

Monroe County Commission on Aging

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Terri L. Hamad, Director
Vicky L. Terrasi, Assistant

Monroe County Commission on Aging
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2006
Lake Erie Transit Commission

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

Member excused: Aleta Jackson

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Noel Dentner motioned to approve the December 13, 2006 agenda as presented. Supported by Nancy Hamman. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Nancy Young, Director, Faith In Action for Monroe County, Cheri Boron, Executive Secretary, Living Independence for Everyone, Janet Crego, Home Care Director, Diane Tackett Director Resource Advocacy/Chore/Home Injury Control, and Stephanie Kasprzak, Executive Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, Carlene Field and Gerilyn Powers, Regional Supervisor, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Chris Croley, Fiscal/Human Resource, Rhonda Ziethlow, Assistant Director, Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, and Bonnie Weber, Healthy Aging Alliance Director, The Monroe Center, Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager, Lake Erie Transit Commission, Bridget Kyser, Service Coordinator, Caring Alternatives, Larry VanWasshenova, Director, Monroe County Senior Legal Services, and Floreine Mentel, County Commissioner and Area Agency on Aging 1-B Board of Directors.

Public Time/Lake Erie Transit:

Mark Jagodzinski announced that they are in the process of expanding the garage for bus parking at a cost of two million dollars that should be completed in six months.

Aaron Simonton commented that he noticed that he was not on the agenda for a line item transfer request and requested time on the January agenda to address the transfer request.

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of November 08, 2006.

Motion made by Loyd Sype, supported by Noel Dentner to approve the regular commission minutes of November 08, 2006 as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of November 02, 2006.

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Nancy Hamman to approve the special minutes of November 02, 2006 as corrected. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Budget Workshop Minutes of November 20, 2006.

Motion made by Noel Dentner, supported by Paul Iacoangeli to approve the budget workshop minutes of November 20, 2006 as corrected. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Financial Statements:

The financial reports were presented. Motion to accept and place on file by Paul Iacoangeli, supported by Paul Simonton. **Motion carried.**

Commission Members Report:

Gerald Stone reported that he still has to report for jury duty.

Lloyd Sype reported on a utility shut-off scam where they tell an individual that they owe a large amount on their bill and it needs to be paid immediately and they can pay it over the phone.

John Sledge wished everyone Happy Holidays and commented that he hopes that his new commissioners will allow him to continue to represent district 3 on the Commission on Aging.

Paul Simonton reported that he contacted Jim Dusia from American Welding regarding the use of the JAWS crew and he is very interested in using the crew to help with clean up and tear down of the ramps.

Correspondence:

The list of correspondence was read.

Directors Report:

Terri Hamad reported that on December 12, 2006, the County Board of Commissioners approved the staffing request with a few minor changes. Ms. Hamad added some programmatic duties into the position to address what the staff will be doing beginning next year and dropped the title Assistant Director to Assistant, which made it more palatable to the Commissioners and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:**A. Strategic Planning Committee Report of November 30, 2006:**

Paul Iacoangeli reported that the Committee has been working on the draft policy on the fee-for-service contract, which will be discussed later today in the meeting. They have also had some serious discussion that will possibly lead to the creation of a ramp committee at some future point. In addition, the Blueprint Steering committee is awaiting final workgroup drafts that are due to Ms. Hamad on December 15th.

Ms. Hamad reported that the committee also discussed in depth the service definitions that she has been working on with regards to the Commissions' services. After the committee meets in January to discuss the definitions and make any final changes they may be on the January agenda for the entire board to review and discuss for implementation for next year. If not, they will be on the February agenda.

Chairman Kaufman reported that a new ramp committee needs to be developed to discuss if it is meeting the needs of the program. This item will be added to the January agenda.

B. Non-Compliant Reporting Agencies:

Ms. Terrasi reported that all of the Commission on Aging funded agencies are in compliance for the month of October.

C. Approval of the 2007 Fee-For-Service Contract:

The contract was submitted to the County's attorney for legal review. In 2007, all the service providers that are under fee-for-service will sign this contract so there would be a complete understanding of what the Commission is looking for when it comes to invoicing for payment.

Chairman Kaufman commented after all the members have had a chance to review the contract it will be placed on the January agenda for discussion and adoption.

Paul Simonton suggested that this contract could be taken to the Director's meeting for them to give input on the document.

