

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Adult Services Agency
South Grand Tower, 333 S. Grand Avenue, Conf. Room 1L; Lansing, MI 48933
January 19, 2018

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Commissioner Murray-Brown.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Matthew Adeyanju, John Briggs, Nancy Duncan, Joan Ilardo, Harold Mast, Kathleen LaTosch, Donna Murray-Brown, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Peter Lichtenberg and Amy Tripp.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) STAFF PRESENT

Richard Kline, Scott Wamsley, Shirley Bentsen, Eric Berke, Dan Doezema, Carol Dye, Dawn Jacobs, Sherri King, Phil Lewis, Tari Muniz, Becky Payne and Lauren Swanson-Aprill.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Karson, CEO and John Krueger of AAA 1-B, Lon Johnson, Eight CAP FGP/SCP, Cynthia Mayhew of MDSA, and other members of the public.

Commissioner Wishart announced that because of extenuating circumstances, some commissioners couldn't be physically present and are being allowed to participate by phone, and she referenced CSA By-law, Article III, Section 3.4 - Member Participation by Alternate Means, which states, in part, "A regularly scheduled... Commission meeting may be held via telephone... when it is in the interest of the Commission..."

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju to approve the agenda. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the December 15, 2017, minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mast to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Wishart asked commissioners to introduce themselves, and she welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Nancy Duncan.

Commissioner Wishart stated Commissioner Roedel submitted a letter of resignation, so another Commissioner will be appointed.

Commissioner Wishart handed out letters signed by MDHHS Director Nick Lyon, congratulating Commissioners Adeyanju, Mast and Zamora on their CSA reappointment.

Commissioner Wishart stated Commissioner Briggs will join the next State Advisory Council on Aging meeting to represent the CSA.

Commissioner Wishart asked Michael Karson, AAA 1-B CEO/President to address the CSA.

Mr. Karson stated AAA 1-B was committed to working through the probationary period to ensure programs and processes were put in place. They will continue to succeed and improve processes, and he thanked AASA staff for their support and held in the process.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Kline provided a detailed overview on AASA's FY 2017 Annual Report, as required by the Older Michigianians Act. This is a culmination of AASA's activities, which is in its final stage of completion, and is due to the Legislature and the Governor by January 31, 2018.

Director Kline stated MDHHS's employee satisfaction survey and employee engagement process reflected a need for better communication, which will be addressed at AASA's monthly All Staff meetings where staff will report on progress made toward achievement of goals as detailed in AASA's State Plan, and to encourage more shared communications.

Director Kline stated AASA was invited to MDHHS's annual Tribal Conference where all of Michigan's 12 tribes and MDHHS staff participated in an initiative to engage tribal leaders to determine where greatest needs are, to see what's working and what's not, and to address any potential shortfalls.

Director Kline stated he visited Muskegon's Region 14 AAA, and they are working on a millage process with the support of Eric Berke, AASA's field staff for their region.

Director Kline stated Long Term Care Ombudsmen have been dealing with several nursing home closures, with three in Grand Rapids; most have been operational issues in nature.

Director Kline visited Michigan's smallest AAA, Branch/St. Joseph Co. Region 3C, and was impressed with the work of their small staff, collaborative efforts and vibrant senior centers.

Director Kline stated he attended a Leading Age board meeting, a not-for-profit association for nursing homes and retirement facilities, and provided an overview of AASA's mission and programs, noting one area of interest was in home- and community-based service rules, and that the BOLD council is working on nursing facility transitions and level of care determinations, which will impact them.

Director Kline stated Michigan's Medicaid director resigned and they've assigned an interim director until they can find someone to fill that position.

A concern was raised on Medicaid's new streamlined form being designed and those in rural areas with no internet access, or computers, as well as "Navigators," to which director Kline stated he would ask and return with the answers.

Commissioner Mast expressed an interest in the Tribal event, and Director Kline offered to send him a copy of the agenda and associated materials.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of AASA's steps in instances of federal funding disruptions should the Government shutdown and how it could potentially impact the AAAs' service delivery systems, as well as the AAAs' steps to address it.

A concern was brought up regarding possible stress of those who receive services from these programs may feel from news of the shutdown, and Commissioner Wishart suggested that helping to protect clients from worry could perhaps be an advocacy issue.

