

Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Huron Breeze Golf Course, AuGres, Michigan
April 13, 2007

President Dale Huggler called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Carl Altman	Rev. Bill Hipwood	Rose Walsh
Jim Beach	Dale Huggler	
Ronald Branda	Rev. R. C. Knight	
Frank Cowger	Jean Kroll	
Bob Cudney	Dawn Lawrence	
Gerald Fournier	Jack Mahank	
Kenneth Glasser	Tehea Minke	
Cassandra Hale	Boyden Olson	
Pete Hennard	Joseph Pellens	
Bob Harden	Clyde Soucie	
Yvonne Hilderbrand	Bob Spencer	

Excused: Stuart Bartlett, Matt Bolinger, Jim Bricker, Donna Dietz, Dean Hipwood, Leonard Page, Shelia Phillips, Paul Wingate and Gerald Wall

Absent: Terry Beardslee

Quorum present.

Staff Members Present:

Lisa Bolen, John Briggs, Jeannie Chisena, Debbie Diaz, Karen Godi, Dawn Jacobs, Diane Price, Lisa Slupecki, Carol Shafto

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Joe Pellens to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Rev. Bob Knight. All ayes, Motion carried.

Tehea Minke led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Bill Hipwood provided reflections.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Members introduced their guests.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Frank Cowger to approve the administrative consent agenda items. Support by Rev. Bob Knight. All ayes, Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

John Briggs read a letter from the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) regarding a recent on-site assessment conducted at the Mio Senior Center. OSA staff were assessing how the Area Agency on Aging staff conducted their on-site assessment. All items were found to be in compliance.

Dan Doezema stated that Best Practice training was provided on the 12th of April on improving service access to seniors. Area Agency on Aging staff participated and helped sponsor the event, which took place at the University Center in Gaylord. Overall response was positive. Previously scheduled hearings on the State Plan have been cancelled due to the expense and current state of the budget. A mechanism has been provided for comments to be e-mailed. Discussion regarding status of State funds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Head Start Policy Council – Yvonne Hilderbrand

No meeting. No report.

Regional Council on Aging – Rev. Bill Hipwood

The last meeting was held in conjunction with the Senior Center Directors. Rev. Bill Hipwood deferred the report to Program Planning & Evaluation Committee report.

Volunteer Program Advisory Groups:

Foster Grandparent Program – Jean Kroll

Jean extended thanks to everyone from the Program Director, Barb Dault, for their ongoing assistance and support of the Volunteer programs. Federal and State monitors were on site recently to conduct a program assessment which included a working lunch for the purpose of interviewing some Volunteer Advisory Group members. A good review was received and Barb extended her thanks to everyone who participated in the process.

Senior Companion Program – Rev. Bob Knight

No report.

Client Services Advisory Council – Boyden Olson

No meeting. No report.

Personnel Committee – Clyde Soucie

No meeting. No report.

Membership Committee – Frank Cowger

No meeting. No report.

Audit/Finance Committee – Pete Hennard

No meeting. No report.

Program Planning and Evaluation Committee – Rev. Bill Hipwood

The committee discussed and recommended approval to adopt the Homeless Prevention Program Resolution to accept funding as presented.

Motion by Frank Cowger to adopt the Homeless Prevention Program Resolution to accept funding as presented. Support by Clyde Soucie. Roll Call Vote:

Carl Altman, yes; Jim Beach, yes; Ronald Branda, yes; Frank Cowger, yes; Bob Cudney, yes; Gerald Fournier, yes; Kenneth Glasser, yes; Cassandra Hale, yes; Pete Hennard, yes; Bob Harden, yes; Yvonne Hilderbrand, yes; Rev. Bill Hipwood, yes; Dale Huggler, yes; Rev. R. C. Knight, yes; Jean Kroll, yes; Dawn Lawrence, yes; Jack Mahank, yes; Tehea Minke, yes; Boyden Olson, yes; Joseph Pellens, yes; Clyde Soucie, yes; Bob Spencer, yes; and Rose Walsh, yes.

All yes, Motion carried.

