

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)  
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)  
Region IV AAA  
2920 Lakeview Avenue, St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Public Meeting – 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting and Public Hearing  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Friday, July 19, 2019

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Michael Sheehan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CSA ROLL CALL**

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

### **CSA MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dona Wishart, John Briggs, Renee Cortright, Nancy Duncan, Joan Ilardo, Peter Lichtenberg, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl, Amy Tripp, and Kristie Zamora

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

Matthew Adeyanju, Mark Bomberg, Jean Hall, and Kathleen LaTosch

### **AASA STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Dan Doezema, Danielle Trim, and Kelly Cooper

### **VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

Lynn Kellogg and Christine Vanlandingham

Lynn Kellogg, CEO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging, welcomed the commission to St. Joseph and gave a brief overview of the collaborative efforts to provide services to the aging population in their region.

### **APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA**

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.

## **APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES**

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 CSA minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Newsome to approve the minutes. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved with two amendments with a voice vote.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comments.

## **CSA CHAIR REPORT**

Commission Chair Wishart welcomed all and thanked them for the time, travel and expertise that make them all a stronger commission. She thanked the meeting hosts for providing an excellent meeting location and making the commission feel at home. Commission Chair Wishart also gave a special thank you to Commissioner Strohl for organizing a wonderful tour and dinner the night before. It was an excellent way for the commission to connect and see the work being done in Region IV.

Wishart also shared with the group that she had a chance to welcome Dr. Travis, Senior Deputy Director of Aging and Adult Services Agency, to Gaylord and introduce her to the staff at Otsego County Commission on Aging. Dr. Travis was able to take a tour and speak with staff. She posed good questions to the staff and shared her vision for the Aging and Adult Services Agency.

Commission Chair Wishart reported that the governor's office sent out the information regarding reappointments for the commission. There are five outgoing commissioners: Commissioner John Briggs, Commissioner Joan Ilardo, Commissioner Laura Newsome, Commissioner Michael Sheehan, and Commissioner Amy Tripp. Commission Chair Wishart invited Dr. Travis to make a special presentation to, what Commission Chair Wishart is calling, the "Class of 2019". Each parting commissioner received a plaque from AASA and the commission, thanking them for their dedication and commitment to older Michigianians.

Commission Chair Wishart thanked Commissioner Briggs for his financial expertise. He has been a valuable asset and appreciated by all. It was comforting to know that Commissioner Briggs was available to offer his expertise on matters brought to the commission.

Wishart acknowledged Commissioner Ilardo for her strength and ability to bring an academic perspective, with a focus on research and geriatric medicine, to the table. Commissioner Ilardo has been able to examine social determinants of health and the importance of integrating health care and social services.

Commission Chair Wishart express gratitude to Commissioner Newsome for her long and productive career in social and senior services. Commissioner Newsome has also been a strong voice for advocacy and promoted, without fear, the need to strive for excellence within the aging network.

Wishart recognized Commissioner Sheehan for his incredible intellect and skills. His dedication to the tasks at hand, his leadership, and his willingness to guide others with grace and purpose will be missed.

Commission Chair Wishart thanked Commissioner Tripp for her quiet strength, her voice for advocacy, and for being a champion in the community. It has been appreciated. The commission thanked her for the expertise on legal issues and the law that she brought to the commission's work.

On behalf of the Commission on Services to the Aging and the Aging and Adult Services Agency, Commission Chair Wishart and Dr. Travis thanked the outgoing commissioners for their service as commissioners and for the important contributions they have made on behalf of Michigan's older citizens. Their knowledge and understanding of the needs of older adults and their caregivers was a great help to this distinct and deserving group of senior citizens. The Commission on Services the Aging has much to be proud of as it works to meet the demands of its rapidly growing older adult population. It is because of individuals like them, who demonstrated a deep commitment and dedication, that so much has been done to not only meet the needs of today's older adults, but to ensure the future wellbeing of all Michigan citizens.

Wishart opened the floor to the outgoing commissioners to say a few words. Each commissioner thanked Commission Chair Wishart for her grace, dedication, and extraordinary leadership. Each mentioned that without her support, it would not have been possible for them to do the advocacy work.

Orientation for the new commissioners will be on August 7 at the AASA office and the commission looks forward to meeting them at the next meeting. Danielle Trim will resend the press release announcing the new appointments to the commission so that they have some information before greeting them at the next meeting.

