

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
Evergreen Commons Senior Center
480 State Street, Holland, MI 49423
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, October 18, 2019

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jo Ver Beek, Director of Care Services at The Day Center of Evergreen Commons.

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-Campell, Nancy Duncan, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenburg, Guillermo Lopez, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Stephen Franko, Marshall Greenhut, Jean Hall

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Jen Hunt, Becky Payne, Lauren Swanson, and Danielle Trim

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Pam Curtis, Emily Deblecourt, Beth Scheel, Jo Ver Beek, Suzanne Visser, and several other members of the community

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

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

Motion by Commissioner Lopez to approve the minutes. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved with one amendment with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Jo Ver Beek, Director of Care Services at The Day Center of Evergreen Commons, welcomed the commission to Evergreen Commons and thanked them for their time and travel to Holland. Ver Beek gave a brief overview of Evergreen Commons, stating that it is a community-benefit organization that has reimagined what it means for older adults to live independently and vibrantly in their communities. They offer a variety of opportunities for active individuals, and those needing additional support, in the following four areas: Life Enrichment, Sports & Fitness, Resources, and The Day Center.

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart would like to extend her thanks to our hosts, Evergreen Commons, and gave continued thanks to commissioners for their time, travel, and the expertise they bring to this group. It is greatly appreciated as the commission continues to advocate for all older adults in the state of Michigan. Wishart also gave praise to the State Advisory Council (SAC) and specifically Commissioner Zamora and Lauren Swanson, AASA Staff, for their excellent leadership and support.

Wishart reminded the commission that today they would be presented with both the annual SAC report and the request for a new charge. The assignment is typically somewhat broad in scope, with the expectation that SAC members will refine it as research dictates, but it should not be so all-inclusive as to overwhelm the volunteers.

Wishart was pleased to announce that Commissioner Lichtenburg will now serve as the lead for the Interstate Funding Formula committee. Lichtenberg will be meeting with former Commissioner Sheehan for insight and guidance. Also, the committee will be looking at research data that was recently provided by the University of Michigan and several grad students. This is a critical part of the commission's work, as this allows the money to flow from federal and state levels fairly and equitably.

The Michigan Communities for a Lifetime review committee is an opportunity where members evaluate community submissions to be recognized as a Michigan Community for a Lifetime. Aging & Adult Services Agency offers communities across the state the chance to be recognized for engaging in an assessment and improvement planning process that helps make their community more "aging-friendly" through its Community for a Lifetime (CFL) program. Thanks and praise were given to former commissioner Laura Newsome and former commissioner John Briggs for their previous help on the review committee as well as Dan Doezema, AASA Staff. Wishart encouraged the commission to take a minute and look back and celebrate what they have accomplished

SAC CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Zamora thanked Jo Ver Beek for her time here today as well as the excellent work she does as a member of the SAC. The next scheduled meeting for the SAC is October 24, 2019. Commissioner Cortright will be the guest commissioner at that meeting. The committee is eager to hear the topic for the 2020 report.

At the October meeting, the SAC will be welcoming a new member Chris Lauchner. Also, on the agenda are several presentations on the topic of Caregiving. These presentations are crucial in opening lines of dialogue among SAC members and their continued learning on the topic.

Zamora would like to thank AASA staff Lauren Aprill-Swanson and Kelly Cooper for their hard work and dedication to the SAC. Commissioner Zamora also thanked commissioners for their help, support, and guidance on the report.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner LaTosch welcomed and thanked the group for their time. LaTosch provided a review of the committee. The CSA formed the Advocacy Committee in 2016 to provide clarity and structure to the advocacy efforts of the Commission and to complete due diligence on policy issues impacting older adults in Michigan. The Advocacy Committee also studies aging issues and recommends policy to the Commission.

The Advocacy Committee is comprised of four commissioners tasked with moving the charge from the Commission forward. Each committee member also serves as lead commissioner on one of the four CSA Legislative and Policy Agenda priorities. Those priorities are direct care worker shortage (Commissioner Adeyanju), transportation (former commissioner, Joan Ilardo), reducing elder abuse (Commissioner Duncan), and eliminating waitlists (Commissioner LaTosch).

The direct care worker shortage committee is comprised of Commissioner Adeyanju, Commissioner Bomberg, and three SAC members. This is a multi-layered issue and trying to address the problems is a large and complex task. Currently, the group is looking at information regarding wages and training for direct care workers. The hope is to submit information to the commission in December for review.

