

M4A Board Meeting: January 24, 2006

Attendance:

Mr. Lovelady
Ms. Strength
Mr. King
Mr. Dillard
Mr. Cochran
Ms. Allison (Lindsey Allison)

M4A:

Julie Miller
Carolyn Fortner
Jodi Beth Posey (LTCO)

Call to order by Board Chairman, Larry Dillard. There was an opening prayer by Mr. Dillard.

The Board meeting was started at 10:55 am with the Board members reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting and reviewing the new *Employee Handbook*, of which they had previously received a copy.

Glen Bynum, Board member from Blount County, was not present but gave written notice naming Royce King as his proxy.

Board Motions January 24, 2006

New Business:

***Motion to approve Minutes:* Mr. Cochran**

Second:	Favor:	Against:
Lovelady	all	none

Discussion: Mr. King asked about Blount's \$15K. Ms. Miller answered that she had had to receive clarification from ADSS, specifically from Ms. Collins, as to how money was to be appropriated by M4A. Ms. Collins said that the money was for the transition. Ms. Miller clarified that the money requested on our "wish list" was for the transition and not pursuant to the meetings Mr. King had with Ms. Collins. Ms. Miller said that if Mr. King wanted the \$15K he requested for Blount's transportation, then he needed to take this issue up separately with Ms. Collins.

Mr. King said that this money would be misappropriated if it was used for anything except for Blount County. Additionally, he said that if Ms. Miller said that Blount would not get the \$15K from M4A, then he would never trust another word that came out of her

mouth. Ms. Miller explained that ADSS had appropriated \$15K for Blount's transition and that this money would be applied for the transition costs of Blount County. She also said that \$5K had been designated by ADSS for Chilton County's transition costs and that this money would be appropriated for Chilton's transition costs. No transition costs were appropriated by ADSS for Walker, St. Clair, and Shelby Counties.

Mr. King said that he would be in Montgomery on January 25, 2006 (the next day) and that he would take up this issue with Ms. Collins. Mr. King further said that he did not want this to be a tense meeting. He concluded by saying that if the money came to M4A, it should be appropriated to Blount. Ms. Miller said that she would then give the money back to ADSS and have ADSS designate the money to Blount. Mr. King said that the minutes said that Blount has been appropriated \$15K but Blount had not been appropriated \$15K. He said that he wanted this money; Ms. Miller said that the money had been applied to Blount's transition costs, as per ADSS direction. Mr. King responded by saying that the money was not for transition but appropriated for Blount County. Mr. King said that Ms. Miller had guaranteed that the money would go to Blount and that he would talk separately with Ms. Collins the following day.

Motion to elect Richard Lovelady as Board Chairman: Ms. Strength

Second:
King

Favor:
all

Against:
none

Motion to close nominations: Ms. Strength

Second: Mr. Cochran

Favor: all

Against: none

Discussion: Before the motion to elect Mr. Lovelady, Mr. Dillard announced his resignation and said that his resignation was not due to anything going on at M4A. He said that he was scaling back all of his duties. He said he had no problems with the Board members but felt it necessary to scale-back his responsibilities, thereby giving other Shelby County commissioners an opportunity to serve.

He said he has met some really good people, including members of the Board. He said that his absence on the Board did not mean he would no longer be involved in senior services but that he would keep a close watch and continue to support M4A, the Board, and senior services in Shelby.

Motion to elect Vice Chair: Glenda Strength (nomination by Mr. Lovelady)

Second:
Cochran

Favor:
all

Against:
none

Motion to close nominations: Mr. Lovelady
Second: Mr. Cochran
Favor: all
Against: none

Discussion: Committee will appoint a secretary at a later date, with approval from Chairman Lovelady.

No new members to the Board except Lindsey Allison who arrived late and was introduced by Mr. Dillard. Dan Acker, not present, was introduced as the new Board member for M4A from Shelby County, replacing Mr. Dillard. Reginald Holloway was introduced as the alternate proxy. Mr. Holloway, also, was not present.

Ms. Miller said that St. Clair Board members were not present because their commission met today. Ms. Miller apologized for this oversight and said she would try to make sure that this conflict would not occur again.

There are two Board vacancies in Chilton and one unofficial vacancy in Walker due to Mr. Killian's resignation.

Joy Thompson is the alternate proxy for St. Clair.

Motion to Change Area Agency on Aging Bank from Peoples Bank in Clanton to Regions Bank, Inc. Ms. Strength

Second: King _____	Favor: all _____	Against: none _____
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Discussion: commendation regarding Regions Bank from Mr. Cochran who banks with Regions.

