

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
Virtual Meeting
Friday, October 16, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Commission Chair Wishart.

CSA ROLL CALL

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

CSA MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Marshall Greenhut, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Michael Pohnl, Robert Schlueter, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS EXCUSED

Tene Milton-Ramsey and Linda Strohl

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Brenda Ross, Kelly Cooper, Jen Hunt, Cynthia Farrell, Rachel Telder, Sophia Hines, and Sherri King.

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Schlueter seconded motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the September 18, 2020 CSA minutes without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Chair Wishart welcomed all to the virtual meeting, thanking Commissioners for their continued willingness to participate via this platform during the pandemic. The following remarks were given.

- A special thank you to AASA staff for their support to the Commission on Services to the Aging and all Commissioners.
- Progress continues in moving important work forward despite everyone working remotely.

- The State Plan on Aging approval by the Administration on Community Living is a milestone in place and a guide for moving programs and services forward.
- N4A Awards were given to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) from across the state of Michigan. The following AAAs were awarded:
 - “Care Transitions – A Model of Acuity and Activation” – Region 7, Bay City Area Agency on Aging (AAA).
 - “Community Impact through Private/Public Collaboration” – Valley Area Agency on Aging, Flint.
 - “First Place Nationwide Award – Opioids, Safe Use, Safe Storage, a Healthier You” – Region IV AAA, St. Joseph.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

- Carmella LaCammare, representing Michigan Association of Foster Grandparents Senior Companions Program in Oakland and Macomb counties, spoke regarding the previous loss of state funding. She offered gratitude for the level funding for the upcoming fiscal year which will support their volunteer work. Volunteers are assigned to individuals who have been isolated for over a year. The services her program provides assist in mitigating social isolation, and many recipients have been able to get out and see family for the first time in many months due to this assistance.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE REPORT

Commissioner Zamora provided the following update:

- The SAC is planning for the next meeting on October 22. They will welcome new members approved previously as well as members pending approval at today’s meeting.
- Edits are currently being made, by individuals in the writing group, to the SAC report.
- The 2021 meeting schedule is being finalized with the first meeting of the year tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2021 (held virtually). The full schedule will be shared upon completion.
- The SAC requests to discuss the potential charge for the council for 2021 with the CSA at the November meeting and vote to approve the charge at the December meeting.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Advocacy Committee Chair, Commissioner LaTosch, with input from Commissioner Bomberg, provided the following updates:

- The Advocacy Committee continues to meet the week following each CSA meeting to discuss pressing issues and concerns and continue advocacy work. Members include herself and Commissioners Bomberg, Duncan, Lopez, and Stroh with support from Commission Chair Wishart and Jen Hunt with AASA.
- The Advocacy Committee learned that the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) is looking for public comment on key indicators around home and community-based direct care workers (DCW) and training requirements. Because Commissioner Bomberg is leading a committee focused on making recommendations for improving the DCW issues, he took leadership in drafting an input piece that will be submitted at the federal level on this important issue.
 - A memo requesting the input letter will be considered during the Business Items portion of today’s meeting.

- (Commissioner Bomberg) For many years the federal government has required waiver programs to focus on quality improvement, establishing a set of minimum requirements. Nothing has been standardized, so each state has selected the quality indicators they want to pursue. Michigan made the decision to address all quality indicators. As a result, care managers have been spending more time addressing these items on paper instead of spending time with people.
- (Commissioner Bomberg) As a result of conversations with Dr. Clare Luz, with Impact Alliance, and other conversations with the committee, the document for consideration today was developed.
 - ✓ Must have standardized quality measures that are specific and person-centered.
 - ✓ Must look at a variety of areas impacting quality including the DCW and the impact of overall quality.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis provided the following updates:

- Current Coronavirus data in Michigan:
 - 141,091 positive cases to date
 - 6,977 deaths to date
 - 2,030 daily confirmed cases (highest since the start of pandemic)
 - 32 daily deaths
 - Cases in older adults are still high
 - ✓ 39,617 cases – 28% of overall cases
 - ✓ 6,374 deaths – 91% of overall deaths
 - AASA will be leading a response effort for nursing homes due to the significant threat to older adults.
- The State Plan on Aging was released during a virtual event on October 1, 2020. Over 240 people attended the event and a panel discussion around age-friendly issues was conducted. The AASA website has a full recording of the event. www.michigan.gov/AASA
 - A Spanish version of the plan is now available on the AASA website and Arabic and Mandarin versions will be released in the next week. All versions will also be accessible as a document reader for individuals with disabilities.
- The Age-Friendly Michigan Plan will be released in the next few months. It will closely reflect what is outlined in the State Plan.
- Continuing to work with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee within AASA.
 - Recently hosted a Latino Heritage Month learning event for staff.
 - Leading the Diversity Hiring Team across the Public Health Administration and recently hosted a training “Why DEI – moving from checkbox to change”
- AASA is contributing to MDHHS’s Social Determinants of Health strategy. Many AASA services already fall within this focus, and the programs and activities are being inserted into the department’s work.
- As mentioned earlier, several AAAs were awarded N4A awards and AASA is very proud of the network.
- Dr. Travis has recently participated in national presentations
 - Panel member for Grantmakers in Aging – highlighted age-friendly Michigan initiatives
 - Panel member discussing strengthening Michigan’s caregiver infrastructure
- AASA received hiring exceptions to fill two state of Michigan positions

- Operations and Aging Network Division Director
- Health Promotion and Policy Management Division Director
- A project manager will also be hired, through MPHI, to assist with project management during this pandemic
- “GetSetUp” virtual platform was launched October 15, 2020. This project allows older adults to engage in different learning opportunities through technology. The classes are taught by and are available to older adults.
- Grants have been issued to AAAs allowing purchase of care packages for older adults that are approximately \$25 in value.
- An additional round of Quarantine Boxes has been approved for distribution with a delivery deadline of December 30, 2020.
- Two more shipments of facemasks for distribution to the networks have been received. Delivery to the network will be done through AAAs.
- Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee continues to meet and is finalizing a policy brief on personal protective equipment. Document is being review and approved by the MDHHS’s Emergency Response department to ensure alignment with the department’s policies.
- Dr. Travis continues to be very proud of the entire AASA team who continues to work diligently through these trying times to ensure the best programs are in place.

LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES. AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jen Hunt, State Assistant Administrator, provided the following updates:

- Governor Whitmer has signed the Kinship Caregiver Navigation Program legislation. The companion bill to create the Kinship Caregiver Advisory Council was vetoed due to a technicality. The Governor has expressed support for the legislation and the intent is to reintroduce a bill and pass it in lame duck session.
- As previously mentioned, “GetSetUp” has launched October. The website is getsetup.io/partner/Michigan. It is requested of Commissioners to promote the platform in their networks. A press release is also scheduled to promote the platform.
- Currently promoting a virtual job fair occurring October 27, 2020 which is specifically for home care agencies serving the city of Detroit. A special thank you to the DAAA for partnering with AASA on this initiative. The goal for number of employers has been exceeded and AASA is working closely with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to recruit job seekers to participate.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided the following updates:

- In September, AASA was looking at the possibility of a federal continuing resolution for 2021 funding. There is, in fact, a continuing resolution that is in effect until December 11, 2020.
- The state budget for FY 2021 did pass, giving flat funding from the previous fiscal year for AASA.
- Because both budgets are in place, AASA was able to issue federal Statements of Grant Awards to the aging network through December 31, 2020. Prior to December 11, it is expected another continuation will be issued, or potentially a full-year budget will be passed.
- Even without continuation resolutions, federal funds are issued periodically throughout the year, therefore, grants are issued periodically throughout the year also.
- State-funded programs were issued full year Statements of Grant Awards.

- Senior Volunteer Programs
- Merit Award Trust Fund Programs
- Several special projects funded through CARES Act funding were issued through December 30, 2020.
- There is a change to the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The maintenance of effort in spending will reward funds based on the 2019 level.
- There are additional state budget dollars for FY 2021 for senior center project grants. AASA is currently developing Requests for Proposal for the additional dollars.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a) Request for Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Home-Delivered Meals and Peer Support Project – Food and Friendship Connections Project

Rachel Telder, AASA staff member, provided an overview stating the project would provide congregate, home-delivered, and liquid meals; limited transportation; and peer companionship to adults 60 and older living with HIV in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Wayne counties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Home-Delivered Meals and Peer Support – Food and Friendship Connections Project. Commissioner LaTosch seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

b) Request for Approval of State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Appointments and Reappointments

