email he received from them was in May regarding a form from the audit they performed that he needed to sign and send back to them. This was the last he heard from Plante & Moran until October 13 stating that in order for them to report to the Commission on Aging on the Monroe Center and Cancer Connection that they needed both final expenditure reports, final programmatic reports, access to the accounting ledger for 2008, and a signed client representation letter for both grants.

Mr. Simonton commented that this has been the problem all this time. They did not know that they were not providing them with all the information Plante & Moran needed. This is a break in the communication chain. They should have notified either Terri Hamad or the center as soon as they realized they did not have everything needed to perform the AUP.

Mr. Simonton commented that he has everything needed with him today for Plante & Moran to complete the AUP on the Monroe Center and the Cancer Connection programs for the fiscal year, 2008.

### Approval of the Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes of September 09, 2009.

Paul Simonton made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Regular Minutes of September 09, 2009 as corrected. Supported by Richard Gunn. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Commission on Aging Budget Hearing Minutes of September 10, 2009.**

Noel Dentner made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Budget Hearing Minutes of September 10, 2009 as corrected. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Commission on Aging Budget Workshop Minutes of September 15, 2009.**

Noel Dentner made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Budget Workshop Minutes of September 15, 2009 as presented. Supported by Bruce Freimark. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Commission on Aging Budget Hearing Minutes of September 15, 2009.**

Nancy Hamman made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Special Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2009 as corrected. Supported by Bruce Freimark. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Commission on Aging Budget Appeal Minutes of September 29, 2009.**

Paul Simonton made a motion to approve the Commission on Aging Budget Appeal Minutes of September 29, 2009 as corrected. Supported by Richard Gunn. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Final Financial Statements of September 2009:**

Ms. Hamad presented the September 2009 Financial Reports. Bruce Freimark made a motion to accept, and place on file the September 2009 Financial Reports. Supported by Aleta Jackson. **Motion carried.**

**Commission Members' Report:**

Gerald Stone reported that the Bedford Senior Center celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sunday, October 11, 2009 with an open house.

Nancy Hamman reported that she will be part of a focus/planning group to work on the next forty years for the Bedford Senior Center.

Paul Simonton reported that he attended the County Board of Commissioner's meeting of October 13, 2009, and they are expecting anywhere between a five to seven million dollar short fall. If they do not reduce expenditures, it would result in losing thirty-three employees out of the Sheriff's department, nineteen out of the court system, and twenty-seven out of other departments.

Chairman Martin Kaufman reported that he saw an unbelievable list of the number of companies in Frenchtown that are appealing their taxes.

Ms. Hamad commented that if the Tribunal awards their request, the Commission on Aging as well as the County takes a hit and loses money every time on every award granted.

Chairman Kaufman commented that this puts more pressure on the Commission to discuss prioritization, as the financial picture gets more difficult.

**Correspondence:**

The Commission reviewed the list of correspondence.

**Director's Report:**

Ms. Hamad commented that she reviewed the audio recording of the Budget Appeal Minutes of September 29, 2009 and heard the exchanges between the Commission and Lake Erie Transit and addressed those issues with their board at their meeting the next day. On the following Monday she had a meeting with Mark Jagodzinski, Denise Drod, and Bruce Weeks to discuss fee-for-service and to provide service throughout the entire county. The meeting went well and they will check to see what a one-way trip would cost to provide a one-day service in each area. After they have done this, they will schedule another meeting with her to discuss their findings.

Ms. Hamad discussed the serious cuts the State proposed in the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) budget that will hurt Michigan's most vulnerable population--the older adults.

The Legislature has been unable to agree on a final budget, and instead passed a 30-day continuation budget on September 30 to buy more time to negotiate a solution to the budget. However, in last minute actions on the Department of Community Health (DCH) budget before the impasse, both the House and Senate approved cuts for OSA programs averaging 14% and totaling \$5.3 million statewide. The most severe cuts are in services such as in-home care, home delivered meals, and senior volunteer programs. Nevertheless, these severe cuts are still on the table and will go before Governor Granholm when budget negotiations begin moving again. The Governor said that she would veto cuts to programs that are too severe. Ms. Hamad stated that the Commission on Aging could not make up the differences in the cuts with the budgetary outlook.

Ms. Hamad reported the letter attached would go to the Honorable Governor Jennifer Granholm urging her to veto the proposed cuts to the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging budget.

Last June the "Monroe County Seniority Majority" went to Lansing to the Older Michiganians Day Rally wearing day-green tie-dyed shirts to make a big presence about the fact that seniors are a foundation in this state.

The letter will be copied on Day-Glo green paper for seniors to sign as well as a petition to flood the Governor's desk asking her to intervene in the cuts to the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) budget at a regular scheduled Health Odyssey on October 22, 2009.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Strategic Planning Committee Report of October 1, 2009 and October 7, 2009:**

Noel Dentner reported that the items the committee discussed at both the October 1 and October 7 meetings are on today's agenda for the board to take action on.

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

Larry VanWasshenova provided the following data for the month of September:

- They received 170 new clients.
- They have 199 clients total.
- They closed 84 cases.
- They have 333 active cases.
- They have 141 litigated cases.
- They sent out 11 forms, but are no longer tracking the number of people refusing to fill out the form.
- They collected \$370.00 in program income.
- 59% clients served were 100% of poverty or less.
- They did 43 outreach cases.
- Two conferences were attended.

