

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Adult Services Agency
Pine Mountain Resort, Sitzmark Room
N 3332 Pine Mountain Road; Iron Mountain, MI 49801
July 21, 2017 @ 9:00 AM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Irby.

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, John Briggs, Gerald Irby, Kathleen LaTosch, Harold Mast, Laura Newsome, Michael Sheehan and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Matthew Adeyanju, Joan Ilardo, Peter Lichtenberg, Donna Murray-Brown, Margot Roedel, Linda Strohl and Amy Tripp.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) STAFF PRESENT

Richard Kline, Dan Doezema and Carol Dye.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Jon Mead, Chief Executive Director, Tonya LaFave and Tammy Rosa of UPCAP, Kathy Arnold, Kristin Sommerfeld and Sandra Essendrup of DICSA RSVP, and several other members of the public.

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart made some amendments and requested a motion to approve the amended CSA agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the amended 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 June 16, 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 welcomed Joe Stevens, Dickenson County Commissioner.

Mr. Stevens provided thanks and a warm welcome to the Commission, and he provided a detailed history and overview of Dickinson County and the UP. He gave kudos to Chief Executive Director, Jon Mead and UPCAP. As one of their board members, he touted the excellent services they provide to the seniors of the UP.

Commissioner Wishart thanked the commission for their time and expertise, and for traveling long distance to the UP, noting they met in Escanaba in 2015, St. Ignace in 2016, and now in Iron Mountain, and a 2018 meeting is planned in Munising, all in the UP. Commissioner Wishart stated the commission's role is to represent all of Michigan, which speaks to the importance of travel.

Commissioner Wishart stated the State Advisory Council on Aging has joined forces with the Commission's Advocacy Committee, and makes them now 40 members stronger.

Commissioner Wishart stated during her recent visit to Flint, thanks and appreciation were expressed for Steve Betterly, AASA's Emergency Manager, for his efforts and assistance during the water crisis.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Richard Kline, AASA Senior Deputy Director, thanked the Commission for traveling to the UP, for their leadership, and for all they do for AASA.

Director Kline stated there are two AASA job postings that will help restructure the agency, and the Adult Services Policy Unit (ASPU) plans to go live August 1st with the MiAMES pilot.

Director Kline stated AASA is continuing to work through ASPU's audit findings.

Director Kline stated AAA 1-B continues to work diligently to become fully staffed so they can provide the financial documents required by AASA to review, and it's going well.

Director Kline stated AASA is working closely with the Medical Services Administration to help Tri-County Office on Aging AAA resume Mi Choice Waiver enrollment efforts.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Director Kline stated AASA issued FY 2017 Federal ACL funds to the aging network with reductions from FY 2016 levels, noting staff are currently analyzing the effects of change.

Director Kline stated the Office of Auditor General completed a review of AASA's financial operations documentation, and financial procedures/systems, and they had no findings.

Director Kline stated as part of the MDHHS merger, Hema Malavia, AASA's financial specialist, moved to the Department's budget office, but will continue to work closely with AASA staff. Ms. Malavia has been assigned as the MDHHS Aging Grant Specialist, which

will allow AASA the ability to have more direct participation on the Department's budget process. AASA is in process of backfilling her vacated position.

Director Kline stated AASA recently implemented new online financial and programmatic reporting software for the State Long Term Ombudsman grant, and will be training PREVNT grantees on the new online financial and programmatic reporting technology over the next few weeks. The implementation of these new systems will provide a "one-stop shop" for financial and program reporting for nearly all AASA grantees. AASA grantee agencies (e.g., AAAs and senior volunteer program sponsors) currently use the online Aging Information System (AIS) to report grant expenditures, request grant expenditure reimbursements, submit program reports, grant applications and annual and multi-year plans for the \$90+ million in grant funds administered by AASA.

Commissioner Irby asked about the funding level inequities between the congregate meals and home delivered meals, and suggested this issue as something the CSA Advocacy Committee may want to consider.

Mr. Mead responded that the state allows some flexibility to shift funds between these two categories to assist with the growing need of home delivered meals.

