

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
Virtual Meeting
Friday, December 18, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Commission Chair Wishart.

CSA ROLL CALL

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

CSA MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Marshall Greenhut, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Michael Pohnl, Robert Schlueter, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBER EXCUSED

Tene Milton-Ramsey

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Brenda Ross, Kelly Cooper, Jen Hunt, Tari Muniz, Sophia Hines, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and Sherri King.

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Duncan seconded motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the October 16, 2020 CSA minutes without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenhut and Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2021 CSA MEETING SCHEDULE

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA meeting schedule for 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The schedule was approved by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Wishart welcomed all to the virtual meeting, thanking Commissioners for their continued willingness to participate via this platform during the pandemic. She looks forward to the time when meetings can be conducted in person, but in the meantime appreciates Commissioners' patience and diligence in making meetings work in the virtual space. The thoughtful deliberations by the Commissioners as the CSA makes decisions affecting older adults, family caregivers, and programs and services across the state is valued. Many important updates will be given during the meeting and very important business items will be considered.

A special presentation was given to honor Dr. Joe Horton, who received his PhD from Walden University at the age of 92. Highlights of his life story were given:

- Dr. Horton is from Flint, Michigan, is a US Army Veteran, and a retiree of General Motors.
- His grandfather was a slave and his father a sharecropper in Tennessee. Neither could read or write.
- Dr. Horton and his siblings worked in the fields during the crop seasons and were unable to attend school. When they could attend, they walked eight miles to get to school.
- Dr. Horton began his PhD program at the age of 80. When asked about the drive to pursue this, he said "Pursuing my PhD was the final educational itch in my soul that started in the fields of Tennessee. Getting a PhD was the hardest thing I have ever done in my lifetime but not as hard as withstanding the racism that I have faced, nor as hard as knowing my wife is not with me to complete this journey."
- He was grateful to get his start at General Motors as a janitor. He never lost sight of the child in the fields, making education important to him. He began educating himself via correspondence courses for radio and television repair knowing he would have to be able to learn to count money, read, and write to truly be successful.
- His work as a janitor allowed him to see the importance of obtaining a skilled trade, like the white men employed at General Motors. It took 20 years to complete his formal education and obtain his journeyman card.
- He has written a dissertation entitled "Older Adults' Access to Medicaid's Home- and Community-Based Services" which was provided to all Commissioners by the Chair.
- He notes special gratitude to Ms. Catherine Heck, Doctoral Specialist, Dr. Anne Hacker, and friend Virginia Hutchins for their support in this accomplishment.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Aging & Adult Services Agency recognized Dr. Horton's commitment to lifelong learning and his contribution to improving home and community-based services through his academic work.

Many representatives of Walden University joined the meeting to pay tribute to Dr. Horton. A list of attendees is included with the meeting minutes.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE REPORT

Commissioner Zamora provided an overview of the functions and work of the SAC via Power Point presentation. The presentation is included with the minutes.

Additionally, she stated that SAC develops reports that are the result of research and input from AAAs, volunteer programs, and other external partners working to improve programs and services for older and vulnerable adults.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Advocacy Committee Chair, Commissioner LaTosch provided background on the committee's development and the following updates:

- Committee launched in 2016 under the leadership of former-committee chair Donna Brown. The committee established guiding principles and criteria for determining advocacy priorities. In 2019, Commissioner LaTosch became committee chair and continued guiding the committee's growth and definition of their work. This included reviewing statewide concerns for repetitive patterns and hosting learning sessions to explore these concerns and ultimately establishing and defining priorities.
 - Reducing waitlist rules
 - Addressing shortages in the direct care workforce
 - Preventing and interrupting elder abuse and neglect
 - Addressing transportation challenges
- The committee has lifted its voice by submitting budget advocacy letters to the Governor's office and the Legislature, letters to Genesee County supporting funding allocations regarding the Flint water crisis, and advocacy letters regarding older adults affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Exploring new priorities – the funding levels for older adults in Michigan and projection of population changes in the next two decades.
- Would like to schedule a learning session to be delivered during the January CSA meeting to explore issue of funding for home and community-based care and facility care.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Executive Office of the Governor to advocate for increased funding for non-Medicaid home and community-based services.
- Commissioner Nancy Duncan will be transitioning into the role of Chair for the Advocacy Committee, effective January 2021. Commissioner Duncan's vision for the committee was shared.
 - Continue to make the committee's voice heard by advocating for older adults in Michigan on a statewide level
 - Make the committee nimbler in advancing issues by discussing matters with the CSA, holding learning sessions, and raising issues with the Governor's office.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis provided the following updates:

- Current Coronavirus data in Michigan:
 - 487,356 positive cases to date
 - ✓ 114,887 adults 60+
 - 11,797 deaths to date
 - ✓ 10,492 adults 60+ (89%)

This data supports continued adherence to the guidance of handwashing, social distancing and mask wearing. An announcement will be made today to replace the current restriction guidance that expires on December 20, 2020.

- *GetSetUp* technology has been released and free classes are currently available to adults 60+ across Michigan. Holiday-themed classes are being offered as well.
- *ConnecttoCareJobs* also currently active. This platform is to connect job seekers with employers in the healthcare space.

