

**Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
Board of Directors Minutes
August 17, 2006**

Present: Board Members: Wayne Takeshita, Jan McCulloch, Bob Roepke, Kerri Pearce Ruch (for Commissioner Gail Dorfman), Eileen McHugh, Jerry Hennen, Jean Greener, Kathleen Gaylord, Marcia Wielinski, Jan Parker, Charlene Dickerson, Jamie Warndahl, Gayle Degler, Laura Waterman Wittstock, Mark Skeie

Staff: Dawn Simonson, Pam Zimmerman, Gail Hernandez, Lisa Sawyer, Bob Anderson, Leanna Smith

Absent: Gail Dorfman, Jackie Stewart, Dolores Zeller, Jan Olson, Dick Lang

The meeting was held at the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, 2365 N McKnight Rd, North St. Paul, MN 55109 and convened at 9:40 a.m. Wayne Takeshita introduced new Board member, Laura Waterman Wittstock, then asked the Board members to introduce themselves. Wayne mentioned the newly revised MAAA News and thanked staff for the good work, then passed around an article in Vista News written by Board member Jackie Stewart about her trip to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated so much of that area.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the June 15, 2006 minutes and the July 2006 Financial Statements. The motion was seconded and approved without further discussion.

Chair's Report

Wayne Takeshita began his report by mentioning that Mark Skeie, Jackie Stewart and he attended a Coffee Klatch meeting at Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) in Falcon Heights, which was filmed and used on 8/9 at the Whitney Center in St. Cloud, MN to stimulate discussion at the Town Forum held there. Discussion at the Coffee Klatch centered around aging of the "baby boomers" and what cities need to do to prepare by 2010 and 2030 when the boomers will begin to reach ages 65 and 85 respectively/. This film will be televised on 8/20 on TPT channel 17 at 8:00 P.M.

Wayne attended one of four meetings scheduled in August at the Dept. of Human Services (DHS) to advance the work of the Transform 2010 project focused on preparing the long-term care system for the baby boomers.

Executive Director's Report

In reporting on Advocacy and Education at MAAA, Dawn Simonson informed the Board that MAAA is proposed to assist three groups with website development (Metro Congregational Nurse Network, MN Gerontological Society and the Southeastern MN Area Agency on Aging). This work will be done by staff member, Rajean Moone, and the Agency will receive a fee for this service.

The University of MN determined that the Advocacy Leadership for Vital Aging Certificate Program did not garner enough applications to make the program financially sustainable this fall.

The University plans a statewide expansion of this program in the future, and MAAA will continue to be involved in discussions to make the program more viable.

Issues are emerging related to demand for Title III funded legal services for immigrant elders. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services offices will no longer work with immigrants on a walk-in basis, but they must now schedule appointments. Immigrants are required to use a complicated phone and computer based system to check the status of their files, making this a difficult system to work with. Immigrants are also being asked to obtain two physician signatures and/or signatures from doctors with specialized medical degrees in order to get medical waivers for citizenship tests, which puts a greater burden on providers attempting to assist these people.

Bob Anderson and other staff are meeting with non Title III-funded home-delivered meals providers and will put together an environmental scan to prepare for upcoming policy discussions around nutrition services funding. A concern in this area is the number of volunteers who are aging, and not being replaced by younger volunteers.

Under Systems Change, Dawn reported that she and Kate attended a second meeting with Health Partners to explore potential areas for collaboration.

Under Capacity Building, Dawn reported that the Minneapolis Foundation granted MAAA \$126,000 for the Sustaining Minority Elders project. However, Jerry Uribe (project manager for this program) has resigned and his last day is Friday, August 18th. MAAA will begin the search immediately for a replacement.

MAAA is participating in planning meetings convened by the MN Board on Aging (MBA) on falls prevention and self-management of chronic care. Kari Benson, MBA, is leading the effort to create a workplan to apply for a grant in this initiative. Wilder and Senior Community Services would be potential implementation partners.

Pam Zimmerman reported on the Information & Assistance program, noting that MAAA has closed the Call Center Expansion at the Spruce Tree Center on June 30, with two staff members transferring to the McKnight building and becoming full-time, permanent employees. Reporting on call volume and length, Pam stated that the calls are much more complex and longer lasting. Resolution of callers' problems can take days, weeks or months to resolve. Reporting on statistics relative to outreach presentations, Pam noted that summer months are historically slow, but increase in October-November. The Senior LinkAge Line™ (SLL) is starting to get requests for presentations. The Medicare Part D open enrollment period begins in November.

MAAA submitted a proposal to act as the statewide State Health Insurance Program Center Client Services Center (SHIP), which was not successful. The funding went to the MN River AAA.

Elder Refugee Initiative project manger, Malena Vang, has been holding focus groups within the Lao, Hmong, Vietnamese and Somali communities to assess what their elders want and need.

