

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
311 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Public Meeting – 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
12:00p.m.-3:00 p.m., Friday, June 21, 2019

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Richard Kline, CEO of Senior Services of Southwest Michigan, and former Senior Deputy Director of Aging and Adult Services Agency, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CSA ROLL CALL

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

CSA MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, John Briggs, Nancy Duncan, Jean Hall, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl, Amy Tripp, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Matthew Adeyanju, Renee Cortright, Joan Ilardo, Kathleen LaTosch, and Peter Lichtenberg

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Cindy Albrecht, Dan Doezema, Sherri King, Laura McMurtry, Danielle Trim, and Kelly Cooper

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Samantha Carlson, Richard Kline, Deb Lenz, Kimberly Middleton, Kim Phillips, Don Ryan, Joyce Ryan, and Amanda Willer

Deb Lenz, Deputy Health Director for Kalamazoo County Health Department, and Samantha Carlson, Director of the Region IIIA Area Agency on Aging, welcomed the commission to Kalamazoo and gave a brief overview of their 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 Duncan to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve May 17, 2019, CSA minutes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Samantha Carlson, Director of the Area Agency on Aging IIIA, presented information to the commission about services in the region. She shared that Area Agency on Aging IIIA is unique in that it is housed within county government public health. This has allowed for several collaborations in their programming in areas such as: community emergency response (local flooding, polar vortex), infectious disease exposure screening, environmental health (PFAC water contamination), Veterans Service Office, and more.

Director Carlson reported that Kalamazoo voters passed a senior millage in 2018, with the expectation of expanding AAA services. This has allowed for growth in the long-term care ombudsman program (a second LTCO was hired), expansion of healthy living programs, and addressing waiting lists and unmet needs. It has also increased the elder abuse and neglect outreach through multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) with elder death review, hoarding task force, elder abuse, financial exploitation, and suicide death reviews. AAA IIIA continues to develop and connect to partnerships in the medical and educational community in Kalamazoo.

She shared that AAA IIIA's current focus is standardization of service delivery, quality enhancement initiatives, enhancing community partnerships, public hearings for the Multi-Year Plan, and finalizing the second phase of the Senior Millage implementation. Currently, MYP Request for Proposals (RFPs) are underway, with Purchase of Service RFP postings to follow in July. AAA IIIA's Older Adult Services Advisory Council (OASAC) is assisting with quality initiatives and the Community Needs Assessment intended to assist with evaluation of needs of older adults in the region this fall.

AAA IIIA hosts a Senior Expo annually, with over 2,000 caregiver and older adult guests. This unique event allows for outreach, education, and community partnerships. Director Carlson also wanted to share that they are thankful to Cindy Albrecht, AASA Field Rep for the region, and Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, for sharing their expertise, guidance, and support through this exciting time. She thanked the Commission for their support, leadership, and guidance with assisting older adults in the region.

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart welcomed all and thanked them for the time, travel and expertise that make them all stronger. She thanked the meeting hosts for providing an excellent meeting location and welcoming the commission. She shared with the group that the previous day was the State Advisory Council meeting in Lansing and thanked Commissioner Bomberg for being present as the guest commissioner.

Commissioner Bomberg reported that this was a very eye-opening experience for him and that it was a pleasure to be a part of the meeting. He was impressed by the advisory council's work and knowledge and how well they are utilized to help the commission and the aging network.

Wishart shared that there would be a SAC appointment/reappointment recommendation later in the meeting, but wanted to thank Commissioners Briggs, Strohl, and Zamora for their thoughtful consideration of all applicants.

She reminded all about the ongoing academic study regarding the Intra State Funding Formula and asked Commissioner Sheehan if there were any updates. Sheehan shared that work is underway and they are looking at other states to see if there are any areas or components that are utilized differently than ours. Wishart also reminded the commission and visitors that we are not opening the approved IFF, but rather just researching and receiving input for the next time the IFF is opened for revision/approval.

Commission Chair Wishart wanted to thank all AASA staff involved during the transitioning of new leadership for their continued work. She thanked Richard Kline for his previous service to the Aging and Adult Services Agency and is happy he is still serving the aging network in his capacity as CEO of Senior Services of Southwest Michigan. She announced that Phil Lewis has left AASA for a position with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. His work for and with the commission will be greatly missed by the commission. Wishart also thanked Kelly Cooper for her ongoing support to the commission, and for acquainting Danielle Trim to the required tasks in support of the commission.