Commissioner Wishart stated there need to be ways to find new sources of revenue, as processes and systems are designed so local areas can analyze their needs, which may differ from area to area, noting the need for home delivered meals have increased, while the need for congregate meal sites have leveled off or declined. The challenge for AAAs is to focus on their individual geographical areas and make funding adjustments as needed.

She encouraged commissioners and staff to pose further questions and concerns to the Commission's Advocacy Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Director Kline stated AASA's FY 2018 state budget was signed by the Governor, which included a \$2.1 million increase for in-home services, a \$1.5 million increase for senior meals and nutrition services, and funding for 95 additional fulltime Adult Services staff. He thanked everyone for their advocacy efforts that have helped increase funding, particularly the Silver Key Coalition.

Update Previously Approved Funding/Grants on Associated Ongoing Activities

Eric Berke, AASA staff, via conference call, stated AASA funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program/Title V for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, was reduced from what the Commission previously approved, resulting in \$25,047 less, and one less position, due to the US Department of Labor's preliminary planning figures that AASA used so the program could continue with no interruption of services.

Mr. Berke stated the expected final grant award for the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to MMAP, Inc. for the period April 4, 2017, through March 31, 2018, is \$1,327,133, and is a reduction from the \$1,470,820 the Commission approved at the March 17, 2017 meeting. AASA is working with MMAP, Inc. on a revised SHIP budget that will reflect this

reduction, and likely include delays in some activities, like equipment/computer purchases, in an effort to minimize the direct impact of this reduction.

Mr. Berke stated the Commission approved a no-cost extension of SHIP funds from last program year at the June 16, 2017 meeting, which will be used by MMAP, Inc., and also help to lessen the reduction in the current program year.

Mr. Berke stated AASA continues to have good communication and cooperation with Region 1-B AAA through their probation, and they've met all requirements as set forth to date. AASA is currently working through a matter from their FY 2016 Single Audit, and intends to ask for a repayment of some funds.

BUSINESS ITEMS (Part 1)

Request for Approval of Senior Resources (Area Agency on Aging Region 14) Amendment to Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP)

Eric Berke, AASA staff, stated Senior Resources, Region AAA 14, requested a substantive amendment to their FY 2017 AIP, and is requesting a transfer of \$120,000 from Title III, Part C-1, congregate nutrition services, into Title III, Part B, in-home services, due to routine grant management and monitoring activities, which determined one of their service providers is not to spend all funding before the end of this fiscal year. They will work closely with the service provider to increase meal service levels to the highest extent possible.

A motion was made by Commissioner Briggs to approve the Senior Resources (Area Agency on Aging Region 14) substantive amendment to their FY 2017 AIP, as presented. Commissioner Mast seconded the motion.

This motion was unanimously approved with an 8-0-0 vote.

The CSA took a break at 11:12 AM, and resumed business at 11:31 AM.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commission Newsome stated the Advocacy Committee has been working on prioritizing and making sure advocacy issues align with their guiding principles. They are taking a more in depth look at the discrepancy between home delivered meals and congregate meals funding, as well as the potential elimination of the Foster Grandparent Program.

Commissioner Mast stated he suspected the existing health care plan will remain in place into the foreseeable future, and didn't think Congress will to come up with a replacement, and thought the President was getting tired of hitting a wall on this. He talked to his Congressman about the pros and cons of what the House passed, but was a difficult conversation, and he received some related materials he's trying to wade through.

Commissioner LaTosch stated they meet on a monthly basis and are keeping up-to-date on the health care reform effort. They consider what's happened at each meeting and discuss next steps between meetings. As well, the Advocacy Committee is working to further educate themselves, and plan to invite Commissioner Tripp to discuss some important issues in her areas of expertise, and Jim McGuire of AAA 1-B, who is part of the Silver Key

Coalition, to help them work through advocacy priorities, and to determine if there are possible alignments to gain a stronger voice.