Ms. Hamad will pull it out of the actual HIPPA Act that says that if the payer is using that information to pay claims or to process claims, which something to that effect would go into the policy.

Chairman Kaufman commented that this is all to insure the taxpayers that these funds are being used as expected.

D. Discussion of The Monroe Center Pilot Progress:

Aaron Simonton introduced Bonnie Weber who is an MSW, the Healthy Aging Alliance Director for the pilot program and she has been working in the county since 1976. Ms. Weber has an extensive background in mental health and substance abuse.

The basis behind the pilot project is to have all the agencies coordinate their services to meet the needs of the senior in the community. The solution was to develop an alliance of service providers to focus all their efforts in a coordinated way so that they do not duplicate efforts and resources are used wisely.

Bonnie Weber distributed a handout with an explanation of her personal and past work history. Ms. Weber commented that she has been meeting with all the agencies. Ms. Weber presented a story of a 70-year-old Monroe County resident before they helped this individual in the Healthy Aging Alliance Program.

Aaron Simonton commented that he met with the Mercy Memorial Hospital discharge planner and the hospital has had 769 re-admits in the first eight months of this year.

Stephanie Kasprzak commented that they have worked with the Monroe Center over the years on many projects and ultimately have been one of the agencies that Mr. Simonton has engaged in this process and has been very watchful as this pilot program progresses. Ms. Kasprzak stated that this program is a complete duplication of MCOP Resource Advocacy Program and another level of bureaucracy for the clients to go through.

Gerilyn Powers commented that the synopsis and timeline of the 70 year old are incorrect.

Chairman Kaufman recommended putting the agencies concerns regarding the Healthy Aging Alliance pilot program on a future agenda for all the agencies to speak to.

Nancy Hamman added that it sounds to her that Ms. Kasprzak's information illustrates to the Commission that there is duplication of service with the pilot program and that there should be a special meeting held just for this issue. Rhonda Ziethlow commented that they have been working to get something in place that will track what the Commission defines as those contract service hours.

Chairman Kaufman recommended that this issue be an item on the January agenda and invite all the director's to attend the meeting and since this is a pilot program there will be more than one meeting regarding this issue.

Paul Iacoangeli recommended that all the director's that have an opinion on the pilot program to put that opinion in writing and submit it to Ms. Hamad so that the Commission would have them prior to the meeting. Personally, this was his biggest fear that when the Commission decided to take this project on in August, there were duplications in service and since the Commission did not define what this service was going to do the Commission was going to run into some of these issues.

Ms. Hamman commented that the Commission needs to define what the services are going to be for Healthy Aging Alliance and get the definition of Resource Advocacy to see if they are looking at two different programs that will connect to best serve the clients.

Mr. Dentner commented that he agrees with Mr. Iacoangeli to have the director's write down their concerns, send them to Ms. Hamad and also feels that there needs to be a special meeting so that each of their concerns can be discussed.

Gerald Stone commented that the Commission needs to find out what each of the agencies do, where it can be streamlined, what parts duplicate the other programs and what parts of it can be eliminated. This is why in August 2006 it was approved as a pilot program.

Chairman Kaufman noted that the majority of the members wish to hold a special meeting regarding the concerns and issues of the pilot program in January.

E. Discussion of Caring Alternatives 2007 Funding:

Mr. Dentner questioned Ms. Hamad if Caring Alternatives response letter answered all the Commissions' questions.

Ms. Hamad does not feel that the Commissions' questions were answered based on what was asked for. They still did not provide the client addresses and looks as though they are not going to provide them. The second item that is referred to in the letter from the accountant does not answer the Commissions' question at all, in fact, Ms. Hamad can add the RN/Med Management program income and RN/Med Management Purchase of Service (POS) together, however adding those numbers together do not make programmatic income. If she looks at the department 700 budget clearly there are three entries, one is program income, one is meds management, and the third one is POS which is Area Agency on Aging 1-B and obviously there is Commission on Aging money in there as well. What the account is saying is that if you add the program income and the POS together you get the \$11,812.94 figure that they show on the Commissions' monthly Programmatic Report. Purchase of Service income is not programmatic income; programmatic income is income coming to the program from the client. There is still a dispute over the number of client's being served and in her response she has given a completely different set of numbers than what Ms. Hamad has. Finally, the only thing Ms. Hamad will concede a little on is the 990 with the justification in the difference of revenue although she does have a concern that when an agency does a tax form in May, which is five months after the year is already closed, she would speculate that they would have a good idea of what their gain or loss would have been on investments and that is partially accounted for in Part 1 item C where it says gain or loss that shows \$15,000. What they are saying on the amended is that there were other changes in net assets or fund balances on line item 20, which was the \$19,352 and to her that they would have been able to see that long before September when the audit was done as well as the line item changes for office supplies, printing/publications and travel.

