

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING and
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING**

Office of Services to the Aging, Lansing

April 17, 2009

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed everyone, including members of the State Advisory Council (SAC). Chairperson Kennedy announced that Commission Leung has resigned due to family caregiving needs, thanked him for his commitment and wished him well.

Chairperson Kennedy asked that all Commissioners stand, introduce themselves and state where they are from for the benefit of SAC members in attendance. As the SAC roll call was conducted, members also stood and introduced themselves for the benefit of the Commissioners.

Chairperson Kennedy recognized the SAC as the eyes and ears of the Commission. She also noted that the work of the Advisory Council is critical to the success of the Commission, as it advocates for and identifies strategies that can be implemented to address important issues of concern for older adults and their caregivers in Michigan.

GATEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairperson Kennedy stated that since 1987 Consumers Energy has sponsored the Gatekeeper Program. Chairperson Kennedy announced that the Commission on Services to the Aging was pleased to have representatives from Consumers Energy present today to help honor Ms. Norma Horny, recipient of the 2008 Gatekeeper of the Year award. Chairperson Kennedy noted that Ms. Horny went above and beyond the call of duty.

Each month OSA selects one Consumers Energy employee as Gatekeeper-of-the-Month based on nominations received by the company. One of the monthly winners is then honored as Gatekeeper of the Year. Chairperson Kennedy stated the partnership with Consumers Energy has now extended beyond OSA to area agencies and service providers. Chairperson Kennedy thanked Consumers Energy on behalf of the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) for their commitment to the Gatekeeper Program.

Chairperson Kennedy introduced Debra Harmon, Corporate Customer Assistance Advocacy Manager: Regulatory Affairs, Battle Creek. Ms. Harmon gave a brief history of the Gatekeeper program and noted that to date there have been a total of 5,016 referrals from the Gatekeeper Program.

Ms. Harmon introduced Ms. Horny who talked about how she was able to assist a customer in need while still in training with Consumers Energy. Ms. Horny also stated how honored and happy she is that she was able to make an impact in someone's life.

Ms. Harmon also introduced other Consumers Energy staff and each talked about their role with the Gatekeeper Program. Staff present were; Mr. Stephan Kusterer, Call Center Manager, Customer Service Department Saginaw, Mr. Chad Hughes, Team Leader, Customer Service Department Saginaw, Julia Morales, Client Lead, Regulatory Affairs Department Lansing, Susan Suchecki, Senior Customer Service Representative Consumer Affairs Department Lansing, Fordine Williams Administrative Specialist II, Consumer Affairs Department Jackson, and Yvette Lanier, Photographer/Writer, Communications Department Jackson.

Chairperson Kennedy presented Ms. Horny with a letter from the Governor, along with a Certificate of Appreciation. Director Gire presented Ms. Horny with a plaque for her outstanding performance, commitment, and dedication for her work in making a difference in the lives of Michigan seniors.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Joan Budden

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Vear, Vicente Castellanos, Lawrence Chadzynski, Nadine Fish, Lynn Grim, Carrie Harnish, Lois Hitchcock, Fred Leuck, Harold Mast, Julie McCarthy, Pamela McKenna, Cynthia Paul, Gene Pisha, Gail Ringelberg, Michael Sheehan, Clyde Sheltroun, Dean Sullivan, Louise Thomas, Tomasa Velasquez, Cheryl Waites, Edna Walker, Nancy Waters, and Ginny Wood-Bailey

STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Kelli Boyd, Marci Cameron, Hope Figgis, Eleanore Flowers, Linda Gemi, Viola Johnson, Charles Ortiz, John Pedit, Alice Snyder, and Susan Wideman

STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT

David Ellens, Doree Ann Espiritu, Judy Karandjeff, Henry Shaft, Irene Smith, Roger Williams, Paul Wingate, and Karen Young

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Sheri King, Michelle Gould-Rice, Sarah Slocum, Holliace Spencer, Sally Steiner, and Scott Wamsley

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Robyn Ford, Anne Holmes Davis, Jane Scandary, Dona Wishart, Debra Harmon, Chad Hughes, Norma Horny, Susan Suchecki, Fordine Williams, Yvette Lanier, Julia Morales, Stephan Kusterer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Bieber seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion was made and approved with no corrections.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged the State Advisory Council members to stay and attend the public hearing. Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- FY 2010 State Budget
- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) available for nutrition services in Michigan, which will be discussed in detail by Sherri King, OSA staff
- DTE kick off of new Gatekeeper Program next Friday.