The elder abuse task force, led by Commissioner Duncan, has paused on their action plan. Currently, the Attorney General has her task force dedicated to this issue. Several AASA staff members and Commissioner Lichtenberg are active members of that committee. Once recommendations from the Attorney General's task force are delivered, this committee will come forward with responses to the action items. At that time the committee will decide if they want to support and add their voice or personal advocacy.

AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Travis, AASA Senior Deputy Director, thanked the commission for their support and direction over the past couple of months as the agency continues to gain momentum.

The State Plan on Aging is due to the Administration for Community Living, U.S Department of Health and Human Services in July of 2020. AASA has reached out to Michigan Public Health Institute to help facilitate the process. Looking at what has been done in the past, AASA wants to build off what is working and what can be improved upon. Travis would like to do a survey but feels there needs to be a focus on different ways to engage our diverse

community members in the aging network. Some of the topics that AASA would like to cover in the plan include nutrition services, access services, a medical service gaps, supporting older adults to thrive in place, long term supports and services, maintaining health, independence in longevity, supporting caregivers their rights. AASA would also like to do some key empowerment interviews. At the next commission meeting, Travis hopes to have an update.

Recently Dr. Travis has met with Director Gordon, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, to identify key strategic priorities, with the direct care workforce being a large topic. AASA staff members have been working hard to prepare documents and reports that were required by the director's office. One of these documents is a funding mechanism called Proposals for Change. Each administration or agency has an opportunity, once a year, to apply for funds to support changes that would help drive the administration's overall mission. AASA has taken that opportunity and applied for \$2.1 million to support direct care workers. These funds would be used to create incentives for workers to stay in the field, encourage new workers to join, and the creation of a career pipeline to make this a profession, not just a job. AASA is still waiting to hear if they were awarded those funds.

Simultaneously, AASA is preparing a letter of intent for 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. Once prepared Dr. Travis will share those with the commission.

AASA's strategic plan is being developed. Travis has a meeting with Director Gordon in the next few weeks to discuss the plan and outline key areas. The planning committee has already identified direct care workers, home and community-based services, information awareness, and referral services as top priorities. Currently, the staff is seeing a high volume of calls from the public surrounding these issues and leadership is looking to streamline a single point of access for these calls. Recently, Dr. Travis has had several meetings with Kari Benson, Aging and Adult Services Director, Minnesota Health and Human Services, regarding their 1-800 number. Travis is reviewing if this technology or any other form of web-based service for information is the right path for AASA.

This week Dr. Travis and Jen Hunt had the opportunity to present a Dementia Roadmap poster at the Premier Public Health Conference in Ypsilanti. One of the conference objectives was to describe innovative approaches to engage communities in investing in public health transformation. The poster provided information on the Michigan Dementia Coalition and why dementia needs to be elevated to a public health issue.

Last week there was an internal meeting with Rey Bouknight, Director of Communications, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Travis spoke to Bouknight regarding increasing the visibility, both internally and externally, for AASA in communication. That message has been received and there is a willingness to work together to promote the agency in communications. Travis is looking forward to having more opportunities to share the positive work being done in our communities.

Work has started on planning the aging summit. Travis has been looking at venues in the Lansing area per the recommendation of the commission. They will continue to look at venues and then lock in a date. The summit is tentatively scheduled for November 2020. Although that date is flexible, there is consideration for having the summit adjacent to a commission meeting. Travis welcomes content suggestions from Commission members.

October 15 marked the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) awareness day. AASA contracts with MMAP, a nonprofit, to administer the State Health Insurance Assistance Program to provide free and unbiased health benefits counseling for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. Dr. Travis met with the team at MMAP to present a proclamation from Governor Whitmer announcing the day.

Also, this week, Governor Whitmer announced that Michigan is the 1st state in the Midwest and the 5th state in the country to get the WHO/AARP age-friendly state designation. This is good news for aging and the agency will play an important role in conducting an assessment and developing a plan across 8 domains of livability. This work will build upon the existing work and strengths of our Communities for a Lifetime recognition program and will engage additional stakeholders as we advance policies and initiatives to help Michigan's older adults thrive in place as they age. The move is intended to help the state prepare for demographic changes and ensure that Michigan communities can take steps to accommodate all ages.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Jen Hunt, AASA Staff, thanked the commission for their warm welcome. Hunt shared with the commission a brief overview of her background. Stating that she most recently served as the Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter. In her role, she advocated for various state and federal issues relating to dementia, including funding for the MI Choice Waiver Program, non-Medicaid Home, and Community-Based Services funding, and elements of the re-authorization of the Older Americans Act. She also served on the steering committee of the Michigan Dementia Coalition, co-chairing the Public Policy Committee.

