

**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, July 17, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:00 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, Matthew Adeyanju, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Renee Cortright, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Robert Schlueter, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS EXCUSED

Marshall Greenhut, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, and Guillermo Lopez

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Steve Betterly, Brenda Ross, and Kelly Cooper

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the June 19, 2020, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Adeyanju seconded the motion. The 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.

- Chair Wishart acknowledged that many may have heart-wrenching stories of loved ones affected by COVID-19 and reiterated how important it is for everyone to take care and remain safe and well during this time.
- The Advocacy Committee has prepared a letter expressing appreciation to the Governor and the legislative members of the Health and Human Services Appropriations subcommittees in both the House and the Senate for the passage of recent legislation.

- Senate Bill No. 690 has passed resulting in a \$2 pay increase for the Direct Care Workforce including those in the aging network.
- AASA staff along with stakeholders remain hard at work on the State Plan on Aging.
- At this time, no official word has been received on appointments and reappointments to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

- None.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE REPORT

Commissioner Zamora provided updates on the work of the SAC occurring since the last CSA meeting.

- Dr. Renée Canady, PhD, MPH CEO gave a presentation to the SAC, commissioners, and AASA staff on health equity, encouraging council members to consider policies around health equity and social isolation.
- Dr. William Bloom, associate chief of staff for mental health at the Battle Creek, VA Medical Center, gave a presentation to the SAC discussing veterans and social isolation.
- Council members are compiling and reviewing their research to develop their annual report. Workgroups will continue to work and move their reports forward.
- The next virtual meeting will be Thursday, July 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon. AASA leadership will provide updates at the meeting.
- CSA/SAC applicant review committee has met and will be presenting their recommendations as a business item during this meeting.
- SAC co-chair, Mr. Don Ryan fell and broke his femur one week ago and reported that after surgery, he has experienced some complications but is carefully and slowly recovering. Letters to Mr. Ryan would be welcomed and appreciated.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart, on behalf of Commissioner LaTosch provided the following updates:

- Appreciation to committee members Adeyanju, Bomberg, Duncan, Lopez, and Strohl for continuing to meet monthly addressing pressing concerns.
- The “thank you” letter approved by the CSA last month was sent this week to the Governor and the members of the Health and Human Services subcommittees in the legislature. Special appreciation to all who assisted in finalizing the letter.
- The next advocacy committee meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 9:00 a.m.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis provided the following updates:

- MPHI has been working with AASA staff and many stakeholders on the State Plan on Aging. To be sure all levels of review have been achieved, the plan is being finalized and will be presented to the Commission next month. The plan will be fully ADA compliant and accessible to people living with disabilities and will be offered in Spanish, Arabic, and Mandarin.
- AASA finance team is continuing to confirm implementation of the \$2 wage increase for direct care workers.

- Dr. Travis and Jennifer Lepard with Michigan Alzheimer’s Association had the opportunity to give a presentation on aging issues and the coronavirus pandemic to the Grantmakers in Aging Council of Michigan Foundations.
- Recently submitted applications for funding to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) for a Rapid Response grant. Funding will be specific to COVID-19 response for older adults.
 - 1-800 telephone number will be established that will geo-route calls to the appropriate AAA, councils on aging, or centers for independent living.
 - “CV-19 Check-up” allows older adults to self-assess via an online platform. Several questions will determine an older adult’s risk for COVID-19 and provide appropriate mitigation strategies. Data collected can also indicate hotspots in the state of areas at high risk for coronavirus.
 - “Get Setup”, a program allowing older adults to engage in planning and education opportunities online.
- AASA has also submitted concept papers for healthy aging grant applications to MHEF. Funding would be used to support social isolation, nutrition, and a care transition program.
- AASA continues to receive very generous Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) donations from the State Emergency Operation Center, including contactless thermometers, and has been able to provide PPE to AAAs as well as older adults. With passage of Senate Bill No. 690, \$25 million is allocated for PPE grants. AASA is developing strategies to equitably divide the funds to support AAAs and aging networks.
- Dr. Travis recorded a series of videos continuing the theme of education and awareness throughout the pandemic.
 - State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program-how to access services.
 - General aging information-encouraging older adults to reach out to their AAAs.
 - “ConnectToCareJobs”-platform matching employers to job seekers.
 - “CV-19 Check-up” platform, previously discussed.
- Developing new project to address social isolation by embedding video conferencing capabilities within Mi Bridges for AAA service providers. Working to have in place prior to a second wave of COVID-19 to support those who will be unable to do face-to-face visits.
- Over 65 COVID-19 policy waivers have been issued to date. Operations and Aging Network support team is reviewing data to develop statewide best practices going forward and eliminate the administrative burden of duplicate waiver requests.
- AASA met with USDA Secretary Perdue and participated in an eight-person meeting to discuss the positive impact their home-delivered produce program has had on the aging network.
- Working on home- and community-based services testing programs to ensure testing for those in their homes as well as the service providers.
- Developing policies for Adult Protective Services and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs collaboratively with Economic Services division to identify risks and best responses. Policies will support older adults both in their homes and in nursing homes.
- Finance area continues to conduct remote financial assessments.
- Michigan Dementia Coalition cross-sector collaboration workgroup has begun to meet again for the first time since the onset of pandemic. Workgroup identified services gaps and made recommendations for policy and programmatic change and AASA will elevate these suggestions.
- The Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly.

