

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
Negaunee Senior Citizens Center
410 Jackson Street, Negaunee, MI
Public Meeting 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
12:00p.m.-3:00p.m., Friday, May 17, 2019

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Gerald Corkin, Chair of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners welcomed the commission to the UP on behalf of UPCAP and the board of commissioners. He thanked all for their service and for playing an important role in the lives of Michigan older adults. He shared that historically, UPCAP has been near the top in their ability to provide services to aging adults. He believes that much of this is possible due to the leadership of Jon Mead. He also wanted to commend the Negaunee Senior Center as one of the most progressive and busy in the area.

Brian Veale, Director of the Forsyth Senior Center, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CSA ROLL CALL

The commission roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

CSA MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Matthew Adeyanju, Mark Bomberg, John Briggs, Renee Cortright, Kathleen LaTosch, Laura Newsome, and Michael Sheehan.

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Nancy Duncan, Jean Hall, Joan Ilardo, Peter Lichtenberg, Linda Strohl, Amy Tripp, and Kristie Zamora

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Scott Wamsley, Phil Lewis, and Kelly Cooper

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Kristy Basolo-Malmsten, Bob Brown, Gerald Corkin, Lynn Emerick, Donald Kristola, Jon Mead, Lyn Nelson, Liz Nevak, Tonya Pontel, Michael Prusi, Lori Stephens-Brown, and Brian Veale

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the agenda. Commissioner Briggs seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve April 19, 2019, CSA minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Newsome to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cortright seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved with two amendments with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart welcomed all and thanked them for the time, travel and expertise that make them all stronger. She thanked the meeting hosts for providing an excellent meeting location and welcoming the commission.

Wishart shared that the advocacy budget letters approved at the previous CSA meeting were sent to the governor's office and to the house and senate. She is very proud of this action item from the commission and all the hard work that went into this important advocacy outreach. The commission is taking action for Michigan's older adults.

She reminded all that this has been a very busy month for the aging network, especially for area directors. She recently attended the Aging in America (national) Conference where there were many comments about the great work being done in Michigan. She also visited Generations United in Washington D.C. to talk about their work, including their work in Michigan and plans for rolling out additional work in Michigan. She met with representatives from the Administration on Community Living and heard about their efforts. She stressed the fact that the ACL is very important to the efforts of the commission in working on policies and procedures that then funnel to the network. She noted that the commission is very proud to work with Michigan Health Endowment Fund and she recently attended a meeting held for their 2017-2019 grantees. At this meeting, they talked about the stellar work being done with funded programs and announced more opportunities for future grant opportunities. Older Michiganians Day was celebrated on May 15, 2019, and Commissioner Wishart wanted to give a special thanks to Ryan Cowmeadow and Shannon Harkins-Padgitt and the planning committee. The event was well-attended and very meaningful. On the same day, a number of advocates presented to the senate house on direct care workforce issues.

With regard to Older Michiganians Day, Wishart gave a special thank you to Commissioner Jean Hall, SAC member Dennis Brieske, and AASA's Shirley Bentsen who were all very involved in orchestrating the Senior Volunteer of the Year selection and award presentation. The award winner, Robert (Bob) Cooley, was surprised by his family who came from across the nation and the state to be with him at the celebration.

State Advisory Council Update

Commissioner Wishart shared that there has been a reappointment to the SAC, Mary Jones, from Grand Blanc. Also, a new appointment was approved to the SAC, Dr. Priscilla Kimboko.

She shared that the SAC workgroup progress is underway. Three of the four workgroups have had conference calls and have heard from five of the area agencies on aging. The fourth workgroup will be holding a call soon. They are tasked with hearing more about the innovative programs and services that are being provided throughout the state with regard to the four areas of advocacy from the CSA. They have been digging deeper into some of the program and service innovations across the state. She noted that Commissioner Kristie Zamora, the chair of the SAC, and Don Ryan and Wendy White, co vice-chairs, would be deciding the best way to gather and summarize these ideas for distribution to the commission and others. Commissioner Kristie Zamora indicated in her notes that the SAC members have thoroughly enjoyed talking with AAA staff and that those staff members have been great in sharing more in-depth information. She also noted that these staff members have been very knowledgeable, dedicated, and eager to assist the SAC.

Advocacy Committee Report

Committee Chair, Commissioner Kathleen LaTosch, shared that their work has been continuing in the 3 primary “buckets” of work.

