

## Monroe County Commission on Aging

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Loyd Sype

### Monroe County Commission on Aging

#### Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2008

Monroe County Commission on Aging Conference Room

Chairman Martin Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

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

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

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

John Sledge motioned to approve the October 29, 2008 agenda as presented. Supported by Loyd Sype. **Motion carried.**

#### **Guest Present:**

Aaron Simonton, Executive Director, the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging.

#### **Public Time:**

Aaron Simonton distributed and reviewed with the commission the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging and Cancer Connection's 2008 Financial Recovery Plan that they have implemented. Mr. Simonton commented that this will be a long term adjustment for everyone.

The following is a brief outline of the plan and the outcome of the Financial Recovery Plan:

- A brief history for the center ending fiscal year 2007 in a deficit and the use of their reserve account resulting in a serious cash flow problem for them throughout 2008
- A revision to the current 2008 operating budget and implementation of 20% employee cost share for health benefits beginning October 1, 2008, along with hourly reductions and work force
- Developing supports coordination program in partnership with the Monroe County Opportunity Program to fill the gap at the center
- Reducing week day hours and closing on week-ends and holidays

The commission was impressed with all the work and actions taken by the Monroe Center for Healthy Aging in this difficult time for the center.

Mr. Simonton mentioned that they will come to the commission's November meeting to request changes in the structure of the 2008 budget that will be a part of the center's recovery.

Terri Hamad commented that the Blueprint for Aging Services in Monroe County is our working draft document that is going to be our work in progress document for many years. The commission is in a pivotal situation this year with our budget. In a negative there is always a positive and the positive is that the commission is in a perfect storm to start to really look at the

Blueprint for Aging in Monroe County while deliberating the budget allocations. In addition, Ms. Hamad presented and reviewed with the commission a revised 2009 Estimated Revenue.

**The 2009 Budget Discussion:**

Paul Simonton commented on his concerns of the Monroe County Senior Legal Services representing wealthy seniors and working on taxes and social security matters that should be referred over to the Monroe County Opportunity Program and that he is opposed to funding them at the level the commission funds them. In the Area Agency on Aging 1-B policy it does not state that Legal Services has to represent everyone just because they are sixty (60) plus.

Mr. Simonton reported that he spoke with Laurie Berry regarding the importance of diabetic education in the county. Ms. Berry told him that it is most important and very beneficial to those with diabetes. Mr. Simonton has scheduled a meeting with Rebecca Head prior to the commission's November meeting to bring back in depth information on how the Diabetic Education program is run through the Monroe County Health Department.

Mr. Simonton excused himself from the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Nancy Hamman commented that all the agencies should be looking at the clients they are serving when they have a waiting list, not just legal service.

Bruce Freimark commented that when a member of the commission hears negative remarks out in the community regarding an agency or program they need to bring it to the commission's attention to look into that agency or program.

**Monroe County Senior Legal Services:**

The commission reviewed the draft "Legal Assistance" document and remains extremely concerned about the details outlined in the document. While Mr. VanWasshenova has made an attempt to put something in writing to present to clients, an understandable, definitive explanation of services that prioritizes matters and clients by those who have and do not have the ability to pay for legal services is completely lacking. In addition, the list of priorities listed clearly encompasses matters that other agency programs in the community manage.

Based on the commission's concerns that they continue to express, the commission is continuing to recommend \$0 in funding for the Monroe County Senior Legal Services for fiscal year 2009.

**The Monroe County Commission on Aging 2009 Office Budget:**

Ms. Hamad reported that the County increased the Central Services/Indirect Cost \$7,200.00 for 2009.

Noel Dentner motioned to approve the 2009 Monroe County Commission on Aging Operational and Programmatic Budget and recommend it to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners for final approval. Supported by Gerald Stone.

**Roll call:**

Martin Kaufman – Yes  
Loyd Sype – Yes  
Nancy Hamman – Yes

Bruce Freimark- Yes  
Aleta Jackson – Yes  
Noel Dentner – Yes

John Sledge – Yes  
Gerald Stone – Yes

**Motion carried.**

**Commission Members' Time:**

The commission discussed the need to set up another Budget Workshop to discuss and recommend to the County Board of Commissioners the balance of programs that need funding.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, November 05, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Monroe County Commission on Aging conference room.

Aleta Jackson reported that her surgery went well and that the biopsy test came back negative.

Loyd Sype reported that the Diabetic strips are no longer covered by Medicare and that he needs to purchase them elsewhere.

**Public Time:**

No public present at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Noel Dentner, supported by Gerald Stone. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be on November 12, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Water Tower Senior Citizens Center, 11345 Harold Drive, Luna Pier, MI 48157.

*Vicky L. Terrasi*

Vicky L. Terrasi  
Recording Secretary