Director Gire stated she received a letter addressed to the CSA requesting Commission support of continuation of funding for the Single Points of Entry (SPE) demonstration program in FY 2010. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati to support adoption of a resolution for continued funding of the SPEs in FY 2010 stating that such action would allow sufficient time to study the benefits of this demonstration initiative. Commission approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Rau stated that he had met with representatives of the Michigan Association of Area Agencies on Aging to discuss the SPEs. Commissioner Rau indicated that while the Association supported continued funding of the SPEs in FY

2010, there was concerns about the costs associated with SPEs conducting Level of Care (LOC) determinations for both nursing facility and community-based long term care programs. Commissioner Rau indicated the time spent conducting the LOCs reduced the time available for options counseling for older adults and their caregivers. Although Commissioner Rau indicated his full support for continued funding, he stressed the importance of paying attention to the detail of how SPEs functions are carried out in the future.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Nutrition for Older Americans Grants to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

Sherri King, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of funding for ARRA grants to area agencies on aging for congregate and home-delivered nutrition services for the period of March 17, 2009 to September 30, 2010. Ms. King noted the funding allocations were determined through application of the intrastate funding formula approved for distribution of Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III funds. Ms. King explained the differences between traditional Title III-C: Nutrition Funding and ARRA funding. Ms. King also provided the funding amounts that each area agency would be receiving.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the ARRA Grants as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Dementia Caregiver Master Trainer Certification Committee

Sally Steiner, OSA staff discussed in detail the Dementia Caregiver Master Trainer Certification Project and asked that a committee be formed to review all applications. Chairperson Kennedy asked for volunteers from both the Commission and the SAC. Commissioners Wilson and Gardner volunteered from the Commission and Cynthia Paul volunteered from the SAC.

State Advisory Council (SAC) Interim Report

Commissioner Pawelski, Chair of SAC, provided a summary of the work accomplished by the SAC in the past two years. Commissioner Pawelski stated that 2008-2009 provided many challenges given the fiscal constraints imposed on SAC operations resulting from State's economic situation. As a result, the SAC meetings continued to conduct a majority of its meetings by conference call.

Commissioner Pawelski noted the Interim Report was named "Senior Centers: Now and in the Future". Commission Pawelski reiterated the role that senior centers play in the community. State Advisory Council members, Terry Vear, Harold Mask, Cynthia Paul, and Edna Walker summarized the interim report for the Commission.

Ms. Vear discussed the issue the diversity in Michigan's senior centers stating there is no one definition that defines senior centers in the state. She stated that all senior centers are unique in their own right and have learned that the name of the senior center also plays a role in attendance. Ms. Vear provided a number of examples that supported the premise that how senior centers are identified influences who attends.

Cynthia Paul spoke to the Commission regarding the recommendation to develop a toolkit for senior centers in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Senior Centers. She noted the tool kit, both web-based and hard copy, would provide information, resources and contacts to assist senior center directors in strategic planning to assess community needs, obtain funding, and offer programs of interest that would increase participation. She noted the tool kit could also provide links to national and Michigan resources that would be available to all senior centers.

Mr. Mask discussed the urban side of senior centers and the decline of membership. He stated that since many senior centers are associated with strong non-profit agencies additional opportunities are available to serve and connect older adults with other community services such as the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program. Mr. Mask also noted that funding is a primary concern for senior centers. Without funds the senior centers are unable to offer a variety of activities that promote memberships.

Edna Walker discussed wellness activities within senior centers and the importance of programs such as the Evidence Based Disease Prevention Programs (EBDP). She stated that EBDP has been shown to make an impact on an individual's well-being, quality of life, and interaction with the medical care system. Ms. Walker also noted that wellness should be included as a major component of all senior centers.

As a result of the information shared, SAC members identified the important functions of senior centers as; socialization, services, information, advocacy and support.

The Commission thanked the SAC for a great report and their continued involvement in addressing the needs and interests of older adults in Michigan.

2008 Michigan Aging Information System NAPIS Client and Service Report

Scott Wamsley, OSA staff, presented the 2008 NAPIS Client and Service Summary Report. This report reflects an analysis of the 2008 programmatic data submitted by OSA to the Administration on Aging. Mr. Wamsley stated his report reflects information on services provided through the Older Americans Act, as well as, state and local resources that support those programs. However, the report does not include all services supported by OSA and the aging network. Mr. Wamsley also noted he has included information on waiting lists maintained by the aging network that have

increased significantly as resources become limited and demand increases. Mr. Wamsley summarized his report to show how many clients were served, services provided and the cost associated with those services during 2008.

Mr. Wamsley stated the development of NAPIS is crucial to OSA's effort to create secure information systems that support informed decision-making and effective service delivery. A comprehensive profile of clients and services helps program planners at the state and local level ensure that services reflect need and provide maximum benefit. This supports OSA's focus on keeping older adults and caregivers healthier longer while maintaining a comprehensive network of services to support independence and allows individuals to receive services in the setting of their choice.

Discussion followed on the ways in which OSA uses the NAPIS data to plan and improve services. Commissioners thanked Mr. Wamsley for his very informative and insightful report. Mr. Wamsley also noted that he would be available to assist individual AAAs or local counties upon request.

Other

Chairperson Kennedy announced the 2009 Senior Citizen of the Year Award applications are now available and asked the Commission to assist in promoting this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following today's meeting a public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2009 at Region VII Area Agency on Aging, Bay City. A public hearing is also scheduled from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Newport and seconded by Commissioner Verma. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.