

**ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION AND  
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

**Ramada Hotel & Conference Center**

7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

June 18, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She reaffirmed the role of the Commission as visible and vocal advocates for seniors in the state of Michigan. She welcomed the State Advisory Council (SAC) and reaffirmed their role as well. She extended her appreciation to the SAC for their services, helpfulness and advocacy to the Commission. The welcome was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Mary P. Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Valerie Lafferty, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Kathleen Johnston Calati.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None.

**STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Anthony Pawelski, Chair, Regina Allen, Michael Bartus, Kellie Boyd, David Ellens, Eleanore Flowers, Fred Leuck, Harold Mast, Pamela McKenna, Cynthia Paul, John Pedit, Gene Pisha, Michael Sheehan, Alice Snyder, Dean Sullivan, Louise Thomas, Terry Vear, Kathleen Williams-Newell and Ginny Wood-Bailey.

**STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Vincente Castellanos, Lawrence Chadzynski, Nadine Fish, Lynn Grim, Carrie Harnish, Kenneth McGuire and Gail Ringleberg.

**STATE ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT**

Marci Cameron, Hope Figgis, Lois Hitchcock, Viola Johnson, Judy Karandjeff, Julie McCarthy, Denise Mitchell, Charles Ortiz, Clyde Sheltroun, Tomasa Valasquez, Cheryl Waites, Nancy Waters and Roger Williams.

**OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT**

Sharon Gire, Peggy Brey, Carol Dye, Bonnie Graham, Wendi Middleton, Laura McMurtry, Carol Stangel, Sally Steiner, and Scott Wamsley.

### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Bob Cochran introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Cass County Council on Aging, and President of the Michigan Director's of Services to the Aging (MDSA). His MDSA organization represents forty-three, mostly county-wide, service providers across Michigan, who came to observe.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Rau made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Verma seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2010 meeting. Terry Vear seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- ❖ Director Gire reiterated the events she'd participated in over this past month. Many Area Agencies on Aging held their annual meetings. Director Gire attended Region 2's Annual meeting and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event; Presbyterian Villages of Michigan's senior apartment complex grand opening and groundbreaking ceremonies; a three-city tour in support of Calhoun County's senior tax millage renewal campaign; a nationwide AARP Webinar on seniors and hunger; Older Michiganian's Day at the State Capitol occurred the prior week, with over 600 older adults who came and participated in the event, which also hosted the Senior Citizen of the Year Awards and legislative visits.
- ❖ Hollice Spencer, OSA's Community Services Director, has been temporarily assigned to develop a strategic economic development plan, which will include conferences and trainings. He and his team are working on a blueprint that will assist the AAAs and others in solutions for possible alternative funding opportunities for services to older adults.
- ❖ Director Gire discussed the State budget. It's still in limbo and budget committee discussions continue on the \$243 million deficit identified in the current fiscal year. The budget conference committee has been named, which includes Representatives Cushingberry, McDowell and Green from the House, and Senators Kahn, Pappageorge and Cherry from the Senate. The director noted that if anyone is interested in budget advocacy efforts, these are the State Legislators to contact.
- ❖ Director Gire discussed the \$250 refund that started last week for those on Medicare who reach the "donut hole." Beginning in 2011, drugs will be gradually

discounted for enrollees affected by the “doughnut hole” until 2020, which will effectively close the donut hole. An AARP informational fact sheet was distributed. Director Gire discussed a conference call/ brainstorming session that included Bob Cochrane from MDSA, AARP, Elder Law, MMAP and several OSA staff to discuss ways to get the word out on Donut Hole scams and she asked the Commissioners to please get the word out as well.

- ❖ Director Gire noted a critical concern with the donut hole refunds are scams where recipients are being contacted and asked for personal information, including social security numbers, bank account number, etc. Please spread the word that nothing needs to be done to receive the refund.
- ❖ Director Gire asked Sally Steiner, OSA staff, to provide a brief overview/update of the nine elder friendly community bills in the Senate Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee and seven elder abuse task force bills that were reported out of the House Senior Health, Security and Retirement Committee. OSA is lead agency on the EATF bills and two of the bills also passed the House.
- ❖ Director Gire asked Peggy Brey, OSA Deputy Director, to provide an update on OSA’s application of several new grants. Ms. Brey stated that there is \$60 million available nationwide for four grants from the Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Through this Affordable Care Act grant program for states and local aging and disability programs will receive funds to:
  - provide outreach and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries on their Medicare benefits including prevention;
  - Use additional funds through a competitive process to provide Options counseling on health and long-term care through ADRCs;
  - use additional funds through a competitive process to strengthen the ADRC’s role in Money Follows the Person program and support state Medicaid agencies as they transition individual from nursing homes to community-based care; and
  - coordinate and continue to embed tested Care Transition models that integrate the medical and social services systems to help older individuals with disabilities remain in their own homes and communities after a hospital, rehabilitation or skilled nursing facility visit.
- ❖ Director Gire asked Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, to address a grant her division is working on. Ms. Middleton stated that OSA will apply for an extension of the ADSSP expansion grant, which would allow us to expand the Creating Confident Caregivers program to the AAA regions that currently don’t have it. The AAAs who currently have it indicated they are happy with the results.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Program Year (PY) 2010/2011 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of PY 2010/2011 SCSEP Allocations.

Ms. McMurtry stated the SCSEP allocations authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act provides part-time employment and training opportunities for low income adults, 55 and older at community service agencies. The proposed PY 2010/2011

entered employment goal is to transition at least 36.4 percent of participants into unsubsidized employment. The US Department of Labor issued planning figures used to develop each subgrantee's award. Ms. McMurtry provided a table showing recommended subgrantees, counties, number of authorized positions and grant amounts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the PY 2010/2011 SCSEP Allocations Program as presented. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed on how grant funds are disseminated to this program, administrative costs associated with this program, and on fund distribution formulas used to calculate the awards.

### **Approval of FY 2010 Grant to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition for Aging and Disability Resource Centers**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of a FY 2010 Grant to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) for Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Ms. Graham gave an overview of the request for an \$80,000 grant to the MDRC related to the development of aging and disability resource centers in Michigan. There are a number of activities supported by the grant identified in the approved grant application by the Administration on Aging, but the majority of the funding will be to support both the involvement of consumers in state level activities and local partnership activities. The grant supports consumer involvement and those people who benefit from the services provided, and to ensure people with disabilities are able to participate, along with older adults. The grant will also support travel expenses for local partners who are non-state employees, but involved at the state level in the development of the local partnerships to ensure there are no barriers to those who might not otherwise have access or resources for transportation to do the work associated with the grant. It will support the workgroup effort to develop external advocate functions, as identified by the Long Term Care taskforce, to ensure there are similar long term care ombudsman services available to people who are receiving those services in the community as there are now for those who reside in licensed and nursing facilities. Resources will also be available to local partnerships for consultants, mediators, and support at the local level. One final important piece of the grant is to provide regional trainings on cultural competency.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the FY 2010 Grant to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition for Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed related to future plans and the development and expansion of Aging and Disability Resource Centers be made available statewide in five years.

### **Approval of the FY 2011-2013 State Plan**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011-2013 State Plan.

Ms. Graham presented the final version of the FY 2011-2013 State Plan. A draft Plan was presented to the Commission last month. As well, the Plan was posted on OSA's website and was made available to a large number of people in the network for review and comment. Ms. Graham stated that she received several changes and she handed out a chart reflecting all those changes, which have been incorporated into the Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011-2013 State Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Discussion followed related to cultural diversity being included in the Plan and the Commissioners extended their thanks for all the hard work that went into the Plan.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that she received a letter from the Grand Rapids Housing Commission related to a workshop on cultural diversity that Neelam Puri, OSA staff gave, which was very complimentary.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENT**

### **State Advisory Council (SAC) Report**

Commissioner/Council Member and Chair Pawelski presented the SAC report and introduced four council members to highlight the report.