Ms. Hamad questioned the parameters that are put on the clients that have cases open more than one year to get them closed.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that some of those cases they are monitoring in Probate Court, which is usually because real estate is involved.

Paul Simonton questioned Mr. VanWasshenova concerning any cases where he is representing any landlords at this time.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that he does not think so and would have to check.

Paul Simonton is concerned about a case where Monroe County Legal Services is representing a landlord that actually lives in Wayne County.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that they have an informal agreement with agencies in Wayne County, Washtenaw, and Toledo to refer cases back and forth.

Mr. Simonton commented that the agreement with other counties has nothing to do with the Monroe County Senior funding. The funding is for Monroe County residents only, and you are taking COA funds out of county to represent an out of county resident who is a businessperson.

Aleta Jackson commented that she was aware of the Reciprocity agreement between Wayne, Washtenaw, and Toledo ever since she has been on this board.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that they could put guidelines in the Reciprocity agreement.

Bruce Freimark asked about the average contribution collected at the end of a case.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that it was approximately four dollars.

Mr. Simonton questioned on how close is the agency coming to fee-for-service.

Mr. VanWasshenova commented that they are at a point in transition over to the fee-for-service plan and are working on what is a fair cost share. This has been the hardest part.

**New Business:**

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

Mr. VanWasshenova requested the Commission's consideration to approve the line item transfers totaling \$5,600.00 for supplies, dues, and conference/training.

Bruce Freimark made a motion to approve the Monroe County Senior Legal Services line item request totaling \$5,600.00 for supplies, dues, and conference/training 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 Simonton.

**Roll call:**

Noel Dentner- Yes

Gerald Stone – Yes

Richard Gunn – Yes

John Sledge – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Paul Simonton – Yes

Aleta Jackson – Yes

Nancy Hamman – Yes

Bruce Freimark – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**B. Approval of the 2010 Commission on Aging Budget:**

Ms Hamad presented and reviewed the office and agency budget with a combined total of \$3,363,948.00 and requested the Commissions consideration to submit the budget as presented to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Paul Simonton made a motion to accept the 2010 Commission on Aging budget as presented totaling \$3,363,948.00 and submit the budget to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval. Supported by Noel Dentner.

**Roll call:**

Aleta Jackson – Yes

Richard Gunn – Yes

Noel Dentner- Yes

Gerald Stone – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Nancy Hamman – Yes

Paul Simonton – Yes

Bruce Freimark – Yes

John Sledge – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**C. Audit RFP Recommendation and Discussion:**

Ms. Hamad reported that Plante & Moran and Rehmann Robson were the only two bids for the Request for Proposals for Professional Auditing Services. At the Strategic Planning Committee of October 7, 2009, the committee discussed the technical applications from both firms.

Technically, they are on equal footing. The sealed cost bids were reviewed. After the review of the cost, hours planned and the technical criteria, the committee recommends to the full board to stay with Plante & Moran another year. This would give continuity due to the changeover of many of the agencies to fee-for-service and the continuing learning curve with PeerPlace. The board discussed the Strategic Planning Committee recommendation and decided to keep that continuity and stay with Plante & Moran another year.

Bruce Freimark made a motion to accept the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation and the Plante & Moran proposal to conduct the Agreed Upon Procedures for \$36,020.00 between January 1 through December 31, 2010 for the year ending December 31, 2009. Supported by Richard Gunn.

**Roll call:**

Martin Kaufman – Yes  
Richard Gunn – Yes  
John Sledge – Yes

Gerald Stone – Yes  
Paul Simonton – Yes  
Bruce Freimark – Yes

Noel Dentner- Yes  
Aleta Jackson – Yes  
Nancy Hamman – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**D. Commission on Aging Draft Logo:**

Ms. Hamad presented the draft logo and commented that to improve the awareness of the Monroe County Commission on Aging in the community, the logo would provide recognition of our agency with respect to service for people. This would help people to contact us if they need information to access our services.

Ms. Hamad would like to have a public unveiling to change the focus and attitude people in the community have on older adults.

Ms. Hamad requested the Commissions consideration for the staff to have a poster, business cards for staff and board members (MCCOA mission statement on the back), and letterhead printed.

Paul Simonton made a motion to adopt the draft logo as presented and approve the request to incur expenses to have a framed poster, business cards for staff and board members (MCCOA mission statement on the back), and letterhead printed. Supported by Nancy Hamman.

**Roll call:**

Noel Dentner- Yes  
Martin Kaufman – Yes  
Gerald Stone – Yes

Richard Gunn – Yes  
Aleta Jackson – Yes  
Bruce Freimark – Yes

John Sledge – Yes  
Nancy Hamman – Yes  
Paul Simonton – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**Public Time:** Floreine Mentel addressed the commission regarding the heavy State cuts in the congregate and home delivered meals.

Cheri Boron addressed the commission regarding their agency increasing the cost of the meals to either \$2.50 or \$3.00 per meal.

**Adjournment:**

Nancy Hamman made a motion to adjourn, supported by Bruce Freimark. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Commission on Aging Conference Room, 29 Washington Street, Monroe, MI 48161.

*Vicky L. Terrasi*

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary