

Commissioner [DW1] on Services to the Aging (CSA) and  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)  
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)  
Tri-County Office on Aging  
5303S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911  
Friday, February 21, 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 Chair Wishart.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner [Milton][DW3] - Ramsey.

### **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, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Robert Schlueter, and Linda Strohl

### **CSA MEMBERS ABSENT** (excused)

Nancy Duncan, Marshall Greenhut, Kathleen LaTosch, and Kristie Zamora

### **AASA STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Jen Hunt, Laura McMurtry, Christy Livingston, Tari Muiz, Lauren [Swanson][DW4] - Aprill, and Danielle Trim

### **VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

Dave LaLumia, Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association, Kirk Lewis, SAC Member, Elizabeth Thompson, SAC Member, Teresa Vear, SAC Member, 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 Cortright 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 the January 17, 2020, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved with amendments 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.

Wishart would<sup>[DW5]</sup> like to welcome Commissioner Robert Schlueter to the commission. Wishart asked that all commissioners give<sup>[DW6]</sup> a brief introduction of themselves including name, location, and any business affiliations or areas of expertise.

Chair Wishart would<sup>[DW7]</sup> like to share a special thanks to the AASA staff and the executive leadership team for all their hard work with the Annual Plan and the State Plan on Aging. Wishart noted that both documents were developed with inclusivity in mind and<sup>[DW8]</sup> our community partners were excited to be engaged in the process.

Wishart reminded the commission that a focus group will be<sup>[DW9]</sup> available to the commission after today's meeting. Wishart encouraged all commissioners to participate as this is an opportunity to lend our voices and ensure that the new state plan will address the critical needs of older adults in our state.

Wishart also encouraged the commission to save the date for the State Summit on Aging that will take place on October<sup>[DW10]</sup> 21, 2020. This will be an opportunity to engage with the Aging Network and continue our education surrounding issues of aging and quality of life for older adults.

Older Michiganians Day will be held on May 12. This event shows support for policies that aid older adults and is a great opportunity to engage with hundreds of seniors, aging service providers, senior advocates, legislators, and key state officials.

The 2020 Aging in America Conference will be taking place March 24 – 27 in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme for the 2020 conference is Aging 2020: Examining the Needs of Today's Diverse Older Adults and will focus on issues impacting our increasingly diverse and multicultural older adult population. This is a national conference and usually draws a very large crowd.

Michigan Assisted Living Association will host its Annual Conference & Dementia Summit on May 11-13 in Lansing, MI. The summit will highlight a variety of different topics surrounding dementia and how it can affect individuals and caregivers who provide supports and services for older adults with dementia.

Additionally, looking forward on the calendar, the next CSA meeting will be held on March 20 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, MI. This will also mark the first public hearing of 2020. Wishart is excited to welcome public input at that meeting. Public hearings provide the public an opportunity to share on<sup>[DW11]</sup> opinions and concerns on issues facing the community. Also, looking ahead to April 17 the joint meeting of the commission and the SAC will be held at The Meeting Space in Lansing, MI. The joint meeting is a wonderful opportunity for the commission and the SAC to come together and discuss programs and services regarding older adults.

### SAC<sup>[DW12]</sup> **CHAIR REPORT**

Commissioner Zamora was unable to attend the February commission meeting but sent her update to Commission Chair Wishart for dissemination. Wishart shared that SAC members continue working in four workgroups, studying the CSA assigned 2020 research topic: Social Isolation in Older Adults, with a Focus on Equity from Different Angles. SAC members are researching articles and websites on their own, writing summaries with sources, and sharing with their workgroups.

Members have participated in conference calls at the end of January and February. Additional calls are scheduled for the end of February and early March. Several of these calls had guest speakers to provide subject matter expertise. Jim McGuire, Director of Research, Policy Development, and Advocacy, Area Agency on Aging 1B, was a guest at one of the meetings. McGuire shared information on Grocery Home Delivery Programs and a 2019 statewide research project conducted under the auspices of the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) and Wayne State University which included a portion on social isolation. When this project is finalized, the SAC will look closely at the statewide findings and how they compare with national and international social isolation data and other SAC research to find possible solutions and determine recommendations including equity to place into the SAC report.

Lori Zimmerman, Manager of The Senior Alliance--Area Agency on Aging 1C Friendly Reassurance Program, was another guest speaker and shared information on their Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Trainees make regular calls to 100 older adults 60 years and older weekly, or as requested, to help combat social isolation.

Eva Petoskey, Elder with the Michigan Intertribal Council, has also been a guest speaker and discussed several social determinates of health that contribute to social isolation in the tribal communities. These included rural isolation, health in general, and lack of transportation.

SAC members have begun drafting an outline of the Annual Report preparation for the March SAC meeting. After the SAC meeting, that draft outline will be submitted to the commission for comments and recommendations.

### ADVOCACY<sup>[DW13]</sup> **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner LaTosch was unable to attend the February commission meeting but sent her update to Commission Chair Wishart for dissemination. Wishart shared would like to give a special thanks to the commissioners who are currently serving on the committee.

The committee enjoyed a robust conversation at the last meeting and is continuing to review legislation and look at how they, as well as the CSA, can lend their voices.

LaTosch shared as special thanks to Commissioner Adeyanju and Commissioner Bomberg for their work on the Direct Care Workforce group.

Commissioner Lichtenberg shared with the commission that he was contacted by the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide his thoughts on a report regarding a walkability project happening in southeast Michigan. Lichtenberg is still reviewing the information but encourages the commission to view the report. A link to that report will be shared with the commission.

### AASA<sup>[DW14]</sup> SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Senior Deputy Director, updated the commission on the work being done on the direct care workforce crisis (DCW). Recently, Dr. Travis, Jen Hunt, State Assistant Administrator, and Lauren Swanson-Aprill, AASA Staff, met with team members from Lansing Community College (LCC). AASA is partnering with LCC to develop statewide core competencies for direct care workers.

Additionally, Travis and Dr. Clare Luz, IMPART Alliance and Michigan State University are co-chairing a 15-person DCW advisory committee, comprised of leaders with expertise in areas including education, employment, aging, developmental disabilities, and behavioral health. The inaugural meeting will take place on March 4, 2020, at 9:00 am at 333 S. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933. The committee will use this time to examine the current landscape and identify opportunities to address factors contributing to this crisis. Director Gordon will be in attendance for this meeting and will provide an overview of the direct care workforce landscape in Michigan.

Dr. Travis was asked to present on AASA's annual report and the metrics and outcomes of the grants being issued to Senior Center Wellness Programs to the House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee. This presentation is scheduled for April 15

Several new items have been posted on the AASA website for public review and comment. These include the proposed Program Year (PY) 2020-2023 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) State Plan and the proposed changes to AASA's Operating Standards for Service Programs.

Recently, Travis had a conversation with Michigan Health Endowment Fund and the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) regarding family caregiving. During the meeting, CHCS outlined the types of technical assistance (TA) activities they could potentially provide AASA over a four-to-six-month timeframe supported by a planning grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

AASA is developing a kinship resource guide following the introduction of the newly introduced kinship caregiver legislation. The bill known as the kinship caregiver navigator act aims to provide resources and services for caregivers.

The request for AASAs reorganization has been approved. With these changes, AASA hopes to hire six new roles over the next few months. These positions will allow AASA to better align the agency with the MDHHS strategic plan.

Travis will present AASA's budget to the House on March 4. Travis will share with the House information regarding the programs and services administered through the agency as well as the strategic priorities for 2020.

### **LEGISLATIVE<sup>[DW15]</sup> UPDATES**

Jen Hunt, AASA Staff, shared with the commission updated information on the reauthorization of the Older American Act. One addition to this reauthorization includes a requirement for the Secretary of HHS to prepare a report on OAA activities supported or funded by ACL/AoA that include a focus on addressing the impacts of social isolation.

There were several bills introduced over the past week that AASA is following closely. Once she has received more information Hunt will provide a detailed analysis of the commission.

### **FINANCIAL<sup>[DW16]</sup> UPDATE**

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, shared with the commission that AASA expects updated federal Notices of Award (NoA) for Older Americans Act funds for the remainder of FY 2020 in early February. Current awards to AAAs will expire on 1/31/2020. AASA will issue updated awards notices for both federal and state funds to AAAs the period 2/1/2020 - 2/29/2020 to allow for the receipt of updated federal NoAs. AASA expects to issue updated awards to AAAs for 3/1/2020 once the updated federal NoAs are received in February.

On December 20, 2019, the Governor and legislative leaders agreed to approve several MDHHS budget line items that had been vetoed as part of the FY 2020 budget. This approval included two projects in the AASA budget: 1) \$500,000.00 for a grant program administered by the aging and adult services agency to support health-related senior programs at multipurpose senior citizen centers and 2) \$400,000.00 for a grant to the Alzheimer's Association-Michigan chapter to carry out a dementia care and support program in Allegan, Kent, Lenawee, Macomb, Midland, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, St. Joseph, and Wayne Counties. AASA is currently working on the MDHHS grants and contracts office and MDHHS budget office to set up the grant agreements for these funds.

### **Office<sup>[DW17]</sup> of Attorney General Performance Audit Report**

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, reported on the audit findings from the Office of the Auditor General and the Committee Hearing. AASA has provided an opportunity for public review and comment for any proposed changes to Operating Standards for Service Programs. The draft standards will be available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning Feb. 4, 2020. After the review period, the comments will be brought to the commission for review and approval.

In addition to the findings, AASA was asked to expand the scope of guidance regarding background checks. Committee members felt that a more standardized process will help the local Area Agency to understand their role in the process. Dr. Travis is working closely with MDHHS Legal Department to ensure that all administrative policy updates comply. AASA is trying to ensure that we are consistent across the board while also erring on the side of safety and security for our seniors.

In our response to the committee, AASA indicated that they anticipate administrative policy changes for background checks and training will be completed by March or April. This means AASA will need to have those policies up for public review and comment in a matter of a few weeks. AASA will then bring those changes and comments to the commission for review and approval. The house oversight committee would like AASA to provide copies of the draft policies to each of the representatives on the committee.

Audits are routine and often used to gauge the efficiencies of the agencies. This overall finding of the OAG was low risk, AASA was found to be effective or moderately effective on all measures, and this is considered a normal audit.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Request for Approval of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program State Health Insurance Program (MMA/SHIP)**

Tari Muniz, MMA Coordinator, request the commission's approval to grant<sup>[DW18]</sup> \$1,450,032 to MMA, Inc. for the grant period of April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. Grant funds will be used to continue core grant duties and support local MMA counselors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program State Health Insurance Program (MMA/SHIP). Commissioner Cortright seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with a 10-0-1 vote.

#### **Request for Approval to Reallocate Program Year (PY) 2019-2020 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Funds**

Laura McMurtry, AASA SCSEP Manager, requested the commission's approval for the reallocation of a portion of PY 2019-2020 SCSEP funding in the amount of<sup>[DW19]</sup> \$100,000. AASA has received a request from one SCEP subgrantee to reduce its grant award due to the projection of unspent SCSEP funds by the end of the program year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl to approve the Reallocation of Program Year (PY) 2019-2020 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Funds. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

**Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Diversity in Dementia Care (DDC Year-2 No Cost Extension) Funds**

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, requested the commission’s approval to award grant funding for the Diversity in Dementia Care project to the following grantees under the DDC Year-2 No Cost Extension from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund [DW20].

Grantee: Asian Center of SE MI, Grand Traverse Band, Region 10, Dr. Fei Sun, Dr. Daniel Velez-Ortiz, Dr. Carey Sherman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg for the approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 Diversity in Dementia Care (DDC Year-2 No Cost Extension) Funds. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**CSA Direct Care Workforce Work Team Report**

Wamsley shared with the Commission that AASA is preparing training topics for the upcoming Commission on Services to the Aging meetings. In the past, topics included an overview of the Aging and Adult Services Agency, State Plan on Aging requirements, or the Interstate funding formulary.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that an overview of the Aging and Adult Services Agency, State Plan on Aging requirements, and the Interstate funding formulary would be helpful and should be included as agenda items at upcoming meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am on Friday, March 20, 2020, at Shanty Creek Resort located at 5780 Shanty Creek Rd., Bellaire, MI 49615.

A public meeting will follow this meeting at 1:00 P.M.

**Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact Danielle Trim at (517) 284-0146 at least five (5) days before the meeting date.**

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:22 P.M.

**BUSINESS MEETING AND DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW.**