- *CV19 Checkup*, a web-based tool for individuals to do self-assessments for COVID-19 and offer resources for mitigation to those who do have the virus.
- A nursing home engagement toolkit was released offering guidance for providers and employees of nursing homes and family members. It is currently on the MDHHS COVID-19 website.
- *Stay Well* virtual webinars have been presented addressing mental health and well-being needs of the older population. This effort was a partnership with Behavioral Health section of MDHHS.
- Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Advisory Committee continues to meet discussing workforce needs and developing core competencies and ethical standards for DCWs. A contract is also in place with the Centers for Healthcare Strategies to conduct an environmental scan of the direct care workforce across Michigan. A national scan to research policies and best practices will also be conducted. An economic analysis will also be scheduled with Public Sector Consultants to understand the impact of pay increases and incentives.
- A two-year contract has been signed with Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work. A presentation from Linda Gordon with MPHI will occur at the January CSA meeting that will outline the project.
- Many from the AASA team attended the ADvancing States Home and Community-Based Services national conference. There were wonderful professional development opportunities and AASA had occasions to highlight work being done in Michigan.
- Joint policy meeting with ADvancing States and M4A was held to discuss federal leadership transitions and provide input to the Biden Administration around aging and adult services. A letter from ADvancing States will be sent to the Biden Administration with recommendations.
- AASA held an “All Star Meeting” with operational and fiscal staff of the AAAs to share best practices and provide guidance for questions and concerns.
- Leaders of 4AM, MI Directors of Services to the Aging and AASA had a quarterly meeting to discuss best practices and provide education.
- AASA has staff serving on the department’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council. Sophia Hines and Tari Muniz both received Good Government coins for their leadership in this work.
- The entire AASA team has gone above and beyond this year during the pandemic to support the network in providing services and reassurance to older adults. Dr. Travis expressed her gratitude for everyone’s work.

LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES. AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jen Hunt, State Assistant Administrator, provided the following updates:

- Today the Legislature will meet to negotiate supplemental spending and AASA continues to monitor House Bill No. 6124 known as the Area Agency on Aging Background Check Legislation. This bill mirrors the operating standards passed by the Commission earlier this year.
- *GetSetUp* platform – getsetup.io/Michigan.org has developed additional programming to focus on the holidays.
- *CV19 Checkup* – over 16,000 people used the tool within the first 36 hours following the press release- Michigan.cv19checkup.org
- Two paid campaigns are running during the month of December
 - *ConnectToCareJobs*

- *Aging Network Caregiver Services*

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided the following updates:

- AASA is following federal budget negotiations to see if a continuance resolution replacing the one expiring December 18, 2020 will be issued or whether there will be a brief government shutdown. Issues are not with the FY 2021 budget but rather with what an additional stimulus package might look like. Based on how AASA provides funding to the network, spending authorizations are in place through December 31, 2020, giving agencies the ability to continue to provide services without service disruption.
- Additional statement so grant awards will be issued to allow use of funds beyond December 31.
- Work being done at the state level on supplementals for current budget. FY 21 state funds have been issued and if there are funding changes after negotiations, Commissioners will be notified.
- AASA is engaged in early conversations for FY 2022 budget. These conversations are to assist with determining the State's Executive Budget for 2022. Commission advocacy will also be elevated in these conversations.

A preliminary report was shared and discussed to show final fiscal expenses for 2020. The report was provided to all Commissioners. Data in report shows expenses through October 2020, so information will change slightly at the end of December 2020.

Concerns for the coming months are direct care worker shortage and no interruption in service delivery.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door (NWD) System Grant – Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

Tari Muñoz, AASA grant manager, provided an overview stating the grant is to enhance the Aging and Disability Resource Collaborations to meet the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including mitigating social isolation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlueter to approve the Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door (NWD) System Grant – Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Michigan's COVID-19 No Wrong Door (NWD) System Grant – AAAs & Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

Tari Muñoz, AASA grant manager, provided an overview stating the grant will award seven AAAs and one CIL with funding to mitigate social isolation through Information & Referral, manage virtual ADRC access functions, develop or enhance innovative services, and deploy targeted care transition services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl to approve the Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Michigan's COVID-19 No Wrong Door (NWD) System Grant – AAAs & Centers for Independent Living (CIL). Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-1 with Commissioner LaTosch abstaining.

c. Request for Approval of Distribution of Fiscal Year 2021 Senior Center Wellness Grants

Sherri King, AASA Nutrition and Wellness Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the request stating AASA has reviewed proposals submitted by senior centers in accordance with the grant requirements described in Michigan Legislature under Section 1923 of Public Act 166 of 2020. A list of recommended awardees was provided to the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the Request for Approval of Distribution of Fiscal Year 2021 Senior Center Wellness Grants. Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-1 with Commissioner Wishart abstaining.

d. Request for Approval of SAC 2021 Research Charge

Commissioner Kristie Zamora, SAC Chair, facilitated conversation regarding recommended items for advocacy focus in 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve the SAC charge to produce a report for Aging in Place, to include refinement as research is developed. Commissioner Greenhut seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

e. Request to Allow the CSA, via Advocacy Committee representatives, to request an increase in state funding of up to \$7.5 million for the funding of non-Medicaid funded Home and Community-Based Services

Commissioner Kathleen LaTosch, Advocacy Committee Chair updated that the committee has reviewed recommendations from research on DCW shortages and waitlist reductions. While the population is projected to change, funding for these services has not increased. Adding in the pandemic, the situation becomes more dire. Representatives from the CSA Advocacy Committee are meeting with a representative from the Governor's Public Relations team to discuss and advocate for an increase in funding for non-Medicaid funded home and community-based services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve the Request to Allow the CSA, via Advocacy Committee representatives, to request an increase in state funding of up to \$7.5 million for the funding of non-Medicaid funded Home and Community-Based Services. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

f. Request to postpone Informational Items Senior Housing presentation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion overview presentation until the January 2021 CSA Meeting.

Commissioner Duncan moved to approve the Request to postpone Informational Items Senior Housing presentation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion overview presentation until the January 2021 CSA Meeting. Commissioner Strohl seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next *virtual* Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021. Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing technology assistance should contact Brenda Ross at rossb11@michigan.gov at least five days before the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Chair Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

DRAFT