The Encompass project is going well, and has received funding for another year. Staff member Jill Alzen will continue to work in the clinic setting to provide services to patients. This is a very comprehensive approach to meet health and social support needs.

Pam reported that MAAA's Volunteer Coordinator Lynette Bauer is on maternity leave for the next eight weeks.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Wayne Takeshita asked that in the interest of time the Board members read the August 3 Executive Committee minutes provided in their folders. Wayne highlighted only that the MN Dept of Transportation (MNDOT) wants to purchase land for easement related to the upcoming construction of on-off ramps at the intersection of Hwy. 36 and McKnight Rd. MNDOT would require 88 square feet and wants to finalize the purchase by the end of the year. The easement would expire in 2011.

Nominating Committee: Gayle Degler reported that two Board members' terms will expire in 2006. Jan Olson is eligible for and agreed to run for another three-year term. Charlene Dickerson regrets she will not run for another term, leaving one additional opening on the Board. The Nominating Committee has received one application that will be reviewed at the next Nominating Committee meeting. Kathleen Gaylord's term as Treasurer expires in 2006 and she will stand for election to continue to serve another two-year term.

Planning Committee: No report. The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be on October 12.

Audit/Finance Committee: Kathleen Gaylord reported that the Committee is meeting immediately after the Board meeting today to review preliminary 2007 budgets.

Diversity Action Council: At the last DAC meeting, Wayne reported that the Committee reviewed the need for an elevator in the McKnight building. Judy Abbott researched preliminary information on available grants to assist in this effort, which the DAC will review and hopes to bring to the Board in September.

The DAC is working on the fall staff training, and Wayne extended his invitation to the other Board members to attend. The training focus will be on mental health and the aging population. The DAC hopes this training will be held offsite, and is looking at the Wellstone Center as a possible location. The DAC also hopes to begin offering brown bag lunch sessions with a variety of topics to be presented.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the committee reports as given.

Presentation

Staff members Lisa Sawyer and Leanna Smith gave a presentation on Consumer Directed Care Services (CDCS).

Strategic Plan Follow-Up

Jean Greener noted that there was insufficient time on the agenda for the strategic plan discussion.

In the interest of time, Dawn asked the Board to read the report, but Dawn highlighted a few key issues, reporting that the work related to aging and disability partnership development is going

forward. Competency building related to elder abuse is an initiative that will be led by Pam Zimmerman beginning in the fall. The need to hire a consultant to do an environmental scan of current and emerging issues in elder abuse will be determined later.

The Living the Questions...As MN Ages initiative has taken wings. Dawn is continuing to participate in Listening to Leaders sessions with Dick Graham (who is no longer a loaned executive from DARTS but is now volunteering his time), partnering with the League of Women Voters. A third meeting with Civic Connections is scheduled to see if they would partner with the L2L initiative as well. Also, MAAA has completed an inventory of potentially replicable leadership and civic engagement models in MN and other areas of the U.S.; a potential person has been identified to write a grant proposal template; and the MN Leadership Council on Aging (MNLCoA) is fully supportive of MAAA taking a lead role. MNLCoA will continue to serve as the umbrella sponsor for the initiative and has designated Michele Fedderly of Hospice MN to serve on the project design team. MAAA is also supporting a proposal by the Minneapolis Foundation to The Atlantic Philanthropies for a multi-year, multi-phase project to assess the current environment of civic engagement of older persons and to implement strategies to increase involvement in issues related to the aging of the baby boom.

The Livable Communities for All Ages initiative is moving forward. Toward that end, Dawn met with the lead staff person at the MN Dept of Health to discuss coordination opportunities with the Department's proposed Healthy Aging Communities initiative. Dawn and Rajean convened a meeting of the Vital Aging Network (VAN), MN Board on Aging, MN Dept of Human Services, ElderCare Development Partnership, and MAAA to discuss respective efforts in this area. There was consensus that VAN should enhance the Vital Communities Toolkit. MAAA will respond with a proposal to do this work, if VAN invites one. MAAA has endorsed the MN Board on Aging's materials on the potential planning and assistance roles of Area Agencies on Aging distributed at the League of MN Cities' conference that focus on planning for livable communities. MAAA has accepted advisory committee roles for new community efforts in Dakota County and the city of Bloomington. Dawn also attended three sessions at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's conference in Chicago on livable communities where she learned of a new model with forthcoming toolkit that encompasses a "viable futures" approach uniting planning for youth/families and older persons under an environmentally friendly umbrella. This work is led by an Area Agency on Aging in Virginia and funded by major national foundations with counsel of a national network of advisors. Board members Jan Parker (Ramsey County Commissioner) and Kerri Pierce Ruch (for Hennepin County Commissioner Dorfman) asked how their counties could get involved in this initiative once it's launched.

Legal Services Funding Policy

This discussion is postponed until September, due to the lack of time.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Hernandez