

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING  
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING**

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Adult Services Agency  
South Grand Tower, 333 S. Grand Avenue; Lansing, MI 48933  
February 16, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**COMMISSION ROLL CALL**

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Phil Lewis.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dona Wishart, Matthew Adeyanju, John Briggs, Joan Ilardo, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, Donna Murray-Brown, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl, Amy Tripp and Kristie Zamora.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT** (excused)

Nancy Duncan and Harold Mast.

**AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Kline, Scott Wamsley, Shirley Bentsen, Emma Buycks, Carol Dye, Phil Lewis, and Becky Payne.

**VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tripp to approve the agenda. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion. This motion was approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the January 19, 2018, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Murray-Brown seconded the motion. This motion was approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT**

Commissioner Wishart thanked returning commissioners that were reappointed, and acknowledged and thanked those who previously served, and suggested anyone reapplying for another term, to do so at least two months prior to their term expiration date.

Commissioner Wishart stated the Senior Citizen of the Year award event is coming up, and asked Commissioners Strohl and Tripp if they'd like to be on the review and selection team, and they both agreed to do so.

## **State Advisory Council (SAC) Update Report**

Commissioner Zamora, SAC Chair, stated the SAC was charged with *Volunteering Done by Seniors*, and *Volunteering For Seniors* to report on, and they are addressing this charge by forming four workgroups: positive benefits for senior volunteers; recruitment techniques; retention strategies; and places, organizations and systems for volunteers.

Commissioner Zamora stated the SAC is reviewing the SAC application and applicant instructions, and recommended edits will be brought to Commissioner Wishart.

Commissioner Briggs acknowledged that he will attend the next SAC meeting in March to represent the CSA.

## **Advocacy Committee Report**

Commissioner Murray-Brown, chair of the CSA Advocacy Committee, stated four legislative items approved at last month's CSA meeting were: support transportation policies that mitigate barriers to meeting the needs and quality of life for older adults; support policies and programs designed to create a strong pool of well qualified trained and compensated direct care workers; support policies and programs designed to reduce elder abuse and exploitation; and support policies and programs designed to eliminate wait lists for in-home services, noting that these along with several other ideas the committee will continue to look at, including long term care, Medicaid and healthcare and volunteer programming.

Commissioners Murray-Brown and Zamora are discussing best approach to work together with the CSA and SAC to build up a stronger advocacy program and action plans.

Commissioner Murray-Brown invited anyone wanting to assist with their legislative agenda, either as a lead or to be part of the dyad or triad that takes action to research some of them, noting Commissioner Duncan expressed an interest in helping to build up the action plan.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Phil Lewis, AASA staff, provided an update on federal budget advancements by the House and Senate, noting AASA will keep the CSA updated as it progresses.

Mr. Lewis stated the Governor has put forth his State budget recommendations, and as the process unfolds, various departments will approach the legislature to present their proposed budgets, noting our Department presented this past week. He'll provide dates, times and locations once they are finalized should any commissioners want to attend.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Presentation on Fiscal Year 2019 Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) - Part Three**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided handouts and detailed overview of the IFF.

Commissioner Wishart stated she will establish an IFF workgroup committee, and asked if any commissioners would like to participate, at which time she'll put out a recommendation.

Commissioner Lichtenberg asked what other three top criteria have been discussed through the years as possible additions to the formula.

Mr. Wamsley stated there have been different interpretations of the formula with regard to factors, and in the 80's and 90's, there were "bases and floors" that were used to try and ensure the smaller Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) had adequate funding amounts that essentially shifted funds from larger agencies, but in 1996, they eliminated this and went with straight formula factors as changes in the definition of factors came about, and how poverty and minority factors were defined, and changes were made to be more consistent.

Commissioner Wishart stated in the past, what other states were doing with their formulas was carefully examined to be sure nothing important was missing.

Mr. Wamsley stated prior to 1990, the geographical factor was based on metropolitan statistical areas, and in 1990, that changed by using square miles within the PSAs.

Commissioner Lichtenberg stated although he is not advocating for this, the straight cut of 150 percent above poverty is the same across the state with no regard to what expenditures would cost, like rent, food, transportation, etc., and wondered if other states are using economic and security indexes that may have been established.

Commissioner Murray-Brown expressed concern of those needing services in PSAs whose poverty levels have reduced significantly, and how this might be addressed in the formula.

Mr. Wamsley stated AASA is reviewing commissioner's memberships on various boards to ensure protocols are met while voting on the IFF, as well as on Area Implementation Plans to avoid any conflicts of interest.

### **Michigan Dementia Coalition Update**

Commissioner Ilardo provided a brief overview of current efforts of the Dementia Coalition and their Michigan Dementia State Plan, noting the last one was from 2009-2012, and has not been updated since. They're working on four categories: public relations; education, training and health services; services and supports; and safety, legal and financial. They will send a draft to comment this summer, and she would like them to review it. Depending on the volume of changes, they will have a final version of the plan in September, with a summit to follow to determine plan of action to implement the three-year plan.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated if anyone would like to participate in action plans for any of the CSA Advocacy Committee items, to please send her an e-mail.

Commissioner Strohl stated she wanted to update the CSA on something that occurred that she feels is an issue throughout the state, but preferred to wait and discuss it at the next face-to-face meeting.

Commissioner Wishart asked to add the update to the next face-to-face meeting.

Commissioner Wishart stated the next CSA meeting will be held Friday, March 16, 2018, at 9:00 AM at the South Grand Tower Building in Lansing in conference room 1L. She noted CSA meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact Carol Dye at (517) 284-0156 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

The next State Advisory Council on Aging meeting will be held Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 9:30 AM at the Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center on W. Saginaw, Lansing.

### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adeyanju. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murray-Brown. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 10:41 AM.