

August 25, 2009

Dear Chief Elected Office/Representative:

The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) is requiring The Senior Alliance (TSA) to correct a conflict of interest involving TSA Board of Directors members who are also current or potential vendors/contractors. A conflict occurs when board members, who are also senior center directors, or have similar designation/responsibility, involve themselves in the allocation of TSA funds. These funds are, or could potentially be, directed to fund a board member's own agency. This conflict arose when the state removed the line item funding for senior center staffing and TSA chose to continue funding senior centers from monies available for general programs.

OSA also found "the size of the board appears to contribute to confusion in roles and responsibilities for (TSA)". The TSA Board of Directors currently has thirty seven members from the 34 townships, cities, and villages in Southern and Western Wayne County, and OSA has recommended a "more manageable" Board.

TSA will submit a plan of correction to OSA for approval by the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging, which has the sole legal authority to designate TSA as the area agency on aging. This designation allows TSA to receive and expend all state and federal Older Americans Act and Older Michigianians Act dollars to serve older adults and family caregivers in the service area. OSA is requiring that the final implementation of the restructure of the TSA Board of Directors occur no later than December 31, 2009.

The Chair of the TSA Board of Directors has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the issues raised by OSA and to make reorganization recommendations to the TSA Board of Directors. The schedule of meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee is as follows:

DATE	TIME	
Thursday, August 27, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, September 16, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, September 30, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Public Hearing
Wednesday, October 14, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	
Thursday, October 29, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, November 4, 2009	9:00-11:30 a.m.	

All meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee are open to the public and a public hearing is scheduled for September 30, 2009. Please note that we have enclosed a flyer announcing the September 30th Public Hearing and ask that you share it with others you think would be interested. All meetings will be held at the TSA office, 3850 Second Street, Ste. 201 Wayne, MI 48184. Additionally, please visit the TSA website at www.aaalc.org and click on "What's New" to review all documents and updates pertaining to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Board of Directors reorganization process will not affect services provided to nearly 42,000 of the approximately 170,000 older adults in the TSA planning and service area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your interest and continued support of services to older adults.

Sincerely,



Bob Brown
Executive Director

Cc: Robert Ficano, Wayne County Executive
Sharon Gire, Director, Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

Attachment: (Flyer)