

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Detroit

March 20, 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, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for hosting today's meeting and public hearing. A special thank you was extended to Commissioner Budden for making this happen.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, and Janice Wilson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Chun-Keung Leung, Anthony Pawelski, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Laura McMurtry, Neelam Puri, Sarah Slocum, and Holliace Spencer

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Jim McGuire, Angela Willis, Frances Adams, and Sara Gleicher

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Bollinger made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

Jim McGuire from Area Agency on Aging 1-B was unable to attend the afternoon public hearing so he gave testimony to the Commission at their meeting.

Sara Gleicher from Adult Well Being was also unable to attend the afternoon public hearing gave testimony to the Commission.

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the Commission on the following:

- Budget update
- Update on the bills that originated from the 2005 Elder Abuse Task Force recommendations
- Setting up senior briefings with new legislative policy committee members
- OSA is holding cultural competency training for management and staff
- Commissioner Newport and Director Gire gave a presentation to the Senate Policy Committee on Seniors and Veterans Affairs on Communities for a Lifetime
- Tri-County Office on Aging setup four meetings with consumers to learn more about in-home visits and the services they can receive
- Handouts were provided on the Go Direct Campaign

A brief discussion followed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Medicare/Medicaid Assistance (MMA) Program FY 2009/2010 Grant

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of funding for FY 2009/2010 MMA Grant in the amount of \$1,154,680. Ms. Puri stated these funds are granted to the Office of Services to the Aging from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) specifically for State Health Insurance Programs (SHIP). MMA is Michigan's SHIP.

Ms. Puri noted these funds will be used to continue core grant duties and support MMA counselors at the local level in their efforts to provide outreach, education and assistance to older adults seeking help with Medicare/Medicaid related issues, long term care coverage and the prescription drug coverage program (Part D).

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2009/2010 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Verma. Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Allocations for Senior Employment

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the recommended ARRA grant award allocations and temporary authorized positions effective March 20, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Ms. McMurtry stated OSA received notification from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding allocations for the Michigan Older American Community Service Employment Program (MOACSEP) in the amount of \$791,957 and 80 temporary authorized positions.

Ms. McMurtry stated the allocations for each subgrantee were made based upon the size of their current program. Ms. McMurtry explained the breakdown in detail of the temporary authorized positions and grant amount that each subgrantee will be receiving noting that counties served in planning and service areas 3A, 3B, 3C, 5, and 6 are not served by the MOACSEP grant. Currently these counties are served by the AARP Foundation and Experience Works!

A motion was made by Commissioner Verna to approve the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allocations for Senior Employment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of PY 2008/2009 Michigan Older American Community Service Employment Program (MOACSEP) Reallocations

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, stated OSA has received notification from one area agency on aging that they will be returning MOACSEP funds for reprogramming. Ms. McMurtry asked that the unspent funds be reprogrammed to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, and the Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! All agencies have requested funds in order to better serve persons on their waiting lists.

Ms. McMurtry noted unspent MOACSEP funds cannot be carried over from year-to-year. OSA requested MOACSEP subgrantees that are projected to have unspent funds at the end of the program year to notify OSA so funds can be reprogrammed, which will allow other MOACSEP subgrantees to serve as many mature workers as possible and continue to meet U.S. Department of Labor mandated performance measures.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the PY 2008/2009 MOACSEP Reallocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Additional Funds for Region 3-A Area Agency on Aging

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested approval for an additional allocation of \$35,000 to Region 3-A Area Agency on Aging to allow John Weir, a local ombudsman, the resources to provide mentoring and technical assistance to other local ombudsmen state-wide. Ms. Slocum stated the additional allocation will free Mr. Weir to draw from his extensive experience in resolving problems and working with facilities and provide a new resource for local ombudsmen. This will reduce the “learning curve” for new ombudsmen to become effective advocates.

Ms. Slocum stated the funds come from Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds already allocated to the state ombudsman program. Mr. Weir will provide technical assistance and mentoring throughout the state-wide program. Ms. Slocum noted CMP funds may be used to enhance the effectiveness of an existing program. Here the funds would allow the creation of a “deep bench” of ombudsman experience available to all.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the additional funds for Region 3-A Area Agency on Aging as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Verma. Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed explaining Civil Money Penalty.

Approval of the No-Cost Extension of the 2007 Nursing Home Diversion (NHD) Grant

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested approval for a No-Cost Extension of the Nursing Home Diversion Program (NDH) grant awarded to OSA in FY 2007. Ms. Graham noted that OSA was notified on March 11, 2009 by the Administration on Aging (AoA) regarding the no-cost extension. Ms. Graham stated this action does not increase or decrease the \$500,000 grant awarded to OSA, but permits continued development of the program beyond the initial grant period (October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009) to March 31, 2010.

As a result, OSA is asking your approval to also extend the 2008 NDH grants awarded to the three area agencies on aging (AAAs) partnering with OSA for initial development of the program in Michigan through March 31, 2010. The agencies include: Area Agency on aging of Western Michigan (PSA 8); Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging; and, Tri-County Office on Aging (PSA 6). Initial grant amounts awarded to these AAAs for FY 2008-09 will not be affected by the extension of the grant periods.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the No-Cost Extension for the 2007 Nursing Home diversion (NHD) Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Verma. Commission approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of the State Advisory Council (SAC) Nominations

Commissioner Bollinger, on behalf of Chairperson Pawelski of the State Advisory Council, presented the State Advisory Council nominations for 2009 membership to the SAC. Commissioner Bollinger stated the nominating committee had a very difficult task of recommending new members while also ensuring compliance with SAC requirements for senior representation, diversity, and geographic representation. Terms will begin in June 2009 for a three-year appointment. If approved, letters to all new members and applicants will be mailed following the joint Commission and State Advisory council meeting in April.

A motion was made by Commissioner Verma to approve the appointments of new members to the State Advisory Council as presented and seconded by Commissioner Newport. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Mark Giroux, Director of Senior Markets for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan gave a wonderful presentation regarding the senior healthcare market. Mr. Giroux covered the beginnings of Medicare and the significant changes that occurred through 2009.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Giroux for a very informative presentation and for taking the time to speak with the Commission.

Other

Commissioner Wilson noted Macomb County Lifelong Learning Institute is offering a number of workshops for Macomb and Oakland County. Some of the topics included memory, strokes, digestive tract problems, and crime victim rights. If interested in any of the workshops you may contact Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) registration line at 586-228-3505. Commissioner Wilson read a portion of an article from SEMscope fall issue "Seniors as assets".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

A joint meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging and the State Advisory Council will be held on April 17, 2009 at the Office of Services to the Aging, Lansing. Following the joint meeting a public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Verma and seconded by Commissioner Rau. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.