Ongoing work with the interstate funding formula research will continue to take place. Commissioner Sheehan has been leading that committee so new appointments will be needed. Also, the advocacy committee will be making some new appointments to the workgroups at a future meeting.

Wishart thanked Commissioner Bomberg for attending the July State Advisory Council meeting as a guest Commissioner. At the August meeting, a schedule for the upcoming State Advisory Council meetings will be presented along with a reminder that commissioners are invited and encouraged to rotate and be guest commissioners at those meetings.

### **SAC CHAIR REPORT**

Commissioner Zamora reported that the SAC met the previous day and thanked Commissioner Bomberg for his attendance and update to the SAC during the meeting. She thanked Alexis Travis and Scott Wamsley for their attendance as well.

The SAC has a draft of their annual report ready and the goal is to have the final draft to the commission in August. They hope to have the final draft to MDHHS Executive Office by September.

Commissioner Zamora reported that the last half of the meeting was spent discussing the charge for the upcoming year. She is preparing a memo to submit to the commission in August about topics the SAC members believe are the most important current issues to address in the future. Commissioner Zamora also shared with the commission that SAC Co-Vice Chair, Wendy White, has stepped down but will continue to serve as a SAC member. SAC member Audra Frye has accepted the Co-Vice Chair office, joining Donald Ryan, the current Co-Vice Chair.

### **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Nancy Duncan shared that work has been continuing in the four advocacy priority sub-committees (transportation, in-home supports and services, direct care workforce, and elder abuse and prevention). The elder abuse work group is looking at ways to add value to the new Elder Abuse Task Force. The transportation work group is looking into funding options for transportation. In August-October, the committees will be looking for new budget process items and the input from the State Advisory Council work groups. In November-December the committees would like to be able to present information to the commission. They are continuing to look for additional work group members. If interested, please contact Commissioners Duncan or LaTosch.

### **AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT AND INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Alexis Travis briefly shared the information she was provided on the incoming commissioners. As more information and bios are gathered, those will be shared with the commission.

She spoke about a recent visit to the Tri-County Office on Aging with Director Gordon and our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun. This was significant because it's the first time that senior level administration has immersed themselves in the field and visited one of the Area Agency on Aging locations. The group was able to deliver meals to homes and engage with participants. Travis shared a story from the visit where Director Gordon asked a client how she was enjoying her meal. The client said she enjoyed the meals, but she would enjoy more "soul food". While a funny anecdote, this is an indication that we have a little bit more work to do in terms of cultural responsiveness.

The Senior Assistant Administrator position has been posted. This is a replacement for the position formerly held by Phil Lewis. There are some changes to the role, but it will still support the Advocacy Committee. This person will also serve as a liaison with the communication and legislative departments.

AASA has started an internal process to look at strategic planning. In 2020, under the Older Americans Act, AASA is responsible for producing the state plan on aging. With the new

strategic plan, the goal is to include more external stakeholder participation and to engage people from the aging network and beyond. This will be a three-year plan.

The Annual Report is due to the legislature by January 31, 2020. Dr. Travis has been reviewing the available data and how the agency can leverage that to build a complete picture of aging in the state.

Director Gordon is very focused on evidence-based programming and is outcomes driven. Dr. Travis is looking into adopting the National Core Indicators--Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD). Currently, 24 states are using the NCI-AM.

Dr. Travis met with aging network representative, Preeti Malani, M.D., about the National Poll on Healthy Aging. Dr. Malani is the director of the National Poll on Healthy Aging based at the University of Michigan. They would like to know what kind of data AASA would like collected in the national aging telephone survey, which is currently being developed. Dr. Travis encouraged the commission to provide suggestions.

Ryan Cowmeadow, executive director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM) and Dr. Travis met to discuss the aging network. The 4AM is completing a needs assessment of the aging network with a survey sent to 600 people throughout the state. This ties into the work we are doing. Holding a state summit on aging, possibly in conjunction with the 4AM annual conference, is being considered for 2020. A survey about this possibility was sent to the CSA.

Dr. Travis had the opportunity to travel to the Otsego County Commission on Aging in Gaylord to meet with executive director Dona Wishart, who also serves as the chair for the CSA. Commissioner Wishart provided Dr. Travis with a tour of the facility and introductions to the staff.

