

**Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging
Board Minutes
May 28, 2008**

Board Members in Attendance

Chairman Richard Lovelady
Rev. Glenn Bynum
Mrs. Martha Thornburgh
Ms. Gay West
Ms. Lee Ann Clark
Mr. Gene Ford
Judge David Standridge
Mr. John Parker

M4A Staff in Attendance

Carolyn Fortner
Kelly Lippert-Flick
Dianne Nance
Karen Blackmon
Judi Drew

A and B. Call to Order and Call for Proxies

The meeting was called to Order at 10:18 a.m. by Chairman Richard Lovelady. There were no proxies.

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Gene Ford to approve the agenda as is with no changes. The motion was seconded by Martha Thornburgh. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Rev. Glenn Bynum to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2008 Board Meeting with the following changes: correct spelling of Martha Thornburgh's name and change the date of the next Board meeting to May 28 from April 30. The motion was seconded by Gay West. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.

E. Executive Directors Report

Before presenting her official report, Carolyn Fortner announced that Commissioner Cochran is having back surgery, and passed a card around the table for signature.

- a. Carolyn reported that a letter has been sent to the St. Clair County Commission, per Board request, acknowledging the resignation of Commissioner Jimmy Roberts and the appointment of Mr. Gene Ford.

b. **Regional Advisory Committee** Carolyn distributed the Older American Act requirements for the composition of an Advisory Council. She encouraged the Board to send her their recommendations for members of the Council based on the requirements described on the sheet. Additionally, Carolyn would like suggestions from the Board about experience and education requirements for the various Council members, i.e., Degree in Human Resources, an attorney, etc.

c. **Focus Group updates**

- i. Blount County: DHR may send out a Request For Proposals. IF there is an RFP, M4A will submit a proposal; however, Carolyn warned that DHR has cut back on services to adults (homebound, respite (daycare) and adult protective services).
- ii. Chilton County: no longer a waiting list for meals. Chilton County Transit was cooperative and very helpful in transporting seniors to Goosepond Park for the Chilton County Senior Picnic on May 23rd. The Chilton County Sheriff's Department does not have a Project Lifesaver Program in place as do the other 4 counties in our region. Project Lifesaver provides a wristband transmitter at no cost to people with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down's Syndrome or other brain-related disorders who have a history of wandering and becoming lost. When a client comes missing, his/her caregiver contacts the Sheriff's department where search and rescue teams begin searching for the individual based on the signal the wrist band emits.
- iii. Shelby County: NetWorks is very successful. Carolyn was pleased to report that M4A has developed a positive relationship with Shelby RSVP. The Shelby County RSVP Coordinator has asked Carolyn if M4A can bring Shelby County RSVP under their wing. Carolyn will discuss this with Shelby County and the RSVP Shelby Board.
- iv. St. Clair County: transportation remains the biggest issue for seniors in St. Clair County.
- v. Walker County: plans for Adult Day Respite care are moving along well. The Jasper Senior Center has 5 or 6 care recipients who attend while their caregivers attend the workshop and support group meeting. Approximately 12-15 people have attended Caregivers' Workshops and Support Groups.

d. Furniture

Kelly Flick reported that M4A had received furniture for our Board Room, Small Conference Room and Lobby from Regions Bank. We are now hoping to add pictures to the walls as well as other decorative touches. Carolyn Fortner cautioned that in the near future we will need to purchase an extension for the Board table, to allow us to seat everyone at one table.

Funding

Alabama Cares: Carolyn reported that ADSS conducted their annual Agency Review for FY 2007 and that they had questions about carryover Alabama Cares funding. ADSS requested that M4A submit a Plan of Action for handling carryover Alabama Cares funds. In FY 2008, M4A will spend the '06 carryover and 90% of the '07 carryover. More funding would have been expended if M4A had not received \$55,300.00 in grants which went towards services in FY 2008. M4A will have another \$30,000.00 in grants in FY 2009 which will go towards services.

SenioRx: The State Legislature provides funding for medication assistance through the SenioRx program, which is struggling for clients since the inception of Medicare Part D. M4A is partnering to share funding with other medicine assistance programs in our five counties. Only 3 of the 13 AAA's have met their SenioRx goals, as per ADSS. M4A has implemented a media campaign, in partnership with OSCS, which has reached thousands in our region and which has added approximately 30 new clients to SenioRx in about 60-90 days. There will be another media push in October to reach those seniors in the Part D gap. M4A has also partnered with Positive Maturity to provide funding for their med assist programs. M4A hopes to provide support funding to all local med assist programs in its region.

e. ClasTran Billing Dispute

M4A has been attempting to solve a Shelby County billing dispute with ClasTran since October 2007. The dispute is in reference to service hours, and M4A has asked ClasTran for documentation of service hours. We have analyzed routes, reviewed rider lists, etc. and have been unable to determine why our invoices have increased approximately 30% since last year without an commensurate increase in services provided (i.e., increased number of riders, increased size of routes). Carolyn reported that she has contacted the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution, and there is a possibility that, if this matter gets to the mediation point, they will mediate the matter pro bono, since we are a State funded, non-profit.

f. Senior Center Viability

M4A has sent surveys to our senior centers, in an effort to determine the viability of computers at each center, as requested by May 31, 2008. We are in the process of analyzing the information we have received.