Commissioner Pawelski asked Mike Sheehan, Council member, to come forward and address the Commission.

Mr. Sheehan discussed the difficulties surrounding those who must care for loved ones with dementia. He stated there are an estimated 24 million people who suffer from dementia world wide, and unless there's a major medical breakthrough, in 30 years that number will grow to 84 million, and in each case, there's a caregiver. Mr. Sheehan gave two real life stories of those dealing with dementia.

Commissioner Pawelski asked Gene Pisha, Council member, to come forward and address the Commission.

Mr. Pisha stated that in spite of the many loses in the support services system, there are still a few Alzheimer's, Dementia and Caregiver programs. They are currently funded by federal mental health funds, and other federal public funds, pending more secure funding. Mr. Pisha stated that the Alzheimer's Association estimates that 1 in 8 people age 65 and over have Alzheimer's disease; a number expected to reach 7.7 million people nationally by 2030. Michigan is expected to have a 12 percent increase in people with Alzheimer's disease from year 2000 to 2025, so it is important that the aging network be ready to respond to the needs of persons with dementia and their family caregivers.

Commissioner Pawelski asked Harold Mast, Council member, to come forward and address the Commission.

Mr. Mast discussed the importance of appropriate supports and services to enhance the lives of persons with dementia and their caregivers and to make efforts to keep them in their communities longer with trained staff. Mr. Mast stated that the SAC recommends staff of all Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) become dementia competent. The three actions they recommend to accomplish this are:

- to include projects funded by Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) beginning with the 2011-2013 State Plan to the Administration on Aging;
- require AAAs participate in all ADSSP projects to include project activities in their annual implementation plan as a program development activity; and
- expand and sustain the dementia caregiver projects to reach more caregivers of persons with dementia through additional ADSSP grants.

Commissioner Pawelski asked Cynthia Paul, Council member, to come forward and address the Commission.

Ms. Paul discussed studies and research related to brain fitness, in that learning something new and different, as well as physical cardiovascular exercise, were very effective in expanding neuroplasticity within the brain. Ms. Paul also stated that while the National Institutes of Health warned people that exercising, staying mentally active and watching their diets were not proven to prevent Alzheimer's disease or other forms of mental decline, the Council, like some researchers, felt optimistic that these activities were likely to contribute to health and well-being. Ms. Paul distributed brain fitness educational materials and resources.

Commissioner Pawelski recommended the next report focus on baby boomers.

The Commissioners extended their appreciation to the Council for all their caring efforts and hard work on this report.

Commissioner Pawelski made a motion to accept the SAC report. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a voice vote.

### **FY 2009 National Aging Programs Information System (NAPIS) Participant & Service Report**

Scott Wamsley, OSA staff, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2009 NAPIS Participant & Service Report. Mr. Wamsley reviewed the NAPIS report, which contains data on older adults we served in 2009 with registered services, as required by the Administration on Aging and Older American's Act. The NAPIS report data is provided to our Commission, AAA's, service providers and the public, and is analyzed for program planning purposes, and to meet reporting obligations. More importantly, the data is used to understand who we serve and how we serve them.

A brief discussion followed related to breaking the numbers down further by nationality, which, at this time, is not done.

**Other**  
None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Kennedy announced that Elder Law of Michigan is hosting an event on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 - 9:00 PM at the East Lansing Marriott to benefit the Ingham County TRIAD. Regina Allen has more information and tickets available for purchase.

The next meeting of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging will be held on July 16, 2010, at 10:00 A.M. via conference call at the Office of Services to the Aging Large Conference Room, 300 E. Michigan Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in Lansing. Public wishing to attend can do so and are asked to call Carol Dye at (517) 373-8268.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Verma. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. The Commission approved the motion unanimously by voice vote. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:16 P.M.