- 1) They have been working on advocacy priorities and moving those forward. All of the four advocacy teams have been looking at strategies and best practices for these issues. Work teams are having monthly, or more frequent, conference calls. They are gathering information from around the state. They are looking at patterns and themes, and what are some unique regional challenges. They hope to have the information gathered by fall for distribution.
- 2) They have been staying in touch with what is happening with state legislation, largely with support from AASA’s Phil Lewis, who keeps his eye on everything coming out and helping to research how it may impact older adults. This is critical research for the advocacy efforts of the commission.
- 3) The advocacy committee has also been looking at national policies and laws, and how to add their voices for Michigan’s older adults, both on a state and national level. Because the committee is new for the commission, they are looking at establishing practices and processes related to these efforts and building relationships. This will help to have routine communication with key individuals.

LaTosch shared that the budget advocacy letters were drafted and sent with the hard work of Commissioners Duncan and Ilardo and AASA’s Phil Lewis. Discussion ensued about the importance of these efforts in having their voices heard.

Intra State Funding Formula Committee Update Report

Commissioner Sheehan reported on the Intrastate Funding Formula’s (IFF) next steps and gave an overview of a group of University of Michigan doctoral students involved in statistics who provide pro-bono work on projects for non-profit entities and are referred to as “Stat

Com”. The Stat Com team, comprised of five graduate students and led by a faculty advisor, have met several times. One of the things they are starting with is how to define “equity” and how it can be assessed. Another thing they are reviewing is other states and how they have used the geographic component and how it compares to our formula. Also, they are working on what the effects on each of the 16 regions would be if changes were made in various scenarios. They will try to be finished with this pro-bono project by early July. This will be the first time we have had an outside student academic view of our formula. This will give the commission four years to see if changes should be made in the future.

Commissioner Wishart wanted to very clearly state that this does not mean the formula will be re-opened at this time. The formula is in place and operational and the entire aging network is dependent upon it. This research will serve as a learning tool and will gather information possibly useful for future decisions.

There was discussion following regarding this formula and how it relates to the aging network.

ACTING AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Acting Senior Deputy Scott Wamsley echoed Commissioner Wishart’s sentiments that he is happy to be in the UP. It is very beneficial for staff to be able to go out and see some of the places that are referenced in the daily data that they work with.

It is still budget season and AASA staff is watching the 2020 budget in the state legislature, as well as the federal budget. They are watching the bills during this conferencing process and changes that might be proposed. There have been questions from the conference committees and AASA is responding as quickly as possible to these requests for information. Roughly speaking, AASA is looking at a flat budget. On the federal side, it is not as certain as the state budget. AASA is hoping for consistency in the federal budget for 2020. The AASA budget is roughly 57% federally funded, and the continuing resolution process is very disruptive to the network.

Wamsley reported that he felt that Older Michiganians Day was hugely successful. He shared that MDHHS Director Gordon spoke and was very well received. This was a good opportunity for him to learn more about the aging network.

The AASA field staff are scheduling assessments as they need to have these done ahead of the AIP presentations to the CSA in August and September.

He shared that AASA’s Cynthia Farrell and Rachel Richards have been assigned to the Elder Abuse Task force and both are chairing subcommittees for the task force. He is encouraged and feels we are very well represented as they were invited by both the attorney general as well as Director Gordon’s Office. This will be great to be able to work with some of the other agencies on this important issue. It will also give them an opportunity to let others know the things we are already doing and a chance to offer their expertise in the area.

Weekly update reports are being provided to Director Gordon so they are aware of the importance of the issues facing the aging network. This is helpful for him to know when meeting with the governor or other key decision-makers.

Wamsley gave updates on meetings he recently attended including the Mental Health in Aging Conference and a meeting with the Michigan Association of Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. Also, AASA recently had the AAA All-Star Meeting to be sure area agencies and their finance teams are aware of policy changes as well as hearing from them on issues they are facing and ways for all to make improvements. He has met with the Alzheimer's Association and the Dementia Coalition and also spoke at Ethics for Breakfast at MSU regarding the challenges with an aging population.

He shared that Michigan Government TV has links to hearings and legislative meetings that would be beneficial for commissioners to see to stay connected with what is happening. The link will be provided to all commissioners and Scott will keep them apprised of anything up and coming that will affect older adults.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Phil Lewis gave highlights of the state budget, including the increase in home help and the placeholder for the dementia care pilot program. There was a \$101,000 general fund reduction in the community service line item, with the rationale listed as this being based on historic lapses. AASA will be looking into the meaning of that and will share information as it becomes available.

The big news in Legislature is the bill to reform auto no-fault insurance is moving forward. Michigan has some of the highest insurance rates in the country.

Lewis reported on the Senior Citizen of the Year Award, Older Michiganians Day, and the advocacy platform for the day. There were essentially four pillars of the platform: rebalancing funding for home care and nutrition and in-home services with long-term care funding, direct care workforce issues, advocating for additional in-home service dollars for the AASA budget, and advocating for a more dementia-capable state. Other priorities addressed on that day were elder abuse prevention, housing, telehealth, transportation, and age-friendly communities.

