

**Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
Board of Directors Minutes
April 17, 2008**

Present: Board Members: Wayne Takeshita, Jan McCulloch, Kathleen Gaylord, Gayle Degler, Marcia Wielinski, Jerry Hennen, Jean Greener, Jamie Warndahl, Virginia Lanegran, Jess Luce, Mark Skeie, Dick Lang, Jan Olson, Jan Parker, Dolores Zeller

Staff: Dawn Simonson, Bob Anderson, Lisa Sawyer, Gail Hernandez

Absent: Allen Miller, Gail Dorfman, Eileen McHugh, Laura Waterman Wittstock, Bob Roepke, Kerri Pierce Ruch for Commissioner Dorfman

Guest: Tina Armstrong, MN Dept. of Commerce

The meeting was held at the MAAA offices, 2365 N. McKnight Rd, N. St. Paul, MN 55109, and was called to order at 9:35 by Chair Wayne Takeshita.

Welcome and Announcements

Wayne Takeshita welcomed Board members and guests, and then asked for announcements. Responses included mention of the 2008 MN Gerontological Society Conference at Earle Brown Heritage Center on April 25 and the Harvard School of Public Health/MetLife Foundation's Reinventing Aging: Baby Boomers & Civic Engagement which will be held on May 7 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Wayne noted Mark Skeie's MYR, Inc. success, Advocacy Leadership in Vital Aging classes to be held at Century College, and Carver County Communities work featuring a public health approach and community planning.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda consisting of the February 21 Minutes; the Approval of Policy for State Nutrition Expansion Funds for Grocery Shopping and Delivery; and the Resolution: Approval of Grandparents and Caregiver Support Initiative Grants for 2008. The motion was seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Wayne Takeshita began by thanking those who've participated in meetings with individual Board members, and mentioned that MAAA will continue to arrange meetings with other Board members in the near future.

Executive Director's Report

Following the April Executive Committee MAAA interviewed two realtors, finally choosing JB Realty as they have the most experience working with non-profits and the most reasonable fees. Signage for the back of the building is underway. The Board recommended checking city requirements for signage, and making sure sign colors were the best color for viewing. The Board consensus was to display only MAAA's sign on the back of the building. Gifts for Seniors has inquired about a fiscal agency agreement with MAAA as they are considering pursuing a 501(c) 3 status.

Advocacy and Education: Hal Freshley with the MN Board on Aging (MBA), Leni Wilcox with Wilder Foundation and Dawn gave a presentation to the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, as the Foundation is possibly considering a 3-5 year focus on aging issues.

Fund Development: MAAA has conducted a funding round to distribute Title III-E monies to assist grandparent caregivers caring for grandchildren which is a statewide project conducted through an MBA grant.

Systems Change: MAAA serves as Project Manager and Coordinator for the U of MN Memory Clinic Project. Project consultants have met to plan ongoing strategies and have finalized consultant contracts. MAAA is working with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) to assist with their documentary on caregiving; and a screening of that

documentary was held at TPT which was attended by major Twin Cities employers and representatives working in the aging field. Discussion with the attendees focused on caregiving in the workplace and the lack of resources for which policy on this issue could be determined.

Information and Assistance: As Pam Zimmerman was unavailable, Dawn gave the I & A Director's Report. She noted that call volume has increased 13% from last year for the same time period and additional contacts have increased 29% from last year. Pam will highlight MAAA's work with elder abuse issues at the MGS Conference via a poster session.

I & A Program Director's Report

Included in the Executive Director's Report.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Wayne Takeshita reported that the Executive Committee spent a great deal of time discussing issues raised at the Planning Committee meetings around Senior Nutrition Expansion Grocery Shopping and Delivery. Grocery Gopher expressed interest in beginning delivery services. After learning of the program specifics they decided they were too labor intensive and withdrew their interest. Wayne expressed the importance of human contact with meal delivery recipients. The other issue was Health Promotion and Disease Prevention around the inclusion of federally directed, evidence-based outcomes in these programs, and providers reaction to program changes. The Board noted that third-party inclusion in these programs may be problematic for providers who may oppose changes in protocol. Wayne noted that the Board must fully understand both issues, and keep the welfare of the clients in mind when voting on recommendations and program approvals.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Planning Committee: Bob informed the Board that the Planning Committee discussed State Nutrition Expansion funds and Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention issues. Policy for State Nutrition Expansion Funds for Grocery Shopping and Delivery was on the Consent Agenda and was approved.

Audit/Finance Committee: No report.

Communities for a Lifetime Committee: Dawn Simonson reported that the CFL Committee met Tuesday and the work is moving forward. The CFL Survey report is in its final edits and the cover design is near completion. Thank you letters to participating cities will include the summary report "A Blueprint for 2010." Letters to Dakota and Scott Counties will be customized to reflect their work in community planning.

Diversity Action Council: Marcia Wielinski reported that the DAC met to discuss the spring and fall DAC trainings. The Board discussed appropriateness of training tools including the movie Sicko. The Board suggested that the spring training discussions include health care statistics in the 7 county metro area. The DAC is considering caregiving as the topic of the fall training, as it is pertinent to MAAA work.

A motion was made to accept the Committee Reports as given. The motion was seconded and carried.

Presentation

Tina Armstrong of the MN Dept. of Commerce gave a presentation on the Long-Term Care Partnership.

Action Items

Ratify Metropolitan Foundation for Aging (MFA) Bylaws: As background, Dawn Simonson reported that Dr. Ed Ratner, chair of the MFA Board, spoke with the Executive Committee at its April meeting and stated that the MFA Board will not spend existing funds inappropriately, will insure that the funds earn interest at minimum, and is considering investment as a means of increasing those funds. The Board expressed concern over sections 5.4 and 6.5 in the bylaws and stated that it needs more time to examine them along with the Articles of Incorporation.

A motion was made to table this item and bring to the Executive Committee for further discussion. The motion was seconded and carried.

Health Promotion Funding Policy Recommendations: Bob Anderson reported that discussions are being held at both the state and federal levels to move to an evidence-based program model for Older Americans Act funded services. The Planning Committees recommendations reflect this scenario.

A motion was made to accept the Planning Committee recommendations. The motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion Items

Nutrition Issues Update: Lisa Sawyer gave an overview of issues around nutrition funding. She discussed the clarifications received from the Administration on Aging via the MN Board on Aging related to use of client contributions and eligibility of persons under age 60 residing in housing facilities. MAAA is working with Community Action Partnership on the under age 60 meal issue which could result in site closing and will require an alternative service delivery model for persons eligible for Title III funded meals. MAAA is also working with St. Paul Public Housing, Wilder Foundation and Ramsey County to ensure continuity of meals.

Meetings with legislators and other policymakers to clarify inaccurate information distributed by Metro Meals on Wheels continue. Wayne Takeshita thanked MAAA staff for the inordinate amount of time spent on this issue.

Committee Assignments: Wayne Takeshita informed the Board that the Committee Assignment Sheet was created based on preferences indicated by Board members. He requested that Board members look over the assignment sheet and let either Dawn or him know if they have concerns.

May Board Retreat: The May Board Retreat will be held on May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will end with lunch. Discussion will include Title III-B funding priorities and coordination models.

Legislative Update: Dawn Simonson gave information on HF3167 – clarification language agreed to by the Mn Board on Aging, AAAs and Metro Meals on Wheels regarding use of state funds appropriated in the 2007 session for meals. The targeting language has been removed at the request of Metro Meals on Wheels.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Hernandez