

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
Michigan Conference Room
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing

April 15, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerutha Kennedy, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary P. Gardner, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Valerie Lafferty, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Michael Sheehan, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson and James Wright.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Owen Bieber and Joan Budden.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None.

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Peggy Brey, Carol Dye, Bonnie Graham, Lynne McCollum, Sarah Slocum and Wendi Middleton.

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Lynn Coursey of St. Joseph Co. COA, Laurie Sauer, Executive Director, Region 9 AAA, and Mary Charley of the SEIU Local 517M in Lansing.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the February 18, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion to approve the February 18, 2011 minutes was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the March 18, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 18, 2011 minutes was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OSA ACTING DIRECTOR REPORT

Commissioner Kennedy introduced Department of Community Health Director, and OSA's Acting Director, Olga Dazzo, and asked her for her report.

Director Dazzo stated she would discuss DCH's strategic priorities, the appointment of OSA's new director and expectations over the first 90 days, and asked what other issues the Commissioners would like her to address.

Commissioners Verma and Bollinger asked for information on the candidate for the Director appointment; Commissioner Rau asked about OSA's autonomy; and Commissioner Kennedy asked about OSA's proposed budget and how it might affect the work they are doing, and its impact on policies and guidelines.

Director Dazzo stated the OSA Director candidate is a young lady who is very familiar with the Legislative process, is connected quite well to the Governor's office and the Legislature, and has a passion for the elderly and gerontology. She is currently going through a review process, but has not yet accepted the appointment.

Director Dazzo stated OSA is still an autonomous agency under Governor Snyder's administration, and nothing has changed in that regard. She would like to see more collaboration with DCH to help lift and move OSA forward.

Director Dazzo stated DCH has budget proposals from the Senate and the House, and negotiations will begin to determine how to best go forward, noting the impact on OSA will then be determined.

Additional discussion on the proposed budget followed.

Deputy Director Brey stated the Volunteer Program will see a 15 percent reduction that will affect services like meals on wheels, respite, and caregiver programs.

Commissioner Rau stated it would be helpful to get a break down so Commissioners have a clearer picture when discussing budget issues.

Director Brey stated she will provide that.

Director Dazzo stated some expectations of the new director will be to include updating OSA's three-year strategic plan to incorporate Governor Snyder's new direction and vision related to wellness, as well as any new issues as they come up.

Director Dazzo asked what other issues the Commission might like to consider putting into the plan, noting as it is updated, she'd like it brought to the Commission each month to ensure the plan is being implemented. She'd also like OSA's financials brought to the Commission each month so there's full understanding and transparency on where the funding comes from and how it's being implemented. Finally, she'd like to see the director get to know the Commissioners well, and meet and greet those stakeholders in the aging network, both here and in Washington.

Director Dazzo provided a handout and reviewed DCH's strategic priorities.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of 2011-2012 MMAP Award Increase

Lynne McCollum, OSA staff, requested approval of 2011-2012 MMAP award increase.

Ms. McCollum stated OSA received additional funding in the amount of \$112,247 to MMAP, Inc. for operation of the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services intended to educate and provide outreach to Medicare beneficiaries, with a focus on Medicare Part D enrollment, health promotion and low income subsidy enrollment. OSA allocates these funds to MMAP, Inc., as the State Health Insurance Program, for implementation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Verma to approve the 2011-2012 MMAP award increase as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Verma asked for a breakdown of this award, and requested all future requests for approval of funding allocations contain more detail on how it will be spent.

Ms. McCollum stated the award was based on OSA's grant submission detailing how the funding would be allocated, and she will provide that to the Commission.

Ms. Brey stated all future requests for funding allocation approvals will include a breakdown of how funds will be spent.

Additional discussion followed and the Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of Long Term Care Ombudsman Agency Designation and Individual Certification Policies

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested approval of Long Term Care Ombudsman Agency Designation and Individual Certification Policies.

Ms. Slocum provided a detailed overview of the Designation of Local Ombudsman Program Provider and Certification of Long Term Care Ombudsman policies, resulting from a two-year process, including input from key stakeholders, and a formal comment process. Ms. Slocum stated the need to establish these policies was based on

requirements of federal and state laws to designate agencies and certify individuals who serve in the long term care ombudsman program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the Long Term Care Ombudsman Agency Designation and Individual Certification Policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Bollinger asked the policy be amended related to criminal background checks, to include a comprehensive clarification plan for what's acceptable, in addition to abuse against elders who are vulnerable.

Ms. Slocum said the policy can be amended to encompass this change.

Additional discussion followed and the Commission approved with a 12-0-1 vote, with the understanding that Ms. Slocum would return to the Commission with the language amended in the policy to clarify other unacceptable crimes in background checks.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

None

2011 State Plan Public Hearings

Discussion regarding the scheduling and location of required public hearings in 2011 was led by Bonnie Graham, OSA Staff.

Ms. Graham proposed to the Commission that a two-year plan for the State Plan Public Hearings be brought to next month's meeting for review and approval for 2011-2012.

Ms. Dazzo requested the U.P. be included as one of the locations.

The Commissioners agreed to review the proposed plan at next month's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wilson stated she was at the Leaps and Bounds annual meeting in Warren where Commissioner Kennedy was honored for her community service.

Commissioner Wilson stated in her local community of Macomb County, they hold an event called traveling tourist where they visit different facilities. She visited the Area Agency on Aging and was amazed at all the services provided in her community.

Commissioner Wilson visited the Wayne State University Library, which has become a research facility, and one of the computers there was designated specifically to grants and how to access them.

Commissioner Wilson stated in her travels to the thumb region of Michigan, she came across a newsletter in a coffee shop and she found an article on a Creating Confident Caregiver class in Imlay City, one of our own.

Commissioner Johnston-Calati asked if those Commissioners whose appointments are expiring in July should reapply.

Director Brey stated she would find out and let the Commissioners know.

Commissioner Rau handed out a draft breakdown of the grants OSA received to the Commissioners, noting he found it very useful and helpful. He stated OSA sought and received \$65 million in grant awards over the past three years for the state of Michigan.

Commissioner Bollinger introduced Mary Charlie, the newly appointed SEIU retiree chairperson who will be working with retirees, while trying to recruit more volunteers.

Commissioner Sheehan announced there will be two senior events in Traverse City: the Senior Expo that attracts nearly 6,000 attendees, to be held on Wednesday, April 20th that he MC's, and in the first week of May, there will be a senior citizen Spelling Bee team event, and he will be the "Bee Master."

Commissioner Verma stated that in his third term with the Commission, and in his forty years of experience, he found OSA has the best staff he's worked with.

Commissioner Verma asked all future Commission paperwork be printed double-sided in an effort to save money.

Commissioner Newport stated upon his return from China, at the next Commission meeting, he will provide an overview on a country that has more aging and long term care needs for more people.

Ms. McCollum stated she was at a recent Elder Law of Michigan event where Commissioner Kennedy was honored with an award for her community service.

Commissioner Pawelski confirmed Commissioner Sheehan's participation on the State Advisory Council conference call.

Commissioner Kennedy stated the next meeting of the State Advisory Council meeting will be held via conference call on April 21, at 9:30 A.M. She thanked them for the information they share that highlight the needs of seniors across the state.

Commissioner Kennedy stated the next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 20, 2011, at the Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center located at 7501 W. Saginaw in Lansing.

Director Dazzo acknowledged the Commissioners as great leaders and looks forward to working with them, noting she is available if they want to talk with her.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:18 P.M.