

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING (CSA) MEETING
Area Agency on Aging Region 1-C, The Senior Alliance, Inc.
5454 Venoy Road; Wayne, MI 48184
October 19, 2018

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and asked Dr. Tom Jankowski to lead 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, John Briggs, Nancy Duncan, Joan Ilardo, Peter Lichtenberg, Kathleen LaTosch, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl and Kristie Zamora.

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Jean Hall and Amy Tripp.

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Kline, Scott Wamsley, Dan Doezema, Carol Dye, Phil Lewis and Lauren Swanson-Aprill.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Thomas Jankowski, Tamera Kiger, CEO of The Senior Alliance, Inc., Region 1C AAA, Ryan Cowmeadow, Chardae Burton, Elizabeth Thompson, Katie Wendel, Norvena Wilson, Denise Brothers, Don Ryan, Joyce Ryan, Jason Maciejewski, David Wilson, Kishori Gandhi, Kelly Faber, Sandra Falk-Michael, Dente Andrew and several other members of the public.

Ms. Kiger welcomed the CSA to The Senior Alliance, Inc. and introduced Dr. Tom Jankowski who provided a welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors and the 34 western Wayne and Down River communities they serve of about 200,000 people age 60 or older.

Ms. Kiger provided a presentation on The Senior Alliance Inc.'s property recently acquired in 2015 and their renovation process, noting they identified a partner with a like-minded mission, and they began the process to develop an affordable 70-unit building with 36 assisted living units to allow seniors to age safely at home.

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve September 21, 2018, CSA minutes.

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

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Wishart thanked the staff of Region 1C AAA for hosting the CSA meeting and public hearing, and for the River Town Detroit tour.

Commissioner Wishart thanked Commissioner Briggs for representing the CSA with AASA's Dan Doezema at an event recognizing Cheboygan as a Community for a Lifetime.

Commissioner Wishart expressed condolences to Commissioner Sheehan on behalf of the CSA in the recent loss of his wife, and she read his beautiful tribute to her.

Commissioner Wishart stated she attended the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan's annual conference and participated in an advocacy panel presentation under the leadership of Commissioner LaTosch, along with Commissioners Ilardo and Adeyanju, former Commissioner Murray-Brown and Phil Lewis, AASA staff. She also presented Flint, Otsego County and Traverse City's Technology and Aging project funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Commissioner Wishart stated the Governor announced the appointment of Jean Hall to the CSA, with two more to be appointed soon.

Commissioner Wishart stated she will join the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Application Review Committee with Commissioners Zamora, Strohl and Briggs to review new applications.

Commissioner Wishart stated the Intrastate Funding Formula Committee finished their work on decision-making, and with this important ongoing topic of how federal and state funding will roll out to the network, she asked Commissioner Sheehan to reconvene this committee in January for additional discussion in looking forward to the ongoing related work.

Commissioner Wishart commended Commissioner Strohl's fundraising efforts for her Home Delivered Meals program, as reported in a news article, and she asked Ms. Dye to share the article with the CSA.

Commissioner Wishart introduced Paul Bridgewater, retiring President and CEO of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, and she invited him to address the CSA.

Mr. Bridgewater thanked the CSA for their ongoing support, and the opportunity to grow and serve the aging network, and he introduced Ron Taylor, formerly of the US Administration on Aging, who will succeed him as the next President and CEO.

Mr. Taylor thanked the CSA and provided his background, and he looks forward to the work ahead.

SAC Chair Report

Commissioner Zamora thanked the CSA for their support during her first year chairing the SAC, and for their support of volunteers. She introduced SAC members Don Ryan, Co-Vice Chair, Elizabeth Thompson, Sandra Falk-Michael, and AASA staff Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and she thanked them for their support and work with the SAC.

Commissioner Zamora stated a SAC work group revised the SAC application with several improvements, and another work group revised the SAC by-laws, with both adopted.

Commissioner Zamora stated through their research on the SAC's report on volunteerism, they learned a lot and have implemented many of the recommendations.

Commissioner Zamora stated SAC is meeting next week, and she thanked Commissioner Lichtenberg for volunteering to attend when they will roll out the framework for the next SAC charge to report on tying together and strengthening advocacy efforts. She stated they will create a compendium of best practices with four SAC work groups using the Area Agency on Aging's annual implementation plans (AIPs) and interviews.

Commissioner Ilardo stated as the SAC works with the CSA Advocacy Committee to extract relevant information from the AIPs, she offered to help them build an abstracting tool. Commissioner Zamora asked to reconnect on this as it's a work in progress, and she asked the SAC to bring questions to their next meeting to assist in creating an interview tool. She welcomed all suggestions, and Commissioner Ilardo offered to help however she can.