Wishart also told the commission that as a result of concerns shared by Jon Mead, Director of UPCAP, at the commission meeting in Negaunee, a letter was drafted acknowledging his concerns and outlining the steps he could take to address those concerns with MDHHS – MI Health Link. His concerns were that older adults were getting the sense that they did not feel they had a choice when trying to opt out of being a part of the MI Health Link program.

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.

SAC CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Zamora reported that the SAC met the previous day and that she felt we are very fortunate to have two co-vice chairs for the council. She introduced Donald Ryan, one of the co-vice chairs (Wendy White is the other vice chair). Zamora also thanked

Commissioner Bomberg for his attendance and update to the SAC at the meeting. She thanked Alexis Travis and Scott Wamsley for their attendance as well.

Donald Ryan told the commission about the 3rd Annual Kalamazoo Centenarian Celebration that had been held on May 21. He said this year there were 72 centenarians, and 19 were able to attend. This is a great way to honor older adults and their contribution to the state and community. He thanked Commissioners Zamora and LaTosch for attending and presenting at the celebration.

Commissioner Zamora said that the main focus of the SAC meeting was the report on three of the four CSA advocacy priorities (the in-home supports and services CSA advocacy committee already has efforts underway). SAC work groups are still gathering information and the council heard feedback from the groups. The plan is to have council members pull together the information and start writing the report. The SAC is hoping to have a draft by their July 2019 SAC meeting. The goal is to have a final draft to the commission in August. There will also have to be an internal document review by the MDHHS Executive Office and by September, they hope to have the report through all areas of approval and ready to print and distribute.

In closing, Zamora told the commission that SAC member, Audra Frye, shared a new link to a program designed to give advice and support to caregivers. She passed a bookmark out to each commission member with a link to this new online blog sponsored by Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, with support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The link is www.caregiversbestfriend.org.

AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT AND INTRODUCTION

Dr. Alexis Travis, new Senior Deputy Director of Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA), introduced herself to the commission. She briefly shared her background to include that she previously served as director of MDHHS's Bureau of Health and Wellness within its Population Health Administration, where she managed the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Control and the Division of HIV and STD Programs. In that role, she collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to develop a state dementia plan and established a state-level public health workgroup on healthy aging.

Prior to her work at MDHHS, she worked as chief of community health for the Worcester Department of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts, where she managed the Community Health Improvement Plan and was a champion of health equity while working effectively with diverse community stakeholders – including older adults and people with disabilities. Earlier in her career, she was a payer operations manager for Athena Health and chapter director of program services and state director of program services for March of Dimes New England.

Dr. Travis holds a doctorate in public health from Walden University in Minnesota, a master's degree of pharmacy with honors from the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom and was a participant in the Socrates/Erasmus Student Exchange Program at the University of Salamanca in Spain.

She shared with the commission that she has had the opportunity to work on various projects throughout her life involving seniors including: as Chief of Community Health, she worked on a senior falls prevention project; as a clinical trials manager she worked on a project recruiting older adults into a research study on age-related macular degeneration; and, most recently, she had represented the population health administration in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) learning collaborative on the healthy brain initiative. Her dissertation was also focused on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and diet quality, so she is very excited to work with the Meals on Wheels program.

She shared with the commission that she had an opportunity to attend the SAC meeting the previous day and was touched by the self-introductions. She was amazed by the wealth of experience and knowledge of the group and feels very fortunate to be able to work with them.

Dr. Travis recently attended the MDHHS Senior Leadership meeting and shared that early direction from Director Gordon indicate that goals should be evidence based and data driven and should address the whole person. Some of her goals for AASA include a strategic plan including feedback from seniors and those with a disability.

She also attended a recent meeting with the 4AM Directors group and AASA and MDSA where they discussed common concerns including the direct care workforce shortage, service coordination, reimbursement rates, and the growing aging population (especially those 85+). She also shared that she will be on the Developmental Disabilities Council.

She reported that AASA is partnering with the Bureau of Health and Wellness to apply for a healthy aging grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The project will build on the success of currently funded THRIVE project and also aims to bring the T-Care caregiver needs assessment tool to more communities in Michigan. She told the commission that Phil Lewis has recently left AASA to pursue a position at the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and that AASA will be positing the vacant communications and legislative liaison position soon.

Dr. Travis shared her early visions with the commission to include assuring that we are outcomes-driven and that we are monitoring these outcomes. She would also like to see us work toward having a state conference (summit) on aging.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Deputy Scott Wamsley shared with the group that the position formerly held by Phil Lewis would be posted, but would likely change a little because of AASA now being a part of MDHHS. He will keep the commission updated in the interim.