Hunt reported that overall, the Department of Health and Human Services received a 2.7% increase in funding for the 2020 fiscal year. Additional Aging Network Highlights in the state budget include a \$40.5 million / 5% increase for MI Choice Home and Community Based Services line and \$98,000 Restoration to AASA administrative budget. This is a significant increase from the proposed \$101,000 cut in the House.

Items in the vetoed included many one-time appropriations and/or projects that could not draw down federal funds such as the Alzheimer's pilot (which had not been funded by the

state since 2017), \$500k for senior program grants, \$400k for senior community services and \$1 million for healthy seniors grant.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is working to increase transparency regarding instances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in long-term care facilities. Recently, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing entitled "Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans From Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes" that highlighted some examples of abuse and critical incidents that have occurred across the country.

HR 4334 the Dignity with Aging Act of 2019 was introduced on 9/16 – just before the last commission meeting. On 9/27 Advancing States sent a letter to House leadership endorsing the legislation with one technical change. Section 301 includes an expansion of the MOE (maintenance of effort) requirements for state LTC Ombudsman Program to include funds from all sources rather than those strictly from Title 7 of the Act. Advancing States said this proposed change would unnecessarily limit state flexibility to manage resources both within and across the Act and is not an acceptable way to manage state-federal partnerships.

Several key points from the Advancing States bill analysis include: the reauthorization of the OOA for five years instead of the customary three-year period, incorporating language from a stand-alone bill to ensure individuals of any age with Alzheimer's may be served by the LTC Ombudsman Program and increasing minimum funding level for state administrative expenses from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Hunt provided a handout that details the changes to the OOA for the commission to review.

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 preliminary FY 2019 expenditure levels for AASA grant programs through September 30, 2019. Special notation for the Senior Volunteer Program expenditures contained in the report reflect third quarter FY 2019 expenditures as preliminary fourth-quarter reports for these programs are not due to the Aging and Adult Services Agency until October 30, 2019. AASA anticipates presenting final expenditure levels for FY 2019 grants and services at the December 20, 2019, CSA meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Request for Approval of State Advisory Council (SAC) on Aging 2019 Annual Report
Commissioner Kristie Zamora and Lauren Aprill-Swanson, AASA Staff, are requesting approval of State Advisory Council on Aging 2019 Annual Report. The report entitled, "Michigan Area Agencies on Aging Innovative Practices Supporting Older Adults", explored and compiled a list of innovations in three critical areas of concern: direct care workforce, elder abuse, and exploitation prevention, and transportation.

The SAC sent the Area Agencies on Ageing (AAA) questions to learn about advanced practices that could be shared. SAC workgroup members discussed the responses and made follow-up conference calls with AAA staff. This report focuses on the 16 Area Agencies on Aging that fall under the mandates and guidelines of the federal Older Americans Act and the Older Michiganians Act, and receive funding distributed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA).

A motion was made by Commission Strohl to approve a State Advisory Council on Aging Report as presented. Commissioner Lichtenberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Request for Approval of State Advisory Council 2020 Charge

Zamora and Swanson request the Commission's approval of the State Advisory Council 2020 charge.

The annual SAC report is an important tool in the obligations that the Commission on Services to the Aging By-laws impose on the SAC "to advocate for Michigan's senior citizens; to advise the Governor and the Legislature about the nature, magnitude, and priorities concerning senior services; and to review policies, programs, and procedures in order to point out areas that would benefit from legislation or, at the very least, prolonged attention."

Commissioners discuss ideas for the SAC charge for 2020.

A motion was made by Commission Bomberg to approve a State Advisory Council on Aging 2020 Charge on Social Isolation as presented. Commissioner Cortright seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Request for Approval of 2020 - 2022 CSA Meeting Dates/Locations

Danielle Trim, AASA Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary, requested the Commission's approval for 2020- 2022 CSA Meeting Dates and locations.

The CSA holds four-yearly public hearings, with one held in April during the CSA/SAC joint meeting. Some suggested locations for meeting and public hearings are Wayne County and Senior Alliance Center; Grand Rapids and Region 8 Area Agency on Aging. Respective AAA's have been contacted and asked to host or to suggest other local aging network partners that could host these meetings.

The commission asked that locations be revisited to ensure that all communities are represented. They would like special consideration made to include meetings in the upper peninsula, east and west coasts of Michigan, and major metropolitan areas. The request for approval has been postponed until the November meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None at this time.

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. Additionally, the Commission will tour the Day Services program following the Public Hearing.

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2019, at MSU Federal Credit Union, 4825 Mt Hope Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823.

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 12:05 P.M.

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