

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Adult Services Agency

McFarlan Home

700 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI

June 16, 2017 @ 9:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Strohl.

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, John Briggs, Joan Ilardo, Gerald Irby, Peter Lichtenberg, Harold Mast, Donna Murray-Brown, Laura Newsome, Margot Roedel, Michael Sheehan, Linda Strohl and Kristie Zamora, with Matthew Adeyanju on the phone.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Kathleen LaTosch and Amy Tripp.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) STAFF PRESENT

Richard Kline, Scott Wamsley, Shirley Bentsen, Laura McMurtry and Carol Dye.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Kathy Boles, Roger Myers, Lynn Alexander, Charles Tommasulo, James Muto, Eileen Whiteside, Gail Gauthier, Max Smith, Tamitha Taylor, Tam Perry, Tina Olshove, Debra Morgan, Monica Galloway, June Northway, Yaushica Brown, Pamela Reid, Bob Littke, Brittany Harvey, Kelly Bates, Melissa Frey, Erica Thrash-Sall, Katrina Summersett, Michelle White, Karen Irby, Mary Snell, Kelly Price, and several other members of the public.

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Briggs to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mast seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the May 19, 2017 CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Wishart thanked the many staff of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM) and McFarlan Home for providing the venue and hosting the Commission on Services to the Aging's meeting and public hearing. She introduced George Millish, board member and chairperson and invited him to address the CSA.

Mr. Millish welcomed the CSA on behalf of PVM and McFarlan Home, and introduced Roger Myer, PVM's CEO, Erica Thrash-Sall, McFarlan Home's executive director, and recognized Audra Frye, Katrina Summerset, Lynn Alexander, Michelle White and Kathy Boles.

Commissioner Wishart stated she attended the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) meeting, noting how well it was handled by Commissioner Sheehan, SAC Chair, and Lauren Swanson, AASA's SAC lead. She stated the SAC is looking for new members with one vacancy in Regions 1C, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 14, and two vacancies in Region 8.

Commissioner Wishart stated a SAC member expressed an interest in learning more about Emergency Management, and she requested AASA staff provide them with a presentation.

The SAC expressed an interest in working with and integrating their advocacy efforts with that of the CSA advocacy committee, noting the May SAC minutes reflects suggestions.

Commissioner Wishart invited the CSA to follow the Michigan Communities for a Lifetime (CFL) on Facebook, and encouraged comments to raise awareness and encourage other cities to participate in this effort. The City of Clawson was recently recognized as a CFL.

Commissioner Wishart stated AASA's 2017-2020 State Plan is nearing the review and approval process of collaborative efforts, and she encouraged long range and strategic influence of the 2020 State Plan, noting some research points out that by the year 2020 in our country, there may be as many as 117 million older adults needing assistance, and predict there will only be 45 million informal caregivers to help with some of that.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Richard Kline, AASA Senior Deputy Director, stated he participated in an exercise with the Michigan State Police in their emergency preparedness planning. They run drills throughout the year around Michigan's three nuclear power plants where they call staff from around Michigan to join forces at the state of the art Emergency Operations Center in Lansing. As an observer, the drill was to address a long-term power outage affecting three quarters of Michigan and some neighboring states as part of plan on how to be proactive in different crises scenarios, to address most urgent needs.

Director Kline stated through a collaboration of a variety of stake holders who provided input on AASA's State Plan, he and Commission Wishart will sign off on behalf of the Governor as a federal requirement. He thanked Shirley Bentsen for her steadfast attention to the plan, and for her efforts in sorting through all the input and its final version that received praise from ACL, in that our plan is a model they wished other states would follow.

Director Kline stated Senate Bill 1852 had language inserted that would have compelled some waiver agents to shift portions of the MIChoice program over to managed care companies, and through strong AAAAM advocacy, this language was removed, which would have had detrimental effects on the AAAs and other waiver agents. From a point of advocacy, he wants to keep this on our radar and become more knowledgeable, and from this perspective, he suggested leveraging the value and effectiveness of the aging network, while this bill is an ongoing issue.

Director Kline acknowledged and thanked Kathy Boles and her AAA team for their efforts to put together requests that resulted in funding for the needs of seniors in Flint stemming from the water crisis, and hopes the support will continue.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Wamsley stated AASA has received full year federal funding and was able to process the full year statement of grant awards to the network. As well, an agreement on the fiscal year 2017 federal budget was reached, with funding either the same or slightly decreased, noting an analysis will be completed for the CSA.

Mr. Wamsley stated AAA 1-B is communicating with AAA staff and attaining milestones AASA laid out for them making good progress, while continuing to search for a new CEO.

Mr. Wamsley stated FY 2018 state budget suggests aging dollars are in place, but could be affected by other budget fluctuations, and more information will follow as it progresses.

Mr. Wamsley stated the FY 2018 federal budget that supports Older American's Act programs hasn't had much movement, but details will be provided as it progresses.

Mr. Wamsley provided an updated NAPIS report that includes AAA financial information, and stated if anyone has questions, to please contact him.

Commissioner Mast requested an overview on the NAPIS report data.