He shared a news release from the attorney general in regard to charges being filed related to a caregiver in an adult foster care facility in Owosso due to allegations of elder abuse. The Michigan Long-Term Care Ombudsman reported the incident that led to the charges.

He encouraged commissioners to watch the recent presentation to the Senate by Ryan Cowmeadow, Harold Mast, and Clare Luz on the direct care workforce crisis.

Lewis reminded the commission that the Older Americans Act will expire at the end of September and the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging was looking at it and aging issues in general. ACL recently presented to the committee.

Scott Wamsley followed up regarding the closure of the adult foster care facility by sharing with the commission the process that adult protective service workers (and AASA staff members) follow when there is a closure of a facility that houses older and vulnerable adults. He feels that there should be a report to the commission in an upcoming meeting about what happens when a facility closes. Commissioner Wishart concurred that this would be a very beneficial presentation and learning experience for the commission.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Scott Wamsley shared a Quarterly Grant and Services Expenditure Report handout. He mentioned that the volunteer program data was not available at last month's meeting, and the new report is updated for the volunteer programs as well as a few other reports that had changed. He highlighted the changes to the commission.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

UPCAP highlights and Presentation of Telephonic Caregiver Consultation Program

Jon Mead, Director of UPCAP (Region 11) reiterated that the issues with the direct care workforce have been a problem for UPCAP for many years and have only gotten worse. The area is very sparsely populated so there are unique obstacles to providing care.

In their My Choice Waiver Program, over 45% of the clients are in a program of self-determination (this is a very high number). One of the reasons for this high number is that UPCAP's Provider Network is having a difficult time finding and retaining workers, thus the high number of relatives and friends working to provide care through the self-determination program. UPCAP has a worker registry of about 300. UPCAP has looked at a number of different approaches to solving this issue. One area that they have focused on has been trying to empower caregivers and provide them with the tools they need to make it easier for them and their loved ones. They have used a variety of different programs, but with all programs combined, they only address about 20% of the population that require services.

Jon Mead, Director of UPCAP (Region 11) and Tammy Rosa, Caregiver Programs Manager for UPCAP, presented highlights and information about the Telephonic Caregiver Consultation Program. They implemented this to help provide services for those who still needed care. This program is like a hotline for caregivers. It is designed to help caregivers cope with critical issues that arise.

He reported that they received a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment fund to initiate the pilot of this program. He gave details about how this program is designed to work.

Tammi Rosa gave more detailed information about the program and went over a handout that was provided. This is a telephonic and evidence-based program. This has worked with over 4000 families and is now in 10 different states. It is designed for individuals with chronic conditions and their caregivers. UPCAP's primary target group will be for caregivers caring for those with dementia, although they would work with any caregiver with an emergent need.

Much discussion ensued about this program, and Commissioner Wishart asked that they

provide an update to the commission in the next year to year and a half.

Medicine Reconciliation Program Presentation/Demonstration

Bob Brown, Director of Region VII Area Agency on Aging, presented information on a Medicine Reconciliation Program that they have developed and have received a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to pilot. It kicked off in May of 2018 and they have seen 319 patients in one year.

This is a program where the community health worker visits the patient in the hospital and at home within 3 days after discharge. They go over discharge paperwork, review medical records, and help take a medication inventory. They go over any red flags that might come up in the medication inventory after using telehealth technology to complete a medication reconciliation between the pharmacist and the patient. There is an environmental scan of the home for falls. They arrange for a visit with primary care physician within 7 days of their discharge and help arrange for transportation to medical appointments.

This program is designed to decrease readmittance of patients for the same cause.

He presented a video of a telehealth call that showed the steps taken for medication reconciliation.

National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) Report

Scott Wamsley, Acting Senior Deputy Director, presented information on the NAPIS report. Due to time constraints, the remainder of the report update and the opportunity for more Q&A from commissioners will be tabled until the June 2019 meeting in Kalamazoo.

Commissioner Wishart thanked Scott for the comprehensive way the report is written, and the clarity that is provided for items in the report. She asked that commissioners take a good look at the report between now and the June 2019 meeting so that they may ask questions at that time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a public hearing at 1:00 PM after today's meeting at this same location.

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 AM on Friday, June 21, 2019, at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services, 311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. A public hearing will be held after this meeting at this same location at 1:00 PM.

Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact AASA at (517) 214-4100 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

The next SAC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 9:30 AM at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, located at 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing.

Commissioner Wishart asked for any volunteers who would like to attend the SAC meeting in June as a guest commissioner and noted she will follow up with more information as needed.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:11p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW, WITH A PUBLIC HEARING AT 1:00PM