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to acknowledge receiving this financial report in between formal reporting.

Commissioner Adeyanju supported this motion. Commissioner Strohl seconded this motion.

Mr. Wamsley stated AASA is currently undergoing an independent single audit and is expected to conclude in the next couple of weeks.

The CSA took a break at 9:59 AM, and resumed business at 10:10 AM.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Phil Lewis, AASA's public affairs staff, stated the federal government funding will expire at midnight tonight, and the House approved a spending bill to keep Government open until February 16th, with all eyes on the Senate, which currently has no votes scheduled, noting he will continue to monitor this situation.

Mr. Lewis stated with the way the federal tax bill is now, it will increase Michigan residents' state income tax, and in response to this, the governor stated the simplest fix would be to boost Michigan's personal exemption to see a tax reduction intended in the federal reform.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Murray-Brown, chair of the CSA Advocacy Committee, reiterated their guiding principles and mission statement, and provided an overview of their purpose and

protocol, as well as a draft CSA Legislative Agenda handout reflecting recommendations of the top four issues to consider being advocated for, while aiming for priorities that directly or predominantly impact seniors in all geographies across Michigan, and will be presented to the SAC for their review and consideration.

It was stated that at least 68 out of 83 counties have passed senior citizen service millages to augment state and federal funding. The demand is so great, county agencies need more than one funding source to try and meet the demand for service, which should be advocated for to the decision makers at the local level.

Mr. Wamsley stated he will provide the most recent Michigan Senior Millages by County report that was put together by Calhoun County's Carl Gibson.

Another issue raised was the need to focus on making sure seniors know what information and assistance are available, so they can get services in a timelier manner, with the Flint water situation as one example.

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated next steps are to present their recommendations to the SAC for their review and comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ilardo to affirm and seek the endorsement of the draft CSA Legislative Agenda's four advocacy recommendations to be put forth by the CSA Advocacy Committee, as presented. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion.

It was suggested that the draft CSA Legislative Agenda title be renamed to, *CSA Current Year Legislative Agenda*, with the date added at the bottom.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Request for Approval of Community for a Lifetime (CFL) Recognition for the Village of Deckerville

Dan Doezema, AASA staff, provided a brief history of the CFL program, noting since 2007, 26 communities have been recognized as a CFL.

Mr. Doezema requested approval for CFL recognition for the village of Deckerville.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve CFL recognition for the village of Deckerville, as presented. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

This motion was approved with a voice vote.

Update of AAA 1-B's Probation Status

Mr. Wamsley provided a memo requesting approval to end AAA 1-B's probationary status, because of AASA's request in April 2017 to place them on probation based on reviews showing significant deficiencies and difficulties encountered in terms of financial operations and inadequate staffing levels due to turnover, noting corrective actions were put in place, and significant strides and improvements have been made.

Mr. Wamsley stated AASA concluded that AAA 1-B successfully completed their FY 2016 assessment and has sufficiently complied, with ongoing monitoring and support in place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mast to approve ending AAA 1-B's probation status, as presented. Commissioner Adeyanju seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Michael Karson, AAA 1-B CEO, thanked AASA and the CSA for their support.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation on Fiscal Year 2019 Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) - Part Two

Mr. Wamsley provided a handout and detailed overview of the Older American's Act (OAA) requirement of State Units on Aging to have a funding methodology, also known as IFF, for OAA funding and other related funds, and in consultation with AAAs, noting AASA presented on this at their recent AAA Director's meeting, with ongoing discussions planned.

Mr. Wamsley stated AASA has and will continue to engage the CSA to review and approve the IFF every five years, and will return information as it becomes available, noting the latest American Community Survey data to be used as part of the IFF discussions will arrive soon. It is expected that the CSA will finalize this process by the deadline of October 1, 2018.

Commissioner Wishart stated going forward, the CSA needs to have a clear understanding of the needs and expectations for next steps to work on the IFF, suggesting that perhaps a workgroup should be created, with additional information and guidance to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wishart stated the next CSA meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, February 16, 2018, at this same location. CSA meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact Carol Dye at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

The next State Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 9:30 AM at the Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center located on W. Saginaw, with Commissioner Briggs representing the CSA, and Commissioner Zamora providing leadership.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Strohl. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ilardo. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.