g. DHR cuts: homemaker services

This was discussed in the Focus Group updates part of the Executive Director's report.

h. Changes in Center Manager Staff

The following changes in staff were reported to the Board (all of these changes are due to personal reasons on the part of the staff – not as a reaction to anything negative at the senior centers):

- Oneonta – Center Manager retiring/resigning
- Nectar – Center Manager retiring/resigning
- Alabaster – Center Manager retiring/resigning
- Ragland – New Center Director
- Steele – New Center Director

i. Banning Participant from a Center

Carolyn reported to the Board that repeated physical altercations – one senior center participant against other senior center participants – has resulted in one senior being banned from attending the Jasper Senior Center. M4A is researching to determine whether or not the participant has family members or a caregiver responsible for his well-being. We will do our best to make sure he is cared for at home, and have already arranged to have frozen meals delivered to his home each week, to replace the hot meals he was getting at the senior center.

j. Program Report – Kelly Flick

Kelly Flick reviewed the attached State of Programs Report. In addition to the attached report, Kelly reported on a grant we've received from PetCo, in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help provide pet food for seniors who cannot afford to buy food for their pets. It is a concern of ours that some of our clients might be feeding their homebound meals to their pets. Kelly also reported that the Senior Centers are completing surveys about Computer Needs. It is hoped that M4A will be able to provide every Senior Center with a computer, printer and internet access.

At 11:49 am Mr. Lovelady called a break in the meeting to allow time for those in attendance to get a lunch plate and return to the meeting.

Mr. Lovelady called the meeting back to order at 12:37 p.m.

k. Fiscal Report – Dianne Nance

- Dianne pointed out to the Board that at this time of year we should have expended 58% of the budget, and we are currently at 56%. The Net Income is showing as (\$165,701.78) because of ADSS funding we haven't received yet.

- Purchasing Card – Regions Bank: Per Board instructions at the January Board meeting, we applied for a Regions Bank Purchasing Card and should receive the card within the next week or two.
- Auditors Report: The auditors are finalizing the FY2007 audit report, and should be able to provide the draft statement in the next week or two. They have asked M4A if they can do our audit after April 15 each year from now on – instead of in January.
- The bank statements are reviewed every month by Commissioners Cunningham and Acker. Dianne also reported that we now require only one original signature on checks, and have disposed of all signature stamps.

F. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

G. New Business

- Carolyn reported that the Parrish Senior Center has asked M4A to provide 40 hot meals/day to their eligible seniors, which will take 6-12 Parrish seniors off of the waiting list for meals. The Parrish Center will still assume all other expenses related to the center. A motion was made by Rev. Glenn Bynum for M4A to enter into an MOA with the Parrish Senior Center to provide 40 hot meals/day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gene Ford. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed. Carolyn will obtain a Letter of Commitment from Parrish, and will write a letter to ADSS informing them of the MOA. We are planning for a July 1, 2008 start date.
- Carolyn explained to the Board how the Senior Support Fund was created as a result of the Blount and Shelby Senior Focus Groups. UWCA is responsible for campaigning for funding, and M4A can draw on the funds as needed. The recently appointed Executive Director of UWCA has asked that Jefferson County be included as a sixth county to benefit from the Senior Support Fund. Jefferson County will only benefit from non-designated funds donated to the Senior Support Fund. A motion was made by Rev. Glenn Bynum to allow Jefferson County to receive distribution from non-designated funds donated to the Senior Support Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gene Ford. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.
- Carolyn reported that the MOA with Positive Maturity, Inc. in support of NetWorks will expire June 30, 2008. M4A is hoping to take full responsibility for NetWorks and has applied for some funding towards that goal, including requesting an extension of the original Community

Initiatives grant from UWCA. However, it may take a few months to hear back from some of the funding organizations. Carolyn suggested that M4A sign a six-month MOA with Positive Maturity, Inc., which will give us time to try to secure a stable financial future for NetWorks and to expend the remaining \$15,000.00 of grant funding held by Positive Maturity, Inc., for NetWorks. A motion was made by Martha Thornburgh to extend the MOA with Positive Maturity, Inc. for six months, which will make the MOA effective until December 31, 2008. The motion was seconded by Rev. Glenn Bynum. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.

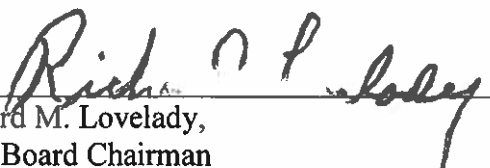
- iv. Carolyn proposed an MOA for SenioRx with Public Health, Capstone and SCIMP/PM. A motion was made by Commissioner Gene Ford to sign an MOA to provide funding for the remainder of FY 08 and all of FY 09. The motion was seconded by Lee Ann Clark. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.
- v. Mr. Lovelady reported that he will appoint a Nominating Committee, which will present nominations for the Board at the next meeting on September 24, 2008.

H. Adjournment

Mr. Lovelady reported that the Agenda was complete and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Martha Thornburgh to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Lee Ann Clark. All board members were in favor. No board members were against. Motion was passed.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 in the M4A Board Room.

Approved:


Richard M. Lovelady,
M4A Board Chairman

9-24-08
Date