

**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, June 19, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:02 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, Matthew Adeyanju, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Renee Cortright, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Robert Schlueter, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

**CSA MEMBER EXCUSED**

Marshall Greenhut

**AASA STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Tari Muñiz, Brenda Ross and Kelly Cooper

**APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA**

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda with the amendment of moving CSA Direct Care Workforce Work Team report from informational items to business items.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju to approve the agenda and Commissioner Bupp seconded motion. The agenda, as amended, was approved with roll call vote 13-0-0.

**APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES**

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the April 17, 2020, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve the minutes and Commissioner Adeyanju seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with roll call vote 13-0-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS**

Commissioner Chair Wishart welcomed all to the virtual meeting, thanking AASA staff for assistance in adjusting to a virtual platform. Chair Wishart provided the following updates:

- Expressed appreciation to AASA staff for updating Commissioner roster and for supporting applications for appointment and reappointments of Commissioners. It was noted that ultimately the decision for appointments lies within the Governor's office.

- The very special work of the Commission continues through the State Advisory Council, Advocacy Committee and Direct Care Workforce workgroup despite the ongoing pandemic.
- Work on the State Plan on Aging continues to move forward with assistance from MPHI and an update will be provided.
- As Michigan continues to stay safe at home, it is appreciated that the Commission is willing to use technology to remain connected and continue moving work forward.

### **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE REPORT**

Commissioner Zamora provided updates on the work of the SAC. Her written comments are included with the minutes.

Commission Chair Wishart requested the invitation to hear Renée Canady, PhD speak on equity at the SAC meeting be shared with Commissioners.

### **CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner LaTosch provided the following updates:

- In a February learning session, the Commission asked the Direct Care Workforce workgroup to make a few edits to their work. Those changes have been made and the Commission will be given the opportunity to approve.
- As a follow-up to discussions at the April meeting, the committee finalized a letter to the Governor addressing seniors' in-home needs during the pandemic, resources to support older adults, and services reaching the most vulnerable populations. The letter requested consideration of Senate Bill No. 690 which proposed to increase funding for direct care workers. Concerns were raised around the budget deficit and the effects on services to older adults. A special thank you was offered to Commission Chair Wishart and AASA staff who worked to assure the letter was disseminated in a timely manner.
- Commissioner Bomberg has been largely involved in the work of the Direct Care Workforce workgroup and has now been named an official member of the workgroup.

### **AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY REPORT**

Dr. Alexis Travis provided the following updates:

- Echoed appreciation to Commission Chair Wishart for her continued support of all the work of the Commission during these difficult times.
- Having regular calls with AAA directors to remain updated on COVID-19 mitigation. Recently, ACL Administrator Lance Robertson joined a call to thank the directors for their ongoing hard work. Michigan was also esteemed during ACL's national conference on aging for their work with food distribution and social isolation.
- Continuing to support the Q-box project, providing over 35,000 boxes to older adults. Also partnering with two Michigan vendors joining the USDA fresh food project and have distributed over 9,500 boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables weekly to older adults.
- Two concept papers have been submitted to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for special grant opportunities. Areas identified were improving quality of information services and adequate and timely Home- and Community-Based services.
- Prioritizing Dementia work and recently submitted application to CDC for core grant to establish public health workgroup around dementia.
- Consulting with other areas in department around COVID testing strategies in nursing homes, adult foster care facilities, homes for the aging, and Home- and Community-Based services. The focus is protecting individuals receiving care as well as the care providers.

- Exploring the use of technology within the aging networks. Currently working with ADvancing States with intention of joining their “ConnectToCareJobs” platform which will link job seekers to employers looking to hire direct care workers.
- Researching “CV19 Checkup”, a platform specifically designed for older adults. It will information captured can also assist AASA in determining hotspots within the state, allowing efficient resource provisions.
- AASA has issued several guidance documents since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Documents align with the Governor’s six-phased approach to reopening. Currently working with Medical Services Administration on case management reopening guidance as well as field services guidance to assure all care levels are in alignment.
- The department supports Senate Bill No. 690 and thanks the CSA Advocacy Committee and 4AM members for their support of the legislation.
- The Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee continues to meet and has established three additional workgroups that will focus on 1) Personal Protective Equipment, 2) Communication with race equity integration, and 3) Education and Credentialing.
- Continuing to lead the Independent Living Workgroup which meets in response to COVID-19. Awarded \$1.7 million to support the aging and disability resource centers. Older Adults Survey issued last week with a goal of determining experiences during the pandemic, identifying gaps, and use of the data to address needs in the event of a second wave of COVID.
- Working with the Governor’s office around the use of technology in reaching older adults through faith-based organizations. Exploring partnership to purchase tablets, hotspots, and cell phones and develop programs provided via the devices.
- Data dashboard has been released. Special thank you to Deputy Director, Scott Wamsley for his work on the project. Data specific to adults 60+ years of age as well as general population data is provided through dashboard.
- Current data in Michigan for COVID cases is:
  - 60,618 confirmed positive – 22,261 or 37 percent are adults 60+ years of age.
  - 5,818 deaths – 5,086 or 87 percent were adults 60+ years of age.
- Conducted individual calls with each AAA director to understand challenges from COVID in each region and offer support and solutions.
- In-person State Summit on Aging scheduled for October has been canceled. A one-and-a-half-hour virtual meeting to roll out the State Plan on Aging will be held the end of September or early October 2020.
- AASA staff continues to be on furlough and will not be in the office on Fridays through the end of July.
- Dr. Travis recently celebrated her one-year anniversary with AASA and shared the department’s accomplishments. A document highlighting the department’s work was provided and is included with minutes.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES. AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Dr. Alexis Travis, Senior Deputy Director, provided the following updates:

- Senate Bill No. 690 will appropriate a one-time amount of \$193.1 million to the department, funded through the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund. The department’s focus is on \$120 million for COVID-19 direct care worker hazard pay. An increase of \$2 per hour to begin July 1 and continue through September 30, 2020. Workers who qualify are DHHS employees, contractors, sub-contractors working in home health, behavioral health, Mi Choice and Mi Help. Also covered are direct care workers

employed by skilled nursing facilities, RNs, LPNs, nursing assistants, therapists, and workers employed by AAAs.

- An additional piece in the legislation is a \$25 million allocation for personal protective equipment grants for long-term care, dialysis, outpatient, dental, long-term acute hospital facilities, funeral services, and pharmacies.

Commissioner Duncan recommends sending a letter to the legislature offering a “thank you” for expanding the definition of Direct Care Worker to include area offices on aging.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATES**

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

- Because the second quarter has not ended, AASA will provide Period Ending June 30 expenditure report at the July meeting.
- With assistance from the AASA financial staff, Family Cares Act funds (\$32.9 million total), in the amount of \$7.6 million, have been issued to support congregate and home-delivered nutrition programs, and \$25.3 million, identified under the Older Americans Act, were used to support local level efforts for COVID-19 mitigation support.
- Guidance provided to AAAs on how to utilize the federal funding and transfer funding as needed.
- Webinars have been provided to AAA staff on reporting expenditure of the additional federal dollars received and the two-year spending window to continue to support older adults.
- AASA staff continues to work on the statewide single audit to ensure requirements are met.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Request for Approval of FY 2020 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant**

Tari Muñoz, AASA Grant Manager, provided an overview of the grant stating the Administration on Community Living awarded AASA funding of \$1.7 million from April 1 through September 30, 2020. The purpose of the grant is to enhance the Aging and Disability Resource Collaborations (ADRC) to meet needs of older adults and adults with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis. MPHI will participate in facilitation of a rapid assessment to identify workforce needs and service, as well as gaps in services. The grant will also support enhancing the Information and Referral process, capacity building for virtual management of ADRC access functions, mitigation of social isolation, and deployment of targeted care transition services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju for the request to approve FY 2020 Michigan COVID-19: No Wrong Door System Grant. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 14-0-0.

### **Request for Approval of FY 2020-2021 Senior Community Service Employment Program allocations.**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating this is authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act supporting part-time training opportunities for low-income older adults 55+. The program is established by the U.S. Department of Labor and does not allow for carryover of program funds. Therefore, this grant will come before the Commission each June for approval. Funding is based on previous year funding levels.

Request authority be given to the Deputy Director to adjust grantee awards by up to five percent based on final funding allotments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl for the request to approve FY 2020-2021 Senior Community Service Employment Program allocations. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

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

**Request for Approval of FY 2020 Developing Dementia Dexterity (DDD) Grant**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating purpose of the grant is to educate families, caregivers, and the public about dementia aging services for persons with dementia living at home. The awards are to provide education via virtual platforms. Programming at the local level has been significantly impacted by COVID-19, and as such, grantees are encouraged to move projects to virtual delivery.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan for the request to approve FY 2020 Developing Dementia Dexterity (DDD) grant. Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote 14-0-0.

**Request for Approval of FY 2020 Diversity in Dementia Care Project (DDC) Extension**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating it will award funds for increasing caregiver knowledge and skills among diverse dementia caregivers and increase dementia care issue awareness among communities. This is an additional extension by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund recognizing the impact COVID-19 has had on project participants.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adeyanju for the request to approve FY 2020 Diversity in Dementia Care Project (DDC) Extension. Commissioner Milton-Ramsey seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

**Request for Approval of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Funding, known as Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH in Michigan for Fiscal Year 2020**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an overview of the grant stating the funds will be used for the purchase of coupons by the Wise Woman/Wise Choices program for the food purchases and the administrative costs associated. Unredeemed coupon funds will remain in local accounts and are re-issued to the purchasing county to be re-distributed the following year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl for the request to approve of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Funding, known as Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH in Michigan for Fiscal Year 2020. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-1 with Commission Chair Wishart abstaining.

## **Request for Approval of recommendations of the CSA Direct Care Workforce Work Team Report**

Commissioner Adeyanju, provided an overview of the report, stating the workgroup considered the recommendations made by the Commission in February. The report was provided to Commissioners and is included with the minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp Request for the request to approve recommendations of the CSA Direct Care Workforce Work Team Report. Commissioner LaTosch seconded the motion.

Additional comments followed, and motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Senior Center Grant Awards**

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an update stating 79 of 82 grant applications for health programming purposes were approved by the Commission. The initial proposal period was extended due to COVID-19 when many grantees had their operations significantly impacted by the pandemic. Work is being done with grantees to implement virtual projects when possible. As the state continues to reopen, the goal is all funds be utilized by September 30, 2020 as these are state General Fund dollars.

### **State Plan on Aging process update**

Lauren LaPine and Julie Heany with MPHI gave an update on the work being done with AASA to develop the state plan. A power point presentation was used for the update and the document is included with the minutes.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next virtual Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2020 with a public hearing to follow at 1:00 p.m. Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact Brenda Ross at (517) 284-0146 at least five days before the meeting date.

## **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.