

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
APRIL 21, 2022 2:00 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Tobbye McClanahan; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Neil Burge; Senior Citizens Center Amanda Adams; Barbara Mitchell; Finance Kelli Jones; East Area on Aging Melissa Prader.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Tobbye McClanahan. Justice McClanahan introduced the guests. Melissa Prader East Area on Aging, Amanda Adams and Barbara Mitchell from the Senior Citizens Center. Confusion from the last meeting was explained. Funding was not discussed but the organizational structure of the Senior Citizens Center. Funding and financing were the Finance Committee and not Social Services.**
- 2. The County had been acting as the sponsor of the Senior Citizens Center since 1976. East area on Aging was the pass thru agency for all State and Federal funding for these types of programs. East Arkansas had 12 counties. The agency found sponsors to be the administrative organizational structure. When a sponsor was not found the agency took it on.**
- 3. Considerable cuts had been made thru the State and Federal Grants. Major funding cuts were because these programs were widely funded by a cigarette tax and less funding was available. They were also population based. Calculations were based on aging populations.**
- 4. In 1976 the EOC was the sponsoring agency for the Miss. Co. Senior Citizens Center. Jo Floyd was the director at that time and did not think the EOC was the proper agency. Shug Banks was the County Judge. Judge Banks made the decision Mississippi County would be the sponsoring agent. There was no Resolution because the Quorum Court was restructured in January 1977. The Senior Citizens Center had been on the county budget since 1977. Contract was signed with East Area on Aging every year. The contract had been signed in the past by the Director. Contract in 2014 and 2015 was signed by Judge Randy Carney. RFP was done every four years from the East Area on Aging. Documentation had to be proved by the county to East Area on Aging regarding information requested.**
- 5. Justice McClanahan had a letter from 2011 from the Senior Citizens Center acknowledging that the Miss. Co. Quorum Court was in favor and approved the Senior Citizens Center in Leachville could be moved to Manilla.**
- 6. Justice McClanahan received a phone call from the State Auditor that stated. They didn't have any issues with the financing or record keeping with the Senior Citizens Center regarding Mississippi County and never had. Concerns over loosing funding over large contribution the county had given. East Area on Agency assured Justice McClanahan that was not the case.**

7. East Area on Aging was a 501C3 not a State departmental organization. When a donor would like to support Senior Services in Miss. Co. by getting a tax deduction they can donate to the East Area on Aging and designate to only be spendable in Mississippi county.
8. East Area on Agency owned the building in Blytheville. Justice McClanahan and Justice White visited the center. Considerable amount of money had been put into the center. Ceilings had been lowered and helped with energy efficiency. AC upgrades had been made. Justice McClanahan thought the rent the county paid should remain.
9. Transfer amounts. When Judge Nelson was Finance chair the county was transferring around \$40,000.00 in 2010. Amount now was close to ¼ million. The budget only gave revenues and does not show funding or what the county transferred. 2014 County General transferred just over \$161,000.00. 2015 jumped to \$238,000.00 thru 2017. 2010 was a census year and population was lost.
10. Justice McClanahan though the director should not be signing the contracts but the County Judge. Contract for services between the East Area on Aging and sponsoring agency. Contract was voluntary and had a 90 cancellation notice.
11. Justice McClanahan handed out a Resolution she would like the court to adopt. Justice Burge asked if the other two counties subsidized the budgets for the centers. The answer was they did part of the budget. Services in other counties were cut if money was not available. Justice Burge thought it was a great program. EOC lost funding in the middle of last year and services were cut. Justice Ash recommended to send the Resolution to Jacob Holmes for him to look at. The County Judge should be the one signing the contract. Second was made by Justice Joe Lewis. Motion passed.
12. Justice Ash stated the committee was not looking at cutting funding. The committee was looking at how and why the department got started. Motion was made by Justice Rick Ash to lift the hold on the purchase of the vans for the Senior Citizens Center. Second was made by Justice Joe Lewis. Motion passed.
13. Lunch would be served next Thursday at the Manilla Senior Citizens Center. 11:30.
14. Meeting adjourned.
Minutes submitted by: Cindy George