- ADvancing States has announced the National Core Indicators for Aging and Disability program will move forward remotely. MHEF has provided funding to support Michigan joining this national work via telephone and video conferencing.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES. AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, provided the following updates:

- Federal Updates
 - Congress returning July 20 and will consider passage of an additional stimulus, extension of unemployment benefits, and provision of financial relief to states.
 - Senate focusing on next legislative response to COVID-19 pandemic prior to August recess.
 - Progress will continue concerning spending bills, particularly in the House.
 - With 25 legislative days remaining between now and the November election, Congress will likely forego final spending decisions until the end of the calendar year. This would make a Continuing Resolution in September likely to prevent government shutdown October 1.
- State Update
 - Draft legislation requiring all AAAs complete background checks on all staff and volunteers entering the homes of clients. Currently, criminal background check service standard changes are out for public comment for a second time. Draft legislation appears less prescriptive than AASA proposed standards.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

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

- The quarterly report ending June 30 was shared with the Commissioners and is included with the minutes.
 - Expenditures appear to be on target with anticipated expenses in all areas.
 - Fund transfers for some expenses will be reflected in the next quarter's report.
 - For both Federal and State, spending is at approximately 50 percent.

BUSINESS ITEMS

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

Commissioner Zamora updated that the Applicant Review Committee, which includes Commissioners Crawford-Cambell, Strohl, Wishart, and herself, reviewed candidate applications for appointments and reappointments and unanimously recommend the individuals listed on the memorandum provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju for the request to approve the Request for Approval of the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Appointments and Reappointments. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

Request for Approval of Updated Operating Standards for Service Programs

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the request stating there are minor changes proposed to several services programs. Details of the changes are listed in the attached document that was shared with the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl for the Request for Approval of Updated Operating Standards for Service Programs. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating the purpose is to enhance the Aging and Disability Resource Collaboration (ADRC) to meet the needs of older adults and people living with disabilities during the COVID crisis. This additional request is to fund mini-grants for faith-based organizations to reduce social isolation among these adults.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp for the request to approve FY 2020 COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

Request for Retraction of Allocated FY 2020 Diversity in Dementia Care Project (DDC) Funds

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating the funding will be retained at AASA for printing of the “Savvy Caregiver Program” in Indian Country for distribution to tribal nations as part of the diversity project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju the Request for Retraction of Allocated FY 2020 Diversity in Dementia Care Project (DDC) Funds. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

AIP Development and Approval Process for FY 2021

Steve Betterly, AASA Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement Acting Manager, provided an update on the AIP development and approval process. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, AASA has made modifications and highlights to the changes are as follows:

- For the FY 2021 planning year, current FY 2020 AIPs will be extended September 30, 2020, with CSA-approved budget and programmatic updates.
- Required FY 2021 budget and programmatic updates will comply with the established AASA Operating Standards for making substantive amendments to an approved area plan.
- Highlights of changes to the typical AIP development and AASA review process include:
 - No requirement for local government review.
 - No requirement for formal public hearings. Presentation and approval at the public AAA board of directors meeting is sufficient.
 - Current COVID-19 policy waivers that the AAAs wish to continue into the new FY must be added as either a regular AASA approved funded service or an approved regional service.
 - Previously approved Program Development Objectives (PDOs) do not need to be restated or updated.

- Any new PDOs must be fully described and presented for CSA approval.
 - This year AASA has added a required new PDO addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for all AAAs.
- The normal AIP grant budget must be completed.
- No requirement for submission of various documents that AASA staff typically require as part of its AIP review process.
 - Waived documents for FY 2021 include updated AAA Operating Budgets, AAA Organizational Charts, Policy Board & Advisory Council membership lists, and the evidence-based disease prevention (EBDP) program list.
- The AIPs are due to AASA on July 31, 2020.
- AASA staff will make streamlined AIP presentations to the Commission for AIP review and approval.
 - Staff may have several AIPs available for Commission review and approval during the August CSA meeting.
 - If necessary, all 16 AIPs will be presented in September with anticipated five to 10 presentations and Q&A.
 - AASA will note changes to the AIP development process and highlight significant AIP changes in AIP cover memos.
 - AASA will provide the commission a budget comparison chart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A public hearing will be taking place at 1:00 p.m. using the same virtual platform. Commissioners are encouraged to return to engage with community members to discuss their thoughts and concerns.

The next virtual Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 21, 2020. Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact Brenda Ross at (517) 284-0146 at least five days before the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.