

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Region VII Area Agency on Aging
1615 S. Euclid Avenue, Bay City
May 15, 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 Region VII Area Agency on Aging for hosting today's meeting and public hearing. A special thank you was extended to Director Drew Orvosh 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, Rose Gill, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Mary Gardner and Amne Talab

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Dan Doezema, Jan Bowlin, Neelam Puri, and Wendi Middleton

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Drew Orvosh, Jordon Lockmiller, Jackie Curtis, Misty Dragiewicz, Yvonne Corbat, Angela Willis, Dona Wishart, Karen Courneya, Becky Reimann, Zane Rybkowski, Sue Gittins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- FY 2009 Executive Order Reductions
- FY 2010 State Budget updates
 - a. Office of Long Term Care Support and Services (OLTCSS) update
 - b. Elimination of the Single Point of Entry (SPE) demonstration projects as of June 13
- Briefings with new legislators on the aging network and issues continue
- Keynote speaker for the rollout of the new DTE Gatekeeper Program
- Attended the Presbyterian Homes and Services Association meeting
- Attended the Mental Health Aging Conference
- Attended a Volunteer Recognition at the State Capital to recognize legislators for their role in supporting community service.

A brief discussion followed regarding the FY 2010 budget and the concerns with the OLTCSS and SPE.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) FY 2009-2011 Grant

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of a new two-year grant in the amount of \$1,062,946 to Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), Inc. for the administration of activities under MIPPA. Ms. Puri noted these funds are granted to OSA jointly from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration on Aging. Ms. Puri stated that unlike CMS core grant funding for MMAP, this special grant required submission of a collaborative proposal by state health insurance programs (MMAP in Michigan), area agencies on aging (AAAs) and aging & disability resource centers.

The grant specifies that funds are to be used to provide a coordinated outreach and enrollment effort to find and enroll: 1) rural low-income beneficiaries eligible for Medicare Part-D; 2) those eligible for assistance with Part-D through the low-income subsidy; and, 3) those eligible for the Medicare Savings Program. Ms. Puri noted the grant period runs from June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2011.

A motion was made by Commissioner Verma to approve the MIPPA FY 2009-2011 Grants as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati. Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Approval of Caregiver Respite Support Program Transfer

Dan Doezema, OSA staff, requested Commission approval for the transfer of the Caregiver Respite Support Program and associated Merit Trust Funds from the Northern Michigan Regional Health System