

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
South Grand Building
333 S. Grand Ave
Lansing, MI 48933
Friday, December 20, 2019

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:02 by Chair Wishart.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lichtenberg.

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, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Stephen Franko, Marshall Greenhut

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Jen Hunt, Amy Colletti, Kelly Cooper, Becky Payne, Lauren Swanson- Aprill, and Danielle Trim

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Eric Guthrie, State Demographer with the State of Michigan, Dave LaLumia, Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association, and several other members of the community

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart requested for a motion to approve Nov. 15, 2019, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve the minutes. Commissioner LaToscht seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved with one amendment with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart welcomed commissioners and staff and extended a welcome to the partners in attendance representing the network of services to the aging. She indicated looking forward to presentations.

Wishart would like to welcome Commissioner Tene–Sandra Milton-Ramsey to the commission. Wishart asked that all commissioners give a brief introduction of themselves including name, location, and any business affiliations or areas of expertise.

Commissioner Franko has indicated his intention to resign from the commission. Franko shared that due to health reason he would need to step away from the commission. The appointments office will actively seeking a replacement and reviewing applications. Candidates from across the state are always being considered. A selection should be made at the first of the year. When more information is available it will be shared with the commission.

Travel reimbursements have been been a concern for several commissioners. Wishart has spoken to the AASA leadership and asked that they investigate the problem. Dr. Travis shared that within the MDHHS Travel Department there has been a large turn and travel reimbursements are taking longer than normal to process. Wishart asked for patience and understanding when it comes to reimbursements. If commissioners have any questions please contact Danielle Trim, Senior Executive Management Assistant.

SAC CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Zamora thanked everyone for their support and hard work on the 2019 SAC report. Zamora would like to give a special thanks to Jen Hunt, AASA Legislative Affairs and Communication Coordinator, for her work to distribute the plan. Hunt was able to secure a press release for the report which was picked up and redistributed by Gongwers. Oakland County has reached out to Zamora and requested that she give a presentation at their next Senior Advisory meeting.

In regards to the 2020 charge of Social Isolation, the SAC is excited and ready to get to work. They have split up into four workgroups and will begin meeting in January to discuss the next steps.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner LaTosch welcomed and thanked the group for their time. LaTosch also thanked Commissioners Adeyanju, Bomberg, Duncan, Lopez, and Strohl for their work on the

committee workgroups. The Committee, as a whole, is continuing to think about how that can move forward and best focus their efforts to identify, highlight, and raise up critical issues and concerns facing seniors in Michigan. The committee's primary focus will be to elevate these issues to leadership with decision making power.

Commissioner Adeyanju gave a brief update from the direct care worker workgroup. The group is working on a report and hopes to present it to the commission at the January meeting.

AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Senior Deputy Director, acknowledge the AASA team for their hard work and dedication to move the agency forward. They have been working on the Annual report which is due to legislation on January 31, 2020. The report has been review and approved by Dr. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive for the State of Michigan, and has been forwarded to the communication department for final review and approval. The final product will be printed and Dr. Travis and Jen Hunt will hand-deliver copies to legislators.

Work on The State plan on Aging has started. This year the plan will center on a more collaborative effort and will focus on key informant interviews with stakeholders and community partners. Together with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), community conversations will be held in each of the area agency's program areas. Along with these community conversations the CSA, SAC, and the Area Agency on Aging Directors will host focus groups the gather key perspectives. MPHI will host a group for commissioners after the February 21, 2020 meeting.

Planning for the State Summit on Aging is ramping up. AASA has confirmed both the date and venue for the event. The Summitt will be held on October 21, 2020, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI. The theme for the summit is *Reimagining Aging- Older Adults in 2020 and Beyond*. A request has been submitted to the Governor's Office for her to attend and present the welcome and introductions. Travis has reached out to Martha Roherty, Executive Director for Advancing States, to attend as the Keynote speaker. A save the date will be coming out soon.

AASA submitted a letter of intent to the Ralph C. Wilson foundation surrounding funding for direct care works and supporting a registry of caregivers. The registry will be a comprehensive list of all caregivers and have information including training that was taken, completed background checks, and any other pertinent information. The purpose is to provide ease of access for all parties. This registry would not be an endorsement of caregivers but a unified place for shared information. The goal is to partner with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity as well as Medicaid. Work is also being done on a policy paper that provides people in the field with accurate and up to date information.

Recently Dr. Travis, Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, and Cynthia Farrell, Supportive Adult Services Section Manager, submitted and a grant application to the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) that would fund home-delivered meals, specifically, to older Michigianians living with HIV. Also, included in the funding would be the creation of a peer support group that would partner people living with HIV. These funds are provided via the Ryan White Rebate

dollars and at this time there is no reward ceiling. The application has been accepted and the funding will be awarded in March of 2020. The pilot for this program will begin in the Detroit area in conjunction with Region 1A, Detroit Area on Aging, and in Region 6, Tri-County Office on Aging.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Jen Hunt, AASA Staff, presented a communications plan to highlight strategies to promote AASA programs and services, as well as the CSA meetings, particularly the 2020 public hearings. Commissioner Lichtenberg raised the point that “public hearing” is not the most inviting term as it pertains to encouraging attendance.

In terms of legislation, Jen shared the Older Americans Act reauthorization passed the US House and now the US Senate has introduced its version. Our national association, ADVancing States, is encouraging asking US Senators to sign on as cosponsors. The federal budget passed with overall modest increases for aging and adult programs. In terms of the state budget, the supplemental bills signed by the governor included \$500,000 in grants for senior centers and \$400,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association to conduct a pilot program for in-home care counseling.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The current approved AASA budget for FY 2020 is largely flat-funded at FY 2019 levels. The legislative conference committee did recommend a \$101,000 reduction to the Community Services line item. The Governor restored \$99,800 of this reduction through a transfer process by action of the State Administrative Board.

A handout was given to the commissioners detailing FY 2019 expenditure levels for AASA grant programs through September 30, 2019. AASA anticipates presenting final expenditure levels for FY 2019 grants and services at the December 20, 2019, CSA meeting.

Office of Attorney General Performance Audit Report

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, reported on the audit finding from the Office of the Auditor General. AASA is in process to identify the solutions and responses to the Office of Auditor General Performance Audit Report dated October 2019. AASA has issued Transmittal Letter #2020-396 to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on a required Subrecipient Monitoring Documentation. The AAA has been instructed to retain subcontractor assessment file backup documentation for seven years and also lists out the types of documentation that should be included.

AASA has drafted a transmittal letter responding to an additional finding which addresses ensuring AAA’s staff receive required annual in-service training and guidance on the services being relevant and sufficient in relation to training topics that coincide with AASA goals. We plan to issue the transmittal letter within the next week.

AASA had a meeting to address the solution for covering the annual AAA Programmatic Assessment having adequate document review procedures that support the field

representatives' conclusions. They are in process of formulating appropriate changes to the online AAA assessment form and building in validation so that no entry area may be left blank.

Audits are routine and often used to gauge the efficiencies of the agencies. This overall finding of the OAG was low risk and this is considered a normal audit.

BUSINESS ITEMS

CSA Advocacy Committee, Aging Network Waiting List Work Group

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, and Commissioner LaTosch presented an update on funding recommendations from the CSA Advocacy Committee, Aging Network Waiting List Work Group. Wamsley shared that the workgroup has been focusing on establishing consistency among regions across the state in defining waitlist criteria, assessing need/priority of service, and counting participation; while also identifying alternative options for funding Wait List services, such as looking at the potential for the federal Nutrition Service Incentive Program (NSIP) to reimburse a portion of meal expenses, considering cost-sharing programs, or under-utilized.

Wamsley and LaTosch provide the group with several handouts that outlined their seven preliminary recommendations for increasing access to in-home services. Due to the complexity of the information Commission Chair Wishart requested that the commission pause to review the information presented and return at the January meeting with questions, comments.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

State and National Census Data on the Older Adult Population

Eric Guthrie, State Demographer, presented to the Commission on the State and National Census Data on the Older Adult Population. During his presentation, Guthrie shared information regarding trends in the states' population, specifically looking at the 60 plus population. Guthrie also provided observations on the characteristics and dispersion of the 60-plus population.

AASA Operating Standards for Area Agencies on Aging and AASA Operating Standards for Service Programs – Overview of Recommended Updates and the Update Process

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, provided the commission with a handout detailing the recommendations for operating standards for service programs. The commission previously established minimum requirements for in-service training to service provider staff and volunteers for certain access, in-home, and nutrition programs. AASA has identified several areas for potential updates to those requirements.

AASA will send out a proposed standard updates to the aging network for a 30-day review and comment period. After that time AASA will collect, review, and analyze all public comments received to the CSA for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am on Friday, January 17, 2020, at Lansing Community College West Campus, Room M121, 5708 Cornerstone Dr, Lansing, MI 48917.

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) 241-4100 at least five (5) days before the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:14 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING AND DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW.