

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
MSU Federal Credit Union
4825 Mt Hope Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
Friday, November 15, 2019

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Zamora.

CSA ROLL CALL

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

CSA MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Renee Cortright, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Kathleen LaTosch, Peter Lichtenburg, Guillermo Lopez, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora

CSA MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Matthew Adeyanju, Stephen Franko, Marshall Greenhut

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Jen Hunt, Kelly Cooper, Christy Livingston, Michelle McGuire, Tari Muniz, Rachel Richards, Becky Payne, Lauren Swanson, and Danielle Trim

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Glen Ashlock, Gloria Kovnot, Jared Welehodsky, Jason Wilkes, and several other members of the community

APPROVAL OF CSA AGENDA

Commissioner Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Bupp to approve the agenda. Commissioner Crawford-Cambell seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MINUTES

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve October 18, 2019, CSA minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Duncan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cortright seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved with one amendment with a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

CSA CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Wishart welcomed commissioners and staff and stated she was looking forward to hearing more information on the audit later in the meeting. The audit reports give us the opportunity to review policies and procedures and to improve as we continue to strive for excellence.

Wishart would like to share with the commission that Commissioner Hall has turned in her resignation. Hall felt that her work schedule did not allow her to be fully committed to the commission. The appointments office is actively seeking a replacement and reviewing applications. Candidates from across the state are being considered. A selection should be made before the end of the year. When more information is available it will be shared with the commission.

The committees are continuing to do good work. Wishart is pleased to announce that Commissioner Crawford-Cambell has agreed to serve on the SAC Review Committee. The review committee is comprised of three to five commissioners that review applications and make recommendations for appointment to the SAC.

Looking ahead on the agenda, the commission will be hearing a request for approval of dates and locations for 2020-2022 commission meetings. Over the past several years there has been some tradition on where the meetings are held. Wishart would like to remind the commission that it is important that they travel across the state to ensure that they are representing all Michiganders. Each of the Area Agencies on Aging looks forward to hosting the commission and it provides an opportunity for the commission to get out into the community.

At the October meeting, Commissioner Duncan provided some information on elder abuse. As a follow up to that information, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, AASA Staff, was able to reach out to Region 11 UPCAP Services regarding their PSAs on elder abuse that were highlighted in the recent SAC report. Jon Mead, President, and CEO, Region 11, shared a link to view those videos. The commission will review them at the December meeting.

Wishart recently attended the Jewish Family Services Innovations in Aging Symposium in Washtenaw County. The goal of this symposium was to bring together experts in the field of aging and discuss issues relevant to serving older adults. Approximately 250 individuals from different industries came together to engage in the many sessions offered. Topics of interest included aging in place, health, and well-being, the role of caregivers, breaking down barriers of aging, isolation, and quality of life.

SAC CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Zamora updated the commission on the October 24, 2019, SAC meeting. The SAC celebrated the report being accepted and was looking forward to starting work on the new charge. Zamora shared immense gratitude to Lauren Swanson-Aprill, Kelly Cooper,

and Jen Hunt, AASA Staff members, for their help uploading the report to the website. The team also created an executive summary that shares a brief overview of the full report that can be distributed to partners. The summary will have a link to the full report. The commission will receive digital copies of both documents in the next week. AASA has requested that 1000 copies be printed. The distribution plan will be discussed at the next SAC meeting.

At the October SAC meeting, Commissioner Cortright was the guest commissioner. Cortright was impressed with the representation of the SAC stating that they were very diverse. Zamora reports that's the SAC meetings have had excellent attendance and participation showing that there is value and engagement in the work being done.

The new charge, Social Isolation, for the 2020 report was given out and the SAC members are diving into four workgroups. During the next month, they will begin to formulate their approach and start building the foundations of the report. Zamora shared with the SAC that this report should be written with an equity lens and ensure that all Michiganders are included.

The next in-person meeting of the SAC will be in March 2020 with workgroups meeting via phone monthly. Any information or resources the commission would like to share with the SAC should be sent to Lauren Swanson-Aprill and Commissioner Zamora.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner LaTosch welcomed and thanked the group for their time. LaTosch requested that Commissioner Bomberg provide a brief update on the Direct Care Workforce Committee. Bomberg shared that the group recently had a very engaging meeting with Elizabeth Gallagher, MDHHS Long-Term Care Services Division, regarding the MiChoice Waiver Program. This is a complex issue that the committee will continue to work on. Bomberg hopes to have more information to present to the commission after the new year.

Commissioner Duncan presented on behalf of the Elder Abuse Committee. At the October meeting, Duncan reported that the Elder Abuse workgroup has paused its work pending recommendation from the Attorney Generals task force. Once those recommendations are reported the group will reconvene and find how the commission can be of service.

LaTosch presented on the Waitlist committee. During the December CSA meeting, the group will provide an education session on in-home services. They have explored issues of funding and standardizing practices and procedures regarding who is on the waitlist for services.

These are complicated issues and the Advocacy Committee believes that their structure needs to change in order to elevate these concerns properly. LaTosch distributed a flyer that outlined the committee's new mission and vision statements. The Advocacy Committee will now focus to identify, highlight, and raise up critical issues and concerns facing seniors in Michigan. The committee's primary focus will be to elevate these issues to leadership with decision making power.

LaTosch is pleased to welcome Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Strohl to the committee. Commissioner Lopez will head the Direct Care Worker Shortage workgroup while Commissioner Strohl will serve at the lead for the Reducing Elder Abuse workgroup.

AASA SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Travis, AASA Senior Deputy Director, thanked Dr. Khaldun, Michigan's Chief Medical Executive, for providing a brief update MDHHS Health Update before the start of the commission meeting.

Michiganders are aging faster than residents of any other state. This means AASA faces both new challenges and opportunities. As people are living longer, we must be strategic and innovative in our work. As an agency, we must build upon our strengths to meet the needs of our diverse population and truly lead the Aging Network here in Michigan. Furthermore, we must align our work with our vision of helping older Michiganders thrive in place. As a result, AASA executive leadership evaluated the current structure and received initial approval to begin a reorganization to better align the agency with the MDHHS strategic plan. We will implement our structural change in two phases. Phase 1 will begin in Q2 (1/1/20) and Phase 2 will begin in Q3 (4/1/20).

AASA will have two Divisions under the leadership of Deputy Director Scott Wamsley. The Operations and Aging Network Support Division will activate in Phase 1. The Operations and Aging Network Division will have two sections: Financial Quality and Grant Support Section led by Amy Colletti and the Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Section. We anticipate the position of Operations and Aging Network Support Division Manager will be posted in early 2020.

In Phase 2 we will activate the Health Promotion and Policy Management Division. This Division will have two sections: Supportive Adult Services Section led by Cynthia Farrell and Health Promotion and Active Aging Section. Health Promotion and Active Aging will entail active engagement of community programs to support the well-being and quality of life of older adults and people living with disabilities. We anticipate the positions of Health Promotion and Policy Management Division Director, Health Promotion and Active Living Section Manager, and Executive Secretary will be posted in early 2020.

The State Summit on Aging planning has begun. Tentatively, the date is scheduled for October 15, 2020, to align with the CSA meeting. Several venues are being considered but the hope is the event will be held at the Lansing Center. Travis has begun to look at the structure of the summit and is planning to have a large general session room with several breakout sessions. AASA has requested MDHHS senior leadership to kick off the meeting.

Recently Dr. Travis, Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, and Cynthia Farrell, Supportive Adult Services Section Manager, have met with the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) to talk about a possible funding opportunity. DHSP would like to collaborate to provide services to the older population living with HIV. They have asked AASA to apply for a grant that would fund home-delivered meals, specifically, to older Michiganders living with HIV. Also, included in the funding would be the creation of a peer support group that would partner people living

with HIV. These funds are provided via the Ryan White Rebate dollars and at this time there is no reward ceiling. The application is due on November 27, 2019. If the application is accepted the funding will be awarded in March of 2020. The pilot for this program will begin in the Detroit area in conjunction with Region 1A, Detroit Area on Aging, and in Region 6, Tri-County Office on Aging.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Jen Hunt, AASA Staff, reported on a meeting provided by 4AM regarding older adult needs and solution assessment data that was presented to Children, Families, Seniors Committee in the House. There is great interest from the committee in the report and the presentation sparked a robust discussion around the important role senior centers play in the community.

There were several bills introduced over the past week that AASA is following closely. Hunt has not had the opportunity to fully analyze but does have some questions into MDHHS for additional clarification. Once she has received more information from MDHHS Hunt will provide a detailed analysis of the commission.

Hunt and Dr. Travis met with the Silver Key coalition to learn more about the coalition and discuss waitlist numbers. The Silver Key Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations working to support older adults and adults with a disability to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible. They advised Silver Key to meet with Governor Whitmer's office since they have not done that yet.

Starting in December look for a new communications plan coming from Hunt. She will create press releases for each CSA meeting, as well as Facebook events. Hunt requests the commissioners help in growing the AASA Facebook following by liking the Aging and Adult Services Facebook page. She has a request in with the MDHHS Communications office to establish Twitter and YouTube accounts for AASA as well.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The current approved AASA budget for FY 2020 is largely flat-funded at FY 2019 levels. The legislative conference committee did recommend a \$101,000 reduction to the Community Services line item. The Governor restored \$99,800 of this reduction through a transfer process by action of the State Administrative Board.

A handout was given to the commissioners detailing FY 2019 expenditure levels for AASA grant programs through September 30, 2019. AASA anticipates presenting final expenditure levels for FY 2019 grants and services at the December 20, 2019, CSA meeting.

OAG Performance Audit Report

Scott Wamsley, Deputy Director, reported on the audit finding from the Office of the Auditor General. AASA is in process to identify the solutions and responses to the Office of Auditor General Performance Audit Report dated October 2019. AASA has issued Transmittal Letter #2020-396 to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on a required Subrecipient Monitoring Documentation. The AAA has been instructed to retain subcontractor assessment file backup

documentation for seven years and also lists out the types of documentation that should be included.

AASA has drafted a transmittal letter responding to an additional finding which addresses ensuring AAA's staff receive required annual in-service training and guidance on the services being relevant and sufficient in relation to training topics that coincide with AASA goals. We plan to issue the transmittal letter within the next week.

AASA had a meeting to address the solution for covering the annual AAA Programmatic Assessment having adequate document review procedures that support the field representatives' conclusions. They are in process of formulating appropriate changes to the online AAA assessment form and building in validation so that no entry area may be left blank.

Audits are routine and often used to gauge the efficiencies of the agencies. This overall finding of the OAG was low risk and this is considered a normal audit.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Request for Approval of 2020 - 2022 CSA Meeting Dates/Locations

Danielle Trim, AASA Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary, requested the Commission's approval for 2020-2022 CSA Meeting Dates and locations.

The CSA holds four-yearly public hearings, with one held in April during the CSA/SAC joint meeting. Some suggested locations for meeting and public hearings are Wayne County and Senior Alliance Center; Grand Rapids and Region 8 Area Agency on Aging. Respective AAA's have been contacted and asked to host or to suggest other local aging network partners that could host these meetings.

A motion was made by Commission Strohl to approve 2020 - 2022 CSA Meeting Dates/Locations as presented. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed, and this motion was approved with a voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Opioids and Older Adults

Jared Welehodsky, Departmental Analyst, Policy & Strategic Initiatives Section, presented on opioids and older adults. Welehodsky reported, that in 2019, the Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (OROSC) within MDHHS launched the Older Adult Wellbeing Initiative to engage partners from senior-serving and behavioral health serving agencies. This includes the Aging and Adult Services Agency, PIHPs, and MSU-Extension. They have begun conducting a Needs Assessment of the older adult population in hopes of producing a Strategic Plan for reducing substance misuse amongst older adults. The Michigan Older Adult Wellbeing Initiative is in the final stages. The report will be published on the Office of Recovery Oriented System of Care website.

Assistive Technology

Glen Ashlock, Assistive Technology and IT Manager, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging, provided training and information on the use of assistive technology. Assistive Technology (AT) helps maintain or improve the ability of people with disabilities and older adults to be full participants in everyday life. Ashlock informed the commissioner that Region 2 provides demonstrations for qualified individuals on lower-cost items for everyday living, including devices for cooking, bathing, grooming, dressing, and other daily activities.

State Plan on Aging

Julia Heany, PhD, Program Director, Center for Healthy Communities, Michigan Public Health Institute, shared with the commission the plan for the creation of the State Plan on Aging. Heany hopes the plan will continue to build the capacity of Michigan's aging network to deliver services in a person-centered, cost-effective way that best meets people's needs. The plan is due on July 1, 2020, and must include an executive summary, goals and objectives, strategies for achieving those goals, and the expected outcomes. AASA has chosen to construct a 4-year plan that will build on Area Agency on Aging Plans and support AAA's future planning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 2019, at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 333 S. Grand Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing accommodations to attend should contact AASA at (517) 241-4100 at least five (5) days before the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:14 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING AND DEBRIEFING WORKING LUNCH TO FOLLOW.