The 2019 Michigan Elder Justice Summit, led by the AASA Supportive Adult Services Section (SASS), was held on July 16, 2019, with over 200 people from adult protective service (APS) agencies, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, etc. participating. Attorney General Dana Nessel provided the opening remarks and the summit highlighted great things going on around the state – looking at where there is vulnerability, which is most often with their own families. Many APS workers were in attendance. The National Adult Protective Services Association annual conference will be held in Grand Rapids next year and hosted by the AASA SASS. An emerging key issue with vulnerable adults is human trafficking—older adults' homes are being taken over by traffickers, causing financial and emotional strain.

The Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Recognition and Training was held in Lansing on July 17 and 18 where the Area Agency on Aging--1B received the Team Award from MMAP for connecting people to services, which provides one of the only opportunities for older adults to connect with impartial information regarding benefits.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Deputy Scott Wamsley shared with the group that AASA is still keeping an eye on a group of elder abuse prevention bills and have provided input on them. The agency is also observing other legislation including managed long-term care. The legislature is still out of session so there has not been much movement on these bills.

Mr. Wamsley reported that AASA is reviewing the budget boilerplate. Part of the budgetary process is to make sure we are reviewing the boilerplate each year. AASA's information has been consistent over the last couple of years, so AASA will continue to monitor the budgeting process and determine if any changes are necessary to the boilerplate.

AASA also continues to monitor the boilerplate related to the managed long-term care system. While AASA doesn't manage the Medicaid side of long-term care services, they certainly understand the importance to the network and continue to monitor that legislation, making sure that they are on top of any boilerplate or any requirements that get added in terms of how the state is approaching managed long-term care. Because this may include the MI Choice Waiver Program, AASA continues to meet with the Medical Services Administration to make sure that they are on the same page.

In regard to the federal budget, the administration has agreed to a spending ceiling. Last year the federal budget information was release before Oct.1. AASA will continue to monitor the federal budget process.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, reported on the third quarter report from the fiscal year through June 30. The report has been updated for award levels on the federal side. It has also been updated to reflect transfers.

Overall, we're at 71.9%, three quarters of the year, we're supposed to be about 75%. There are no particular concerns at this time. Then looking at federal funding overall, we're at 72%, which is in the area of expected expenditures for AASA at this point in the year.

Wamsley reported that federal funds have a two-year spending window. Most of the federal Older Americans Act funding that doesn't get spent in the fiscal year 2019 (other than NSIP funds) can be carried forward into fiscal year 2020.

With regard to state funds, AASA is at approximately 75% which is in line with where 3rd quarter reporting should be. Mr. Wamsley did want to point out that the State Long Term Care Ombudsman program is funded under a commission-approved three-year grant to the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative/Michigan Advocacy Program (MEJI/MiAP) through September 30, 2019. That original grant approval included two additional one-year options for extending the grant agreement. As the program is running effectively and efficiently, AASA has requested to add an optional year for MEJI/MiAP for the program for FY 2020.

Commission Chair Wishart suggested that historical data might be valuable to review. Wamsley agreed to pull the information.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

None at this time

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Campus for Creative Aging**

Christine Vanlandingham, Chief Operating Officer, presented on the Region IV Area Agency on Aging campus. The campus is a learning community where older adults come together to share and unlock their lifelong learning and living with purpose. The Campus offers educational programs, computer training, workshops, discussion groups, lectures, special events, and information resources.

Handouts were provided to the commissioners.

### **2020-2022 Multi Year Area Plan Orientation Presentation II**

Dan Doezema, AASA Field Representative, provided a detailed overview of parts of the Multi-Year Plan. This is part of a series of orientations (with handouts) to the Commission on Services to the Aging, to help prepare for the upcoming process of presentations to the CSA by the Area Agencies on Aging in August and September to request approval of their Multi-Year Area Plans.

Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation were given to commissioners for further review.

## **GOOD OF THE GROUP**

Commissioner Strohl reminded the group of the Elder Abuse Task Force listening tour. The advocacy committee might be able to provide some real assistance to this task force, particularly in area of financial exploitation of older adults.

Commissioner Zamora shared information on the Michigan Senior Olympics. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the games. The opening ceremony will be held on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills from 6-8pm and run through Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commission Chair Wishart announced that the CSA would hold a public hearing after this meeting at the same location at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners were invited to attend a tour of the facilities between the meeting and the public hearing.

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 16, 2019, at the MSU Federal Credit Union, located at 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 24, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. at the Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center located at 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing.

**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) 284-0146 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.**

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Sheehan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Illardo. Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

***BUSINESS MEETING, TOUR OF FACILITIES, AND DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW.***