Old Business:

Motion to approve Employee Handbook: Ms. Strength

Second: Lovelady _____	Favor: all _____	Against: none _____
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Discussion prior to motion: Mr. King asked if there were any areas of controversy in the new *Employee Handbook*. Ms. Miller said no. Mr. King questioned the merit raises. Mr. Dillard said that merit raises would be considered but not mandated by the *Employee Handbook*. Mr. Lovelady said that the Board had not ever approved any merit raises. Ms. Miller said that we needed to create a system of merit raises.

Discussion after motion: Mr. Cochran said that Blount County had enacted a merit raise system adapted from Auburn University. He said that the merit system cost the county the first year but has proven to be very effective. He said that employees topped-out at 15 years and then were entitled to step increases. He said that the merit system was clear because all employees knew what their increases would be. Mr. Cochran further said that the merit system was a fair system. Ms. Miller asked if Blount County could provide this model to M4A and Mr. Cochran agreed. Ms. Miller will follow-up with the County Manager.

New Office Update by Mr. Dillard

Mr. Dillard said that the fire department would be on one end of the new office building and M4A and the Calera senior center on the other end. He said that everyone will be proud of the new office, including the Board.

Ms. Miller said that the City of Calera doubled its contribution for the building, after a match from Shelby County, and she commended the City of Calera, its mayor, and Shelby County for its support. She said that the senior center portion would operate as a community center since the seniors, right now, wanted to stay in their facility. In the future, the seniors will move to the new facility and the old building may be used as an adult day care. She said that the new office building could be used as a one-stop service center in which seniors could be bussed to M4A for services, education, training, and events. Ms. Miller commended Mr. Dillard for his support of M4A and the new building.

Ms. Miller said M4A needs a conference table and if any Board members knew of furniture, then to let her know. Recommendations for furniture:

Mr. Lovelady: contact Regions.

Ms. Allison: contact Shelby County.

Mr. Dillard: contact Wachovia.

Mr. Dillard said that Mike Kent had volunteered to be the contact for any problems M4A might have with the new building (i.e., take on the roll of maintenance).

Motion to direct Ms. Miller to pay Blount \$15K or, if this was inappropriate, to direct her to give money back to ADSS to appropriate to Blount County (motion by Mr. King)

Second:
Cochran

Favor:
all

Against:
none

Discussion: Mr. Lovelady said he would not vote on a motion to direct M4A to give the \$15K money to Blount as this might be a misappropriation of funds. Mr. Dillard said the motion provided that if it was inappropriate to give the money to Blount, then Ms. Miller was directed by the Board to return the \$15K to ADSS.

Because Ms. Miller stated that she felt it was inappropriate to designate the \$15K to a contractor, then she would return the \$15K to ADSS.

Guest Speaker

Jodi Beth Posey (LTCO) was introduced by Ms. Miller.

Ms. Posey distributed her program flier to the Board members. She said that LTCO program was developed to advocate for residents. She said LTCOs interpret the state and federal regulations for ALFs and NHFs (SCALFs) as it applies to these facilities. She said that the focus of the LTCO program was residents and not facilities.

Ms. Posey said that she is obligated to take complaints from everyone, indicating that her potential "clients" could be anyone who enters the facility, including church groups and anyone who hears of a problem in a facility. If a problem goes beyond what she can handle, then she said she can refer this to the State LTCO, Virginia Bell.

Other duties of the LTCO: education via Resident Councils and Family Councils. She said that one of the other purposes of the LTCO is to make sure that LTC facilities are more like home and less institutionalized.

She said that there are trends in the US to make facilities less institutionalized and more like home (mentioned the Eden alternative).

Her responsibilities require routine visits: once a quarter for NHFs and biannually for the ALFs. On routine visits, the LTCO develops a rapport with residents and she also receives and works on complaints. Ms. Posey mentioned that case investigation is currently her favorite part of being the LTCO. Her cases range from monetary issues (being overcharged for medications) to bruises on residents.

Ms. Posey mentioned that she may not have many cases opened but the strength of her program is in resolving these complaints/cases to the satisfaction of the residents and family members.

Mr. Dillard said he was on the Board for Nolan Health Services. If Ms. Posey ever saw anything amiss in one of their facilities, he encouraged Ms. Posey to contact him.

LTCO = long-term care ombudsman

NHF = nursing home facility

ALF = assisted living facility

SCALF = specialty care assisted living facility

Executive Director's Report (see attachment)

Ms. Miller said that the Fiscal Officer, Alfredia Norris, was unable to attend the meeting because the Fiscal Officer is working on quarterly reports. The Fiscal Officer sent word via Ms. Miller that she would mail quarterly reports to the Board members and also that Board members should contact her if they had any questions.

Ms. Miller said that Carbon Hill was on-board with the transition. Ms. Miller said that the center manager and seniors should be commended for their efforts. All meals would be delivered by volunteers in the Carbon Hill area. Participation is up at the center.

Other successes: Moody is embracing their senior center; participation has more than doubled in a quarter. Maplesville Mayor was controversial and upset about transition; now, he is on-board and the senior center is thriving with full support from the City and the Mayor. At Sumiton, the seniors will be moving into their new center in about a month.

Ms. Miller said that M4A would now focus on Blount County. She said that she would personally go meet with mayors and City Councils. She said staff is paving the way with the centers. Mr. King said that the cities are working on the transition. Ms. Sivley is retiring and there will be additional money to go into the program as a result. Mr. King said that the center managers will hopefully absorb Ms. Sivley's responsibilities. Ms. Miller said that the center managers in Blount are paid the most of all the other counties and should be able to do this; she also said that Ms. Sivley, the County Manager and the County Commission are working with M4A.

Mr. King said that M4A should avoid ultimatums in working with the Blount cities. Ms. Miller agreed but qualified by saying that the responsibility of the meal program does need to be with the cities in that community support is vital for a community-based program such as meals. Mr. King said that the County would not allow the centers to close and Ms. Miller agreed and said that there was no danger of this because there was support from the communities, cities, and county.

Mr. Dillard said he had approached Indian Springs to support the Heardmont Senior Center, since center participation comes from Indian Springs and Indian Springs is the nearest incorporated city. He said that the mayor had agreed. He asked Ms. Allison to approach the mayor as well; she agreed. Ms. Miller will follow-up.

Ms. Miller discussed transportation. She attended a strategic planning meeting regarding transportation. She said that the state is requiring ClasTran to have a negative balance before ClasTran can draw down federal funds. Ms. Miller questions this interpretation of "zero balancing" and said the interpretation seemed to set ClasTran up to fail. Mr. Dillard asked if transportation would not be best under the auspices of the aging network. Ms. Miller said no because other groups of people needed transportation other than seniors. She said that oversight for transportation was needed (i.e., a transportation authority) but did not need to be under senior services or aging.

White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) was held and the issues from this conference were included in the Board members packet. Transportation was the second issue in the WHCOA. Another issue was healthcare.

N4A in partnership with National Association of County and City Governments are sending out surveys: what counties and cities know about aging. Ms. Miller said to be on the look-out for this survey and to participate.

ADSS has level funding in the governor's budget. Ms. Miller said we need an increase in the number of MW slots; M4A received 60 additional slots for MW for this FY.

March 7-9, 2006 is M4A's legislative week and Ms. Miller will be speaking/meeting with the legislators during this week. Theme: "There's No Place Like Home."

Ms. Miller said that Kelly Flick is trying to get M4A numbers accurate for reporting purposes. M4A has not done a good job reporting all of its numbers.

M4A is focusing on health prevention for this FY and has instituted, with BCBS of Alabama, the Walking Works Program. The staff is also participating. She said that M4A wanted to track the Walking Works data from the centers. Next month, M4A is focusing on weight and blood pressure. Other health prevention topics: water (staying hydrated); exercises for the homebound.

Part D continues to be a nightmare for Medicare beneficiaries and M4A. There is a mechanism in place for receiving Part D Plan complaints and M4A is documenting these complaints; however, M4A is referring people to Medicare as well. Ms. Miller said that SeniorRx has been expanded to people who are 55 and older but the program now excludes Medicare beneficiaries.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Fortner attended the AIRS training and are certified CIRS-A (Certified Information and Referral Specialist-Aging); Ms. Miller hopes that this status will allow M4A to apply for more grants.

Staff update: M4A has 19 FT with 1 vacancy and 5 PT with 2 vacancies.

2 FT staff members are dedicated to Shelby County: One homebound coordinator and one Shelby County Coordinator. Ms. Miller said that M4A will track the data from the homebound coordinator to present to other counties as justification for funding for other homebound coordinators.

M4A has a budget deficit in other counties but not in Shelby County. Shelby County will receive this money back.

New office is 6200 sq. feet.

The AAA Plan is due this year. In March, M4A will start surveys, town meetings. United Way is working with M4A to do a community needs assessment. It will include telephone surveys.

M4A applied for a Hillcrest Foundation Grant. Also applied for grants with ADSS for Lifelines; received Healthcare Foundation Grant for Shelby and some will be used for Lifelines; next year Walker County Community Foundation will be approached with a grant for Lifelines; we did not get our CDC grant; and we are working with City of Alabaster on a grant as well.

Next Board Meetings

April 18, 2006

June 20, 2006

September 19, 2006

Meeting was adjourned; lunch was served.

Prepared by: Carolyn G. Fortner

Submitted by: Julie Miller

Approved:  , Chairman M4A Board