BUSINESS ITEMS (Part 2)

Request for Approval of State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Report, Creative Aging: Opening the Door to Health and Happiness

Commissioner Michael Sheehan, SAC Chair, presented the 2017 SAC Report, and gave kudos to Lauren Swanson and Wendi White for their efforts to help create it.

Commissioner Sheehan stated much of the report was based on best practices derived from around the state, the country, and the world. While addressing creative aging, they touched upon brain development, physical movement, social engagement, sense of control, and individual wellbeing, which can differ from person to person. They summarized academic and clinical studies, which are named in the report should anyone want to pursue them further. They also touched upon many aspects and ideas for creative aging and funding opportunities, and some recommendations include an aggressive marketing campaign using artistic seniors as examples, of which there are many, expanding evidence-based wellness programs that use creativity, and a collaboration of cultural and certifying organizations, among many other suggestions that don't cost money.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the SAC Report, "*Creative Aging: Opening the Door to Health and Happiness*," as presented. Commissioner Briggs seconded the motion.

This motion was unanimously approved with an 8-0-0 vote.

The Commission praised Commissioner Sheehan for his efforts in skillfully leading the SAC.

Establishing the Assignment for the 2018 SAC Report

Commissioner Sheehan provided suggestions for the 2018 SAC report. He stated his suggestion is "volunteerism," i.e., volunteering to help seniors, and seniors volunteering to help others with a component to include positive benefits, as there's research that suggests people who volunteer live longer. He'd like to touch upon best recruitment techniques from around the world, retention strategies, and where the need is greatest for volunteers, and he asked for specific guidance on whatever is suggested for the next SAC report topic, and to think about if you're not a senior, but would like to volunteer to help seniors, where one could go for information.

Commissioners Zamora, Irby, Briggs, Newsome, LaTosch, Wishart, and Mast all agreed that "volunteerism" would be a good topic for the 2018 SAC report, while Commissioner Mast suggested including time banking of services tied to something like bartering.

Commissioner LaTosch suggested elder isolation as a future topic, and would like to address alternative funding strategies, partnerships, and how agencies are creatively addressing their resource needs with best practices as funding continues to decrease and no time to research how to do this.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mast to establish “volunteerism” as the assignment for the 2018 SAC report, as presented. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sheehan stated as this is pondered, he encouraged commissioners to submit other ideas that might be able to be rolled into this report.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with an 8-0-0 voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Orientation

Dan Doezema, AASA staff, provided an orientation and detailed overview of the AIP process, while highlighting key changes that ask what’s new and what’s being emphasized.

Regional Priorities

Jonathan Mead, Chief Executive Officer of the UPCAP, Region 11 AAA, welcomed the Commission, and thanked them for all they do, and for traveling to the UP.

Mr. Mead provided a detailed overview of current and ongoing ever changing regional priorities and activities of his AAA, legislative issues with the MI Choice Program, direct care workforce disparaging wages, the need for more advocacy to help bring their value to light, and the need for more volunteers to help deliver meals in rural areas, as well as efforts to address transportation needs.

REST (Respite Education and Support Tools) Caregiver Program

Tammy Rosa, UPCAP’s QA Specialist/Caregiver Program Manager, provided handouts and an overview of their successful REST program that trains adults and teens to provide respite and offer care to those in need, and provide assistance to caregivers with key steps to prepare, care, and connect them to helpful tools.

UP Aging Programs

Tonya LaFave, UPCAP’s Registered Dietitian/QA Supervisor, provided a handout, UPCAP’s Health & Wellness Programs, and overviews of their many services, the service providers, their efforts to monitor the services, and surveying those who receive them.

Mr. Mead stated their 2-1-1 office receives about 18,000 calls per year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wishart stated following this meeting, there will be a public hearing at this same location at 1:00 PM, after the working lunch provided to commissioners, workgroups, AASA staff, and the presenters.

Commissioner Wishart stated the next CSA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on Friday, August 18, 2017, at Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., in Lansing. She encouraged commissioners to plan and stay until they are all completed, which is expected to go beyond the lunch hour.

Commissioner Wishart stated these meetings are open to the public, and anyone needing accommodations to attend 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 LaTosch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mast. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.