The committee discussed the idea of approving “Preferred Supplier” status for the county Councils and Commissions on Aging and through discussion determined more information was necessary before making a recommendation.

Motion by Jack Mahank to have research conducted on the “preferred supplier” status with the Senior Centers and receive a report at the next committee meeting. Support by Carl Altman. All ayes, Motion carried.

The committee discussed investigating the possibility of asking the Office of Services to the Aging to re-calculate the funding formula to reflect current demographic reality.

Motion by Clyde Soucie to investigate the benefit of requesting that the funding formula be recalculated to reflect current demographic reality. Support by Yvonne Hilderbrand. Discussion. Clyde Soucie asked when the last time this formula was revised. Rev. Bill Hipwood indicated that there may be some risk with this request as the agency might not gain funding but may lose funding. Dawn Jacobs explained that the current funding formulas are calculated differently for each program, some are based on population and some are based on base formulas. Carol Shafto recommended that the agency carefully look at as much new data as possible in order to determine what is favorable for the agency as a whole and then bring the information back to the board for action if necessary. Joe Pellens suggested the item be tabled until more information is available. Based on the discussion the original motion was withdrawn until more information can be presented at the next board meeting.

There was considerable confusion because a motion proposed in the presented agenda was to adopt a resolution requesting Michigan Office of Services to the Aging to recalculate funding formula to reflect current demographic reality.

Further discussion indicated that the intention of the recommendation of the Program Planning Committee which was offered by Mr. Soucie in the first motion was to have the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) gather information and see if a resolution asking for recalculation would be beneficial.

Motion by Yvonne Hildebrand to move forward with the original motion as presented by the Program Planning and Evaluation Committee authorizing the CEO to investigate the benefit of

asking OSA for a funding formula recalculation. Support by Rev. Bob Knight. All ayes, Motion carried.

The committee discussed the creation of a task force to identify best practices and methods to effect cost containment and/or reduction for the county Councils and Commissions on Aging and recommended approval.

Motion by Jack Mahank to approve the creation of a task force to identify best practices and methods to effect cost containment and/or reduction for the county Councils and Commissions on Aging. Support by Rev. Bob Knight. All ayes, Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Directors Report:

Financial Report – Jim Robarge

No report.

Program Report – Human Resources Annual Report Overview – Diane Price

Diane distributed and reviewed the 2006 NEMCSA Human Resources Annual Report which contains information on activity for the past year. Seven key components covered in the Annual Report include: Benefits Administration, Recruitment, Wage Administration, Workforce Maintenance, Employee Injury/Illness Tracking, Workforce Demographics and Committees.

Compass Program Update- Lisa Slupecki and Debbie Diaz

John Briggs introduced Lisa Slupecki, Compass Program Director and Debbie Diaz, Compass Program Caseworker who provided an overview of the Compass Youth and Family Guidance Program. Lisa began by providing an overview of the program, what services it provides and where it is available. The program is voluntary and is free to families. Program requirements indicate that students can remain on the open case load for a maximum of 90 days. Many times that is not long enough so the case is either reopened or visited on an informal basis. Current staff, including the Program Director, are working with full case loads as funding has forced the program to be reduced from 9 staff to 6. Reductions were made by not replacing staff who have left the program. The program is currently operating in the second year of a three-year contract with the State of Michigan. New contract language has changed the age range to 13 years of age, leaving a tremendous deficit with the 10 year olds that could be seen previously and are no longer eligible.

Debbie Diaz gave an overview of the program from her day-to-day work. Debbie talked about how much things have evolved since she began working for the program. In the beginning, typical cases were kids who thought their parents were mean for making them clean their room; today's cases range from self-mutilators and homeless kids to physical and sexual abuse cases. Referral resources for these types of cases are dwindling so caseworkers continue to work with these kids because there is nowhere else for them to turn.

Motion Rev. Bob Knight by to adjourn the meeting at 1:54p.m. Supported by Frank Cowger. All ayes, Motion carried.

Date Prepared:

Date Approved: _____

Board Secretary

Date