Advocacy Committee Chair Report

BUSINESS ITEM (Part 1)

Request for Approval to Adopt Subcommittees' Recommendations

Commissioner LaTosch introduced and invited Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, and Don Ryan, SAC co-chair, to present with her and address the CSA.

Commissioner LaTosch, chair of the CSA Advocacy Committee, stated she is a member of the Wait List work group, and she identified other Committee work groups of Transportation, led by Commissioner Ilardo, Direct Care Workers, led by Commissioner Adeyanju, and Elder Abuse Prevention, led by Commissioner Duncan.

Commissioner LaTosch stated her Wait List work group developed four recommendations, and she summarized two primary issues: to develop an informational packet that provides a summary of the issues and critical elements for the incoming governor and legislature; and to authorize the formation of a work group made up of members from the aging network, state employees, senior service providers, CSA and SAC members in an effort to reduce and/or eliminate wait lists for home-delivered meals and in-home services for older adults.

Commissioner Lichtenberg requested the 2012 work group's information from their efforts to address the waiting lists, and Mr. Wamsley stated he has a memo he can provide that.

Mr. Wamsley provided an analysis report and overview on Michigan's waiting list trends.

Mr. Ryan stated he queried all AAAs and created a handout, “*Millages vs Other Sources of Funding*,” and he provided a detailed overview of his research on funding impact trends.

Commissioner LaTosch provided a handout, “*Recommendations for Reducing the Wait List*.” Additional discussion followed, and she requested approval of the Wait List work group recommendations, as presented.

Commissioner Duncan encouraged the work group to think about how to reframe the issues as they prepare materials for the new governor and legislature.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lichtenberg to accept the report and approve the recommendation to establish a work group to study the issues further, as presented. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion.

Commissioner LaTosch asked to amend the motion, to include approval to develop an informational packet for the new governor and legislature, as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zamora to amend this motion, as requested and as presented. Commissioner Newsome seconded this amended motion.

This amended motion was unanimously approved with a voice vote.

Commissioner Adeyanju asked this work group to review the Silver Key’s recommendations as provided by Jim McGuire at the AAAAM conference, and Commissioner Wishart asked Commissioner LaTosch to reach out to Mr. McGuire to have that conversation.

AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Senior Deputy Director Richard Kline stated he and Deputy Director Scott Wamsley met with oversight staff from the Administration on Community Living, noting what seems to work well for Michigan are the relationships AASA has with the aging network, unlike other states and while AASA’s budget increased, other states’ budgets remained flat or reduced.

Commissioner Ilardo requested Director Kline share Wisconsin’s state plan with her and Commissioner Lichtenberg, and Director Kline agreed to do so.

Director Kline stated AASA has been undergoing an audit for the past eight months, with Mr. Wamsley providing a great deal of requested information, and it’s starting to wind down.

Director Kline stated he and staff held conference calls with federal oversight folks, and they provided updates on AASA’s state plan and several other programs, noting their feedback of AASA was stellar and a state unit on aging to be replicated by other states.

Director Kline stated AASA is working on a few job postings, and more info will follow.

The CSA took a break at 10:48 AM and resumed business at 10:57 AM.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Phil Lewis, AASA’s public affairs and legislative liaison, provided brief legislative updates,

noting the 2019 federal budget was signed by the president, and AASA is working with our department legislative staff to track bills and complete an analysis on current issues to try and determine what lame duck is going to look like. More info will follow.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Wamsley provided AASA's preliminary Quarterly Grant & Services Expenditures Report ending September 30, 2018, and a brief federal funding update.

BUSINESS ITEMS (Part 2)

Request for Approval of State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Report on Volunteerism

SAC Chair, Commissioner Kristie Zamora, AASA staff/SAC Lead, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and SAC members Don Ryan and Elizabeth Thompson presented an overview of the SAC report, "*Volunteerism is Ageless – It Spans a Lifetime*," a SAC team effort to be distributed to the Governor, legislature, and aging network, as well as to many other interested parties.

Commissioner Zamora recommended next steps to send this report to the MDHHS communications staff for final review, after which time it will be finalized, distributed and promoted, and she requested approval of the next steps and SAC volunteerism report.

Commissioner LaTosch stated in the section on background checks and safety, and with diversity, inclusion and equity, there may be folks with a record who are unwilling to apply for jobs or volunteer positions because of the stigma of having a record, and she hopes there can be discussion on how to soften this section with an explanation that encourages people to apply, or perhaps some definition around the limits or boundaries to clarify what those background checks really mean.