Wamsley reported that we are 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. He told the commission that Dr. Travis had asked to restart the meetings with Medicaid on issues of mutual concern.

He shared that the in-home services waiting list group had discussed the effect of county millages (almost \$80 million in millage dollars in the state of Michigan) on the wait lists. AASA does not report on or track these funds and it is decided locally what the funds will be used for. Recently, questions have been raised on what we could do to raise the current 1 mil cap for senior millages. Scott said that there is no wording in Older Americans Act or the Older Michiganians Act that addresses millages, so AASA is not able to lift the cap. If local agencies would like to change the current millage cap limit, it would need to be done through the legislature. Mr. Wamsley also gave a handout to the commission with a sample of the Michigan Legislature website and what can be found there. He gave an explanation of how each commissioner could find and track any upcoming legislation that could impact older adults.

Discussion ensued about Multi-Year Plans and Annual Implementation Plans and how millages are listed in them. It was noted that it is important to advocate for seniors, but also important to maintain a balance between federal/state/local funds so that one is not responsible for a majority of the funding.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Request for Approval of Program Year (PY) 2019-2020 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations

Laura McMurtry, AASA's Manager of SCSEP Program, requested commission approval for the PY 2019-2020 SCSEP allocations. SCSEP is authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act to provide part time employment and training opportunities for low-income adults, 55 years of age and older, at community service agencies.

The U.S. Department of Labor has issued final allotment levels and authorized position levels for the program year which begins July 1, 2019, however the proposed employment targets have not been finalized. AASA anticipates receiving final employment targets from the U.S. Department of Labor after the June commission meeting.

Based on the information provided in memo and handouts to the commission, approval is recommended for the commission to approve the PY 2019-2020 SCSEP Allocations. Motion by Commission Duncan for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Strohl.

Motion approved unanimously with a 10-0-0 vote.

Request for Approval of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) funding, known as Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH in Michigan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019

Sherri King, AASA Coordinator of Nutrition and Wellness Programs, requested commission approval to accept the FY2019 grant award in the amounts listed in the memo provided (totaling \$689,092). The purpose of the grant is to provide eligible adults with coupon vouchers to use as cash at registered farmers markets and roadside stands to purchase unprocessed, Michigan-grown products. Each program receives a minimum of one hundred \$20.00 books to distribute at no cost to the program. Additional books may be purchased with local program funds.

Based on the information provided to the commission, approval is recommended to accept the FY 2019 USDA Grant Award for SFMNP, known as “Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH” in Michigan. AASA also recommends that the commission allow AASA’s Senior Deputy Director to adjust this grant by five percent of the grant award, based on funding availability.

Motion by Commissioner Zamora for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Tripp.

Motion approved with a 9-0-1 vote, with Commission Chair Wishart abstaining.

Request for Approval of State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Appointment and Reappointment Recommendations

Kristie Zamora, Commissioner and SAC Chair, requested approval of the CSA SAC Applicant Review Committee (consisting of Commissioners Zamora, Strohl and Briggs) recommendations as follows:

- Appoint Regina D. Allen, representing Region 6, as a new member (returning after a few years away) for a 3-year term
- Reappoint Dennis J. Brieske, representing Region 3C, for a 3-year term
- Reappoint Joseph E. Sucher, representing Region 1B, for a 3-year term

Motion by Commissioner Sheehan for approval of the recommendations. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall.

Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Request for Approval for Tri-County Office on Aging to Relinquish Diversity in Dementia Care Funds

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, requested commission approval for Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) to relinquish their portion of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund that was allocated to them in December 2018 for the Diversity in Dementia Care project.

TCOA’s target group was Hispanic/Latino family caregivers. Due to program staff departure, TCOA decided to relinquish the allocation. There has been no disbursement of funds allocated.

Motion by Commissioner Strohl for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bomberg.

Motion approved unanimously with a 10-0-0 vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2020-2022 Multi-Year Area Plan Orientation Presentation

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.

NAPIS (National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) Report

Scott Wamsley, Acting Senior Deputy Director, presented information on the NAPIS report. Handouts were provided to the commissioners at the previous month's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Chair Wishart announced that the CSA would hold a public hearing after this meeting and luncheon at the same location at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners were invited to attend a tour of the facilities and a brief overview of the programs 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, July 19, 2019, at the Region IV Area Agency on Aging, located at 2920 Lakeview Avenue, St. Joseph, MI. A public hearing will follow at 1:00 PM.

The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, July 18, 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) 241-4100 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

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

BUSINESS MEETING, TOUR OF FACILITIES, AND DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW, WITH A PUBLIC HEARING AT 1:00PM.