Mr. Dentner commented that the Commission has the County Attorneys opinion that states that the Commission can require client names and addresses and they refuse to provide funding until the information is received.

Mr. Simonton commented that he has concerns that the agency has not complied and reviewed the Michigan Compiled Law that states very clearly that any public agency that is giving out funds is excluded from the HIPPA that requires a written consent. Caring Alternatives has an excellent reputation in the community and the services provided to the seniors in this community have been quality professional service. Mr. Simonton is concerned that if the Commission does not fund Caring Alternatives what is the contingency for the seniors who are being served by them.

Ms. Hamad commented that realizing that the Commission may not get what they requested from Caring Alternatives she has been in contact with some other service providers who provide some of the same services and they are prepared to jump in and take over the clients who may or may not have service in January. It is very hard for the staff to get a grasp on how many clients that would be because obviously the Commission is not the only funding source for Caring Alternatives and they could potentially serve all the clients they have with their other sources of funding. The other issue is that since the Commission does not have addresses of any of their clients there is no way for the Commission to notify them in any way that their funding maybe interrupted. The Commission is prepared with the network of providers that are already in place to make those referrals for those clients to the other service providers with the pledge from them that they will set in and make a smooth transition for the client.

In addition, Ms. Hamad would prefer that there not be a discontinuation of service however she is not sure what the issue is and why the Commission cannot get the answers from Caring Alternatives. Also, if the Commission is going to put teeth into their policies and in all fairness to the agencies that do comply, the Commission needs to stand their ground and move forward.

No funding stands and there will be no recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to fund Caring Alternatives fiscal year 2007.

New Business:

A. Faith In Action for Monroe County Annual Report:

Nancy Young presented the Faith In Action for Monroe County Annual Report of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. The report notes the amount of transportation hours, respite/caregiving relief hours, and friendly visits hours and many other services provided during this time period. They increased the number of volunteers from 27 to 48, applied and received matching grants totaling \$1,300.00. Increased program income from \$562 to \$814. Applied and received \$1,800.00 grant from the La-Z-Boy Foundation to purchase NAPIS software to enable them to report stats to the AAA 1-B. In collaboration with AARP, Monroe County Commission on Aging, Monroe County Area Agency on Aging 1-B to develop a "Caregiver Resource Manual" that will be distributed in 2007.

B. Faith In Action for Monroe County Line Item Transfer Request:

Ms. Young requested the Commissions consideration to approve a line item transfer of \$986.00 from the wages of the Intake Coordinator with \$321 for the unexpected increase in the audit, \$387.00 into the telephone line item and \$268.00 into the postage line item.

Noel Dentner motioned to approve the Faith In Action for Monroe County request to transfer \$986.00 from the Intake Coordinator line item to off set the other line items. Supported by Paul Simonton.

Roll call:

Gerald Stone – Yes

Loyd Sype – Yes

Noel Dentner – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes

Paul Iacoangeli – yes

John Sledge – Yes

Paul Simonton - Yes

Motion carried.

C. LIFE Line Item Transfer Request:

Cheri Boron requested the Commission consideration to approve a line item transfer request of \$18,064 from the cook's wages line item.

Due to the Line Item Transfer Request form not being filled out properly the Commission chose to not approve the request at this time and have it placed on the January agenda for review.

D. Commission on Aging Line Item Transfer Request:

The Commission on Aging staff withdrew their request until the January meeting.

Public Time:

Commissioner Mentel reported that the County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Commission on Aging staffing request at last nights meeting and thanked those COA members who attended the meeting. In addition, Commissioner Mentel wished everyone Happy Holiday's.

Bridget Kyser commented that she does not have answers to the Commissions questions regarding Caring Alternatives however she and the thirty workers that works for her do a great job for the community.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Noel Dentner, supported by Paul Simonton. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bedford Branch of the Monroe County Library System, 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance.

Vicky L. Terrasi

Vicky L. Terrasi, Recording Secretary