Commissioner Strohl stated she agrees with this, but there are federal programs that require background checks.

Commissioner LaTosch stated she understands, but those standards often are applied to every position, and that's what she'd like to see further clarification on.

Commissioner Briggs stated these requirements are often set by nonprofits and private industry who apply it accordingly, even for volunteer positions, and if applicants have a record, it shouldn't scare them away from applying.

Commissioner Sheehan asked for the website where the SAC report can be found, and Commissioner Zamora agreed to send it, and she asked for final internal review comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve next steps for the SAC report on Volunteerism, as presented. Commissioner Adeyanju seconded this motion.

This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Wishart asked that requests for approval of the MIPPA ADRC, MIPPA SHIP and MIPPA AAA grants all be approved together as one vote.

Request for Approval to Amend Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, Aging and Disability Resource Collaboration (MIPPA ADRC) Grant Awards

Mr. Wamsley stated the CSA previously approved MIPPA ADRC federal funding amounts provided to AASA for planning purposes, including approval for AASA's Senior Deputy Director to have the authority to approve differences in final figures by up to five percent. AASA received final funding figures, which were more than five percent, so this is returning for approval of an increase in the final federal award amount for the FY 2019 MIPPA ADRC.

Request for Approval to Amend Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, State Health Insurance Program (MIPPA SHIP) and Area Agencies on Aging (MIPPA AAA)

Mr. Wamsley stated the CSA previously approved MIPPA SHIP and MIPPA AAA federal funding amounts provided to AASA for planning purposes, including approval for AASA's Senior Deputy Director to have the authority to approve differences in final figures by up to five percent. AASA received final funding figures, which were less than five percent, so this is returning for approval of a decrease in final federal awards for the FY 2019 MIPPA SHIP and MIPPA AAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ilardo to approve the FY 2019 MIPPA ADRC grant award, the FY 2019 MIPPA SHIP and MIPPA AAA grant awards, as presented. Commissioner Adeyanju seconded the motion.

This motion was unanimously approved with an 11-0-0 roll call vote.

Request for Approval of 2019 and 2020 Commission on Services to the Aging Schedule of Meeting and Public Hearing Proposed Locations

Carol Dye, AASA staff/CSA Secretary, presented a proposed schedule of 2019 and 2020 CSA meetings and public hearings, and she requested recommendations for public hearing locations, as the CSA takes into consideration past public hearing locations when deciding where to meet next to ensure the entire geography of the state is taken into consideration.

Ms. Dye stated SAC member Don Ryan invited the CSA to hold the June 21, 2019, meeting and public hearing at Region 3A AAA in Kalamazoo. Jonathan Mead, President/CEO of UPCAP, Region 11 AAA, invited the CSA to hold a meeting and public hearing in 2019 in Manistique, and a meeting and public hearing in 2020 in Negaunee, with both communities having active senior centers, noting best months to do so would be in June or July.

Commissioner Strohl recommended the thumb areas of Tuscola and Sanilac.

Commissioner Ilardo stated if meeting in the UP yearly, that does preclude other areas of the state, and she recommended the thumb area, Clare and Isabella counties, Muskegon, Midland, Ottawa County, the borders of Monroe and southwest areas of Michigan.

Commissioner Briggs suggested these options can be put to the local AAAs to see if there's any interest in hosting these meetings and public hearings.

Commissioner Duncan recommended Oakland, Macomb and Monroe areas.

Other suggestions were to consider places to hold Lansing CSA meetings other than the MDHHS building, and to reach out to Tri-County Office on Aging in Lansing to ask them, or perhaps other local aging partners to see if they'd consider hosting the meetings.

Commissioner Wishart asked Ms. Dye to make the contacts and draft up a calendar of the suggested recommendations, and this motion was tabled to the next meeting.

Informational Items

Communities for a Lifetime (CFL) Program Overview

Dan Doezema, AASA staff, provided a detailed CFL program overview that recognizes communities who take measures and make changes that better allow residents of all ages to age safely in place, such as better outdoor signage and walkability, for example. So far, 29 communities have been recognized as a CFL through an application and review process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CSA will hold a public hearing after this meeting at this same location at 1:00 PM.

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting will tentatively be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, November 16, 2018, at the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Agency in the South Grand Building located at 333 S. Grand Avenue in Lansing in Conference Rooms 1K and 1L on the first floor.

The next SAC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 9:30 AM at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center located at 7501 West Saginaw Highway in Lansing.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM.