

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 2010
Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging
Prepared by: Kelly Lippert-Flick

In Attendance: Mr. Richard Lovelady, Mr. Earl Cunningham, Mrs. Lee Ann Clark, Mrs. Martha Thornburgh, Mr. William Fowler, Reverend Glenn Bynum, Mr. Chris Green, Mr. Gene Ford, Carolyn Fortner, Dianne Nance and Kelly Lippert-Flick.

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Richard Lovelady, at 10:36 a.m. in the M4A conference room. Reverend Bynum provided the invocation.
- B. The Chairman asked for proxies. Mr. Green had a written proxy for Judge David Standridge.
- C. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rev. Bynum and seconded by Mr. Chris Green. All were in favor, no one opposed.
- D. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Martha Thornburgh and seconded by Mr. Earl Cunningham. All were in favor, no one opposed.
- E. Carolyn Fortner provided the Executive Director's report.
 1. Carolyn asked all board members present to complete the annual conflict of interest statement as well as the board evaluation form. Those board members not in attendance will receive these documents via mail.
 2. Carolyn, Dianne and several staff members recently attended the Alabama Association of Regional Councils' (AARC) annual retreat. The program was substantive and informative. There M4A learned that the Medicaid Waiver budget would be cut by 10-15% across the state. This is a federal change, not an ADSS initiative change. The reduction will not create a negative impact on the agency. M4A will be able to maintain the services it currently does to clients, but it will not be able to add additional clients.
 3. Carolyn provided the board with a final version of the Annual Operating Plan. There were no changes to the goals and objectives, just changes to the program services units. These changes were made in accordance to the updated service definitions that ADSS provided the AAA's. These changes will create additional work for the staff, but not the center managers and will connect units of services with cost. These are recommendations coming down from a federal level and will truly make for more accurate, solid data. M4A expects this transition to be relatively smooth since much of what is being directed is already taking place on a lesser level at the agency already.
 4. Program eligibility criteria are getting more intentional for the Alabama Cares Program, the Ombudsman Program and the Nutritional Program. Nationwide the federal government is getting back to the basics with program and fiscal responsibility. Specific to the nutrition program, every person (seniors, volunteers and one time visitors) who

receives a meal must complete an enrollment form. Meals that are provided to individuals who do not have an enrollment form on file will be considered ineligible and the towns and cities will be responsible for paying for that meal as per the Agreement M4A has with each Title III city/town with a senior center. Carolyn also provided the Board with a sample monitoring tool that ADSS will be using to track goals for each AAA starting FY 2011.

5. The ADRC Coordinator is planning 5 events in the region called Blooming Benefits Days. At these events, individuals will be able to apply for a variety of public benefits in one location. Carolyn provided the board with a list of dates and locations for the next planning meeting for these events. Carolyn mentioned to the board that M4A is considering having a staff member of the Independent Living Resource Center re-locate to M4A. This will strengthen the Aging & Disability Resource Center and provide a seamless referral system for the aging disabled. This relationship will be exceptionally beneficial when the MDS 3.0 Section Q rollout begins (nursing home transition).
 6. Carolyn provided the board with a letter from the Farmers Market Authority. The letter explains how the program will be changed from being implemented locally in towns and cities to being processed in Montgomery. Individuals who received vouchers in FY 2010 and those on the waiting list will receive an application in the mail in November 2010. They must complete it and return it to Montgomery to be processed, and then a voucher will be sent to them provide they are one of the first 60,000 to respond. Much concern about this change was voiced by the board. Concerns included: confusion on the form-what it looks like, if the seniors will understand what to do, where to send it, what to do when the voucher comes in. Kelly offered to contact the FMA to express our concerns and offer possible suggestions for a smoother transition in the M4A region including: sample copies of the form, when the form will be mailed, educating the center managers and alerting the community through the local media. M4A will work to educate each center manager on the new procedures so that center participants will know to bring their FMA letters in as soon as they receive them so that the forms may be completed and mailed in ASAP.
 7. Carolyn recommended a 3% raise for all permanent M4A staff effective January 1, 2011. Since a raise was not given last year, due to the economy, and the cost of living has increased, she felt strongly that the raise was essential for staff morale and also merited on the basis of staff performance, team work, and attitude. Mr. Green asked how this 3% increase would affect the agency's bottom line budget. Dianne Nance stated that it would increase overall salaries by 5% when taking into consideration benefits such as retirement contributions. Mr. Cunningham emphasized the importance of staff and made a motion to approve the increase. Mr. Ford seconded the motion. All were in favor, no one objected.
- F. Kelly Flick provided an overview of program success for FY 2011. She stated that each program met its grant obligations in terms of clients served. As she reviewed the handout, she noticed

that the cost savings for SenioRx was incorrect. The correct cost savings for FY 2011 is \$1,975,497.89

- *The board meeting was temporarily suspended for lunch at 11:54 a.m. and resumed meeting at 12:33 p.m.*

G. Dianne Nance provided an explanation of the Auditor's Report from the previous board meeting. She stated that the financial statement (i.e. which showed approximately \$1.2 million in unspent funds) were for FYE 2009 and that the carryover was due largely to carryover generated by ARRA funds and also by the Title V (SCSEP) Program which has a year end in June rather than September and which was a new program to M4A in 2009. In addition, in-kind contributions and contractor's cash reported to M4A by cities/towns are reported as revenue sources for M4A although the funds are actually spent by the cities/towns to support the senior nutrition program. Other programs that had carryover going into FY 2010 were Title III E (Alabama Cares), IIIB Admin and III E Admin. Much of the III E, IIIB Admin, and III E Admin were spent down in FY 2010. In addition, M4A increased meal service in FY 2010 and will continue to increase meal service (up to 9%) in FY 2011, which will spend down a good portion of carryover, although significant carryover (i.e., up to an additional 7-10 weeks of carryover) is expected going into FY 2012. Mr. Cunningham thanked Dianne for explaining to the board and clarifying a potentially negative perception. Carolyn and Dianne will continue to work with the M4A auditors who are scheduled to begin the FY 2010 audit in a few weeks.

H. Old Business

1. Chris Winchester's presentation will be moved to February 2011.
2. Mr. Green, who is the Revenue Commission for Blount County, began a discussion on the importance of educating older adults on property tax exemptions that are available to them. He stated that the *Code of Alabama* provided city, county, and state property tax exemption for those 65 and older or disabled who have a federally adjusted net taxable income of \$7,500.00 or less. He and other board members felt that the taxable income threshold should be increased and that a letter to the new ADSS Commissioner stating M4A's position would be in order. Carolyn will work on drafting such a letter and will forward to board members for review. All agreed the letter should be board approved and signed by the Chairman of the Board, once finalized.
3. Mr. Chris Green motioned to approve the FY 2011 Annual Operating Plan and Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. All were in favor, no one opposed.
4. Rev. Bynum motioned to approve the final FY 2011 Contracts and Agreements and Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. All were in favor, no one opposed.

- I. There was no new business *made by correction*
- J. Mr. Cunningham motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m. Mrs. Thornburgh seconded the motion. All were in favor, no one opposed.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the M4A boardroom.


Mr. Richard Lovelady, M4A Board Chairman