SAC chair Kristie Zamora provided an overview stating the council members met to review candidates and are happy to recommend six outstanding individuals for appointment and three outstanding individuals for reappointment. (members listed in memo provided to Commissioners)

A motion was made by Commissioner LaTosch for the Request to Approve State Advisory Council on Aging Appointments and Reappointments. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

c) Request for Approval of FY 2021 Federal CARES Act Administrative Funding for Animatronic Pets Grant to Michigan Advocacy Program (MiAP)

Cynthia Farrell, Section Manager, Supportive Adult Services Section, provided an overview of the grant stating AASA will be collaborating with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program to purchase approximately 1,800 animatronic pets intended to be used to help address social isolation for residents in nursing home and other licensed facilities. The local ombudsman will be responsible for identifying the residents to receive the pets and distribution. An article in the New York Times discusses these pets and link is:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/26/health/coronavirus-elderly-isolation-robot-pets.html>

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan for the Request to Approve FY 2021 Federal CARES Act Administrative Funding for Animatronic Pets Grant to Michigan Advocacy Program (MiAP). Commissioner Lichtenburg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

d) Request for Relinquishment and Approval of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services Demonstration – Boxes, Bags and Buddies (BBB) Grant

Sherri King, Nutrition and Wellness Coordinator, provided an overview of the change stating Region IV AAA feels they are no longer able to sufficiently use the funds allocated for this program and due to this those dollars will be reallocated to Region 2 AAA instead.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lopez for the Request to Relinquish and Approve Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services Demonstration – Boxes, Bags and Buddies (BBB) Grant. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

e) Request to Rescind FY 2020 Carry Forward Funds Portion of the Allocated FY 2021 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant Funds – Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

Sophia Hines, Manager, Health Promotion and Active Aging Section, provided an overview of the change stating the carry forward funds are no longer needed for survey development or implementation. The funds will be used to support local agencies' implementation of grant objectives in these ways: 1. enhancement of Information and Referral process; 2. virtual management of Aging and Disability Resource center access functions; 3. mitigation of social isolation, and; 4. care transition services for persons transitioning from hospitals to home and nursing homes to home.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenhut for the Request to Rescind FY 2020 Carry Forward Funds Portion of the Allocated FY 2021 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant Funds – Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). Commissioner Schlueter seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

f) Request for Approval CSA comments on Recommended Measures for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

Commissioner Kathleen LaTosch provided an overview stating the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services has published a Request for Information (RFI) on recommended measure set for Medicaid-funded home and community-based services. The RFI seeks feedback on potential benefits of and challenges that could result from a nationally available set of recommended quality measures for voluntary use by states, managed care organizations, and other entities engaged in administration and/or delivery of Medicaid-funded services. Therefore, it is requested that the CSA submit comments by the CMS-imposed deadline which is early November.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan for the Request for Approval CSA comments on Recommended Measures for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a) Presentation of AASA Strategic Vision

Dr. Alexis Travis, Senior Deputy Director, presented AASA's strategic vision. The following strategies were discussed:

- Support and increase the direct care workforce
- Provide timely home and community-based services
- Help Michiganders find appropriate services at the right time
- Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
- Coronavirus response

The complete presentation is included with the minutes.

b) Michigan Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF)

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, presented an overview of the funding formula. The complete presentation is included with the minutes. Commission Chair Wishart noted the timeframe for this work and asked that any questions regarding the IFF be submitted in writing.

c) Senior Volunteer Programs Update

Sophia Hines, Section Manager, Health Promotion and Active Aging, provided answers to questions raised previously by Commissioners about the programs.

- There are 10 agencies not receiving federal funds and a spreadsheet listing all agencies is included with the minutes.
 - The funding is available on competitive or geographical basis. If these agencies do not have funds, it may be due to not applying.
- There are four sponsoring agencies that do not believe they could spend all of FY 2021 funds.
 - Two unsure if they could spend the funds
 - ✓ Catholic Charities of West Michigan
 - ✓ Community Action Agency of South-Central Michigan
 - Two are not able to spend the funds
 - ✓ Family Services Agency
 - ✓ Friendship Centers of Emmet County

Follow-up will occur with each agency to strategize ways for spending all funds and provide technical assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next *virtual* Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2020. Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing technology assistance should contact Brenda Ross at rossb11@michigan.gov at least five days before the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.