

**Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Alpena Holiday Inn, Alpena, Michigan**  
**December 3, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Huggler at 12:54 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Stuart Bartlett, Jim Bricker, Jim Charboneau, Frank Cowger, Mike Davis, Ann Denis, Donna Dietz, Bill Ellingboe, Bob Harden, Rev. Bill Hipwood, Dale Huggler, Jean Kroll, Dawn Lawrence, Jack Mahank, Daniel Marcum, Tehea Minke, Boyden Olson, Joseph Pellens, Clyde Soucie, Bob Spencer, Rose Walsh, Walter Walsh, Gary Wozniak and Leonard Zolnierek

**Excused:** Bob Cudney, Pauline Hall, Rev. R.C. Knight, Shelia Phillips, Dianna Schafer, and Gerald Wall

**Absent:** Terry Beardslee, and Suzanne Linkins

Quorum present.

**Staff Members Present:**

John Briggs, Laura Budreau, Barb Dault, Karen Godi, Linda McGillis, Jim Robarge, Laurie Sauer, Sue Schuler, John Swise, Beth Storms, Susan Bowen, Chris Rasmussen and Vista Volunteer, Natalie Linder

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**Motion** by Joe Pellens to approve minutes of the November meeting. Support by Daniel Marcum. All ayes, Motion carried.

Rose Walsh led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Susan Bowen, introduced Natalie Linder and indicated that NEMCSA was partnering with Alpena Habitat to host Natalie as a Vista Worker for a 12 month period to work on the Vision 2020 project for Alpena County. Donna Dietz introduced her husband, Boyden Olson introduced his wife, Frank Cowger introduced his wife, Tehea Minke introduced Grandma Pearl, Linda McGillis introduced Dawn Lawrence who was newly elected to the Board from the Policy Council, Dale Huggler introduced his wife, Mike Davis introduced his wife, Rev. Bill Hipwood introduced his wife and Dan Doezema, from OSA was also present.

**COMMUNICATION**

Dale read a resignation letter from Larry Sabin.

**Motion** by Daniel Marcrum, to accept the resignation and send a letter of acknowledgement on behalf of the Board Support by Frank Cowger. All ayes, Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Head Start Policy Council – Walter Walsh**

The Policy Council met for the first time with it's new members, in November. The meeting was a two day conference/training session. A lot of training issues were the focus of the meeting. Election of Officers also took place resulting in Dawn Lawrence, and Suzanne Linkins both being elected to the NEMCSA Board of Directors. The Council will meet again on December 10<sup>th</sup> in West Branch.

### **Regional Advisory Council – Rev. Bill Hipwood**

No meeting.

### **Volunteer Program Advisory Groups:**

#### **Senior Companion Program – Jean Kroll**

There are currently 49 active volunteers, 2 new volunteers have been added and a there has been a recent request for more volunteers in Cheboygan. Rev. Bob Knight resigned from the Advisory Group effective in January. A joint SC/FG In-service - Christmas gatherings will be held in December.

#### **Foster Grandparent Program – Jean Kroll**

Thee are currently 67 active volunteers, 5 new volunteers have been added.

### **Client Services Advisory Council – Boyden Olson**

The Council met on November 22, 2004. Updates were given on all Client Services Programs. The heat and utility assistance programs are currently out of funds. Message was received indicating that there will be \$66,978 available to NEMCSA for heat assistance this winter.

### **Personnel Committee – Clyde Soucie**

No meeting.

### **Membership Committee – Frank Cowger**

No meeting.

### **Program Planning and Evaluation Committee – Rev. Bill Hipwood**

No meeting.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Directors Report:**

#### **Financial Report – Jim Robarge**

Jim Reported on the financial status of the following programs: Individual Development Account Program (IDA) which is a 3 year program budget, the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) contracts - Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) and

Safe Drinking Water Assistance Program (SDWA) as well as Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds for year end September 20, 2004.

**Motion** by Jack Mahank to receive and file the financial report as presented. Support by Rev. Bill Hipwood. All ayes, motion carried.

**Program Information Report** – Individual Development Account (IDA) Program Review by Susan Bowen and Chris Rasmussen. Susan presented information through a PowerPoint presentation explaining the details of the program. The IDA program provides an opportunity for individuals to save money for first time home ownership or to pay for higher education. Program participants have to save up to \$1,000 and the program will match their money 3:1 for homeownership or 2:1 for higher education. The program offers various training opportunities for participants including financial planning, checkbook balancing, and credit counseling. Susan reviewed what is expected of program participants while they are participating in the program. Participants that do not participate in certain areas will not receive the program benefits or the matching funds. Eligibility guidelines were reviewed. Counties currently participating are Alcona, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle and Iosco. Susan noted that the State of Michigan is a front-runner in the National IDA movement. Susan also discussed future plans for NEMCSA's IDA program.

Reflections were given by Rev. Bill Hipwood.

Dan Doezema – held a meeting with the Adult Day Services programs and discussed several issues with them. The United Cerebral Palsy Association is conducting a survey on all transportation that exists across the state in an attempt to improve transportation issues for the Aging. Dan asked for names of individuals who are on the Cool City Advisory Boards throughout the regions cities that were given such designation. Names can be passed along to the Area Agency on Aging staff.

Dale read the letter he was directed to write to DTE about the THAW program back in October. A response to that letter was received from DTE and Dale read that letter as well. Dale then introduced Steve Rawlings, from DTE, who was present to address the concerns noted in our letter. Steve Rawlings indicated that the issues in the letter have been addressed and DTE is probably 50% at fault and the THAW program is probably at fault for the remaining 50%. Steve updated everyone on the THAW program issues indicating that he has spoken with Kathy Goddard several times about these same issues noting that he agreed with Kathy on many of these concerns. Steve also indicated that these programs, such as THAW, do help the utility companies out by reducing the uncollectible bills that are out there. Steve noted that the concerns addressed by Kathy are all being corrected to the best of everyone's ability. Steve feels that a good degree of the concerns have already been corrected and things are slowly changing for the better. Steve explained some of the changes and how they will better serve the clients and work well with the agencies providing the service. Steve also addressed the utilities and indicated that they are under heavy regulation, and then explained a new program that would generate more money for low income individuals throughout the state including the rural parts of Michigan. Steve presented a draft resolution that if adopted by the NEMCSA board would state that the board is aware of the legislation that is being discussed at this time. DTE would like to see this resolution adopted so that it can be forwarded on to the legislators indicating NEMCSA's support of the assistance programs. John Swise read the draft resolution presented

by Steve and then indicated that it is only DTE customers who contribute to this fund and therefore on those customers can receive assistance from this fund. DTE is not very visible in this area of the State because there are many cooperatives and independent companies providing utilities. Discussion. President Dale Huggler suggested that the board wait until next month to take any action. A draft resolution will be created and distributed prior to the January meeting for board review and discuss at the January meeting.

Dale thanked the guests that were present and indicated that the next meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Michigan Works! Office in Alpena.

Motion by Frank Cowger to approve the meeting calendar for 2005. Support by Boyden Olson. All ayes, motion carried.

**Motion** by Boyden Olson to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m. Supported by Bob Spencer. All ayes, motion carried.

Date Prepared:

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date