Mr. Wamsley offered to provide an overview to help commissioners summarize the report and it's capabilities to measure progress on programs. Commissioner Wishart requested this be done at the November meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Murray-Brown, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, stated they meet the first Monday of every month to discuss related topics of interest. The last discussion stemmed from the proposed federal budget cuts in the tax reform, as well as the proposed budget, and their discussion was how to narrow down the issues.

She and committee members, Commissioners Mast, Ilardo, LaTosch and Newsome, broke it down to three areas: to look at the network and support the aging service programs in Michigan's aging network; how to support a strong ecosystem; and how best to inform and educate legislators.

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated the Senior Corps programs are important to the quality of life for the seniors and older adults it serves as individuals, and to the community, which also has a multi-generational impact. The committee is focusing on this and would like to have a presentation on what it means as it relates to the Senior Corps programs, the budget cuts they face, and the adverse impact.

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated just before Kathy Boles came before the CSA and presented on Flint's environment, they started this committee, and the first thing they did was to write a letter of support based on information and facts provided by her in support of their water crisis, which resulted in assistance to receive additional funding for Flint.

Commissioner Murray-Brown stated they recently heard from the SAC, and they are looking at how to leverage all of their talent to connect their work to further their advocacy efforts. She will be meeting with Commissioner Sheehan, SAC Chair, to discuss further.

Commissioner Sheehan stated the SAC was extremely enthused after he presented them with the advocacy committee's guiding principles and framework, and they asked if they could have their names added to all documents to support and adopt them.

Commissioner Ilardo stated the advocacy committee discussed having talking points, so when advocates reach out, everyone can discuss issues with one voice.

The CSA took a break at 9:55 AM, and resumed business at 10:15 AM.

BUSINESS ITEMS

State Plan Approval

Shirley Bentsen, AASA staff, provided background on her process to draft AASA's State Plan, which has been completed. She requested approval of the FY 2018-2020 State Plan, which she will forward to the feds for their approval, with an October 1, 2017, start date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mast to approve the FY 2018-2020 State Plan, as presented. Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion.

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

Request for Approval of Program Year (PY) 2017-2018 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations

Laura McMurtry, AASA staff, stated as the field representative for Region 5, Flint's Valley AAA, she acknowledged and thanked Kathy Boles, her staff and their board in their work in addressing a very challenging situation during the water crisis.

Ms. McMurtry provided a demographic sheet documenting who is being served under SCSEP, and an overview of the federal program that provides part-time employment opportunities and training opportunities for low-income adults 55 and older.

Ms. McMurtry requested approval of PY 2017-2018 SCSEP allocations, and for AASA's senior deputy director the authority to adjust the grant by five percent, based on funding availability.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the PY 2017-2018 SCSEP allocations, and for AASA's senior deputy director the authority to adjust the grant by five percent, based on funding availability, as presented. Commissioner Murray-Brown seconded the motion.

This motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Request for Approval to Amend the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Grant for Program Year (PY) 2016/2017

Mr. Wamsley stated this SHIP program is slated for elimination, which saves Michigan's senior millions of dollars every year through counseling that details benefits they are eligible for. He requested approval to amend the SHIP grant for PY 2016-2017, and for AASA's senior deputy director the authority to adjust the grant by five percent, based on funding availability.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the amendment of the SHIP grant for PY 2016-2017 SCSEP allocations, and for AASA's senior deputy director the authority to adjust the grant by five percent, based on funding availability, as presented. Commissioner Roedel seconded the motion.

This motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Update on the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Report

Commissioner Sheehan stated the SAC report on creative aging will be sent the first week of July, allowing time to review and provide input, noting the CSA will be asked to review and provide suggestions for the 2018 SAC report.

Commissioner Sheehan stated the SAC is reviewing the vetting process for new SAC members. They are proposing a vetting committee, telephone interviews to determine if they fit with the work ethic, and to return to the full SAC with their recommendations.

Commissioner Sheehan stated the SAC asked for a new member orientation process, and he's working on a handbook.

The SAC members are extremely interested in the CSA's advocacy efforts, and have established their own advocacy committee, while reserving the right to a certain amount of autonomy if they think there's an issue that needs immediate attention, but may not quite fit with what the commission is doing. They prefer to work in the total framework of the CSA's Advocacy Committee and hope to collaborate as much as possible on aging issues.

Commissioner Wishart asked Senior Deputy Director Kline and Deputy Director Wamsley to review budget circumstances to see if the SAC can offer six SAC face-to-face meetings in the new year to better help them define their work, and return with a response. Commissioner Irby encouraged commissioners who haven't attended a SAC meeting, to try and do so to see their fantastic work firsthand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wishart stated following this meeting, there will be a public hearing at 1:00 PM at this same location, noting for any items of interest, all thoughts and ideas for the public that have not been driven by the agenda are welcome.

Commissioner Wishart stated the next CSA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on Friday, July 21, 2017, at Pine Mountain Resort in Iron Mountain, with a public hearing to follow at 1:00 PM at that same location, noting these meetings are open to the public, and anyone needing accommodations should contact Carol Dye at least five days prior to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ilardo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zamora. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.