

Monroe County Commission on Aging

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

Monroe County Commission on Aging Special Board Meeting Minutes December 20, 2006 Commission on Aging Conference Room

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

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

Member's excused: Nancy Hamman, Paul Iacoangeli and Loyd Sype

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Aleta Jackson motioned to approve the November 20, 2006 agenda as presented. Supported by Noel Dentner. **Motion carried.**

Guests Present: Nancy Young, Director, Faith In Action for Monroe County, Cheri Boron, Executive Secretary, and Frankie Foidl, Director, Living Independence for Everyone, Stephanie Kasprzak, Executive Director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, 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, Peter Fales, Chairperson, and Sharon Williams, CEO, Caring Alternatives, Cheryl Riddle, Accountant, Clarks & Associates Deb Brescol, Director, RSVP, Connie Harvell, Monroe County Health Department, and Charles Londo, Administrator/CFO, Monroe County.

Public Time:

No public comments at this time.

Commission Members' Time:

No members' commented at this time.

Unfinished Business:

A. Discussion of the Proposed Commission on Aging Fee-For-Service Contract

Chairman Kaufman opened the meeting up for discussion regarding the proposed Commission on Aging Fee-For-Service Contract.

Paul Simonton questioned how payment within 5 days could take place when it has to go before the County Board of Commissioners that only meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month?

Terri Hamad commented that she and Mr. Londo discussed this issue and to insure prompt payment of those invoices by using the non-claim system.

Mr. Simonton questioned how could it be done on the fee-for-service invoices and not on everything else that the Commission makes payment on.

Charles Londo commented that he and Ms. Hamad talked about this issue in great detail on a way to reimburse the providers on a timelier basis because of the fact that there could be a cash flow issue with the agencies. The Commission would use the non-claim process for bills and invoices, with that said, this type of expenditure would fall within that type of classification (non-claim).

Ms. Hamad commented that the bugs would be worked out of this during FY 2007 but obviously the Commission is looking at fully implementing a Fee-For-Service payment structure in 2008.

Mr. Simonton commented that he could see how certain programs could be on a fee-for-service bases, however can see some major problems especially with smaller agencies that do not have this liquid asset to float and hopes that before the Commission fully implements fee-for-service for all the programs that possibly the Director's Meeting would be a good place to start by having them tell what issues and concerns would be for them to be on a fee-for-service basis.

Ms. Hamad commented that the Commission is starting with the programs that are currently on fee-for-service and looking to implement countywide in FY 2008.

The Strategic Planning Committee would discuss this in depth further at their January 4, 2007.

Paul Simonton motioned to approve Proposed Commission on Aging Fee-For-Service Contract with a few minor changes to the draft. Supported by Aleta Jackson.

Roll call:

John Sledge – Yes
Aleta Jackson – Yes

Paul Simonton – Yes
Noel Dentner – Yes

Martin Kaufman – Yes
Gerald Stone – Yes

Motion carried.

New Business:

A. Discussion with the County Administrator/CFO regarding Caring Alternatives 2007 Budget Decision:

Chairman Kaufman opened the meeting up for discussion regarding the Discussion with the County Administrator/CFO regarding Caring Alternatives 2007 Budget Decision.

Mr. Simonton questioned if the Commission received the information from Caring Alternatives that was requested?

Chairman Kaufman commented that there has been no additional information received from Caring Alternatives. The Commission asked that Caring Alternatives adequately address and clarify the items that concern the Commission that was sent in a letter on November 28, 2006. At the last meeting, the Commission decided that was not done so there was no action so to make an allocation at this time for Caring Alternatives for FY 2007.

Mr. Simonton commented that it is straight forward that the Commission cannot make a decision until the information that has been requested from Caring Alternatives has been received. To keep having special meetings when the Commission does not get what they are requesting is not going to make him change his position on requiring the information to receive funding.

Chairman Kaufman commented that the Commission has had many months of discussion regarding Caring Alternatives and as of the last regular meeting of 2006 the board felt that they have not received what was requested to make a funding decision.

In addition, Chairman Kaufman commented that he and Ms. Hamad had a meeting with Charles Londo on Friday, December 15, 2006 and Mr. Londo felt that the Commission had an option to start fresh in FY 2007 with the new fee-for-service contract. If there were problems in the past regarding disagreements of what could not be supplied or should or should not be supplied to the Commission before they allocate funding the contract will make everything clearer. The contract also went through the County Attorney for review and input. The funds for 2006 have been expended and this discussion is regarding Caring Alternatives in 2007 and here is a new contract that would go along with any fee-for-service programs that the Commission funds so regardless of whether Caring Alternatives have or have not complied in 2006 there will be no more funding expended unless this fee-for-service contract is complied with.

Mr. Simonton commented that he does not see that as an option since the Commission has required all of the other agencies to comply and they have done so. He stated he is not sure if the Commission has the authority to ignore their own policies, because one of the agencies does not want to comply.

Mr. Dentner commented that the Commission just voted to approve the new fee-for-service contract so there is no question about it if they do not sign the contract they do not receive millage funding.

Chairman Kaufman reiterated what Mr. Simonton had said, that the rules have not been complied with. The question is does the Commission move forward with Caring Alternatives in FY 2007.

Mr. Simonton commented the Commission required all the agencies whether their programs were on fee-for-service or not to provide the information that is being requested from Caring Alternatives so if the Commission makes exceptions with them what will stop another agency from noncompliance on this or any other policy that the Commission has in place; it also punishes all the other agencies that have complied.

Ms. Jackson commented that she does not think any agency would question the Commission for doing their job better and if the Commission backs off following their own rules now it would be a giant step backwards for the Commission.

Public Time:

Peter Fales again discussed the issues concerning Freedom of Information Act and the "FOIAbility" of the client records. Ms. Hamad explained that the information is not being gathered to "sell" or anything of that nature, but that the Commission is trying to gather all the client information for all the agencies to gain a master, unduplicated list of clients served in the county. Aaron Simonton commented that the director's meetings are a good outlet to discuss these types of concerns for information requests. Sharon Williams commented on the thoroughness of her response to the Commission. Ms. Hamad commented that while she may

have thought she answered the Commission's questions, she had not given any clear explanation for the differing number of clients in Medication Management or Home Companion; she had not provided client addresses, nor had she justified the addition of the Purchase of Service Revenue to Program Income in the Medication Management program financial summary.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Noel Dentner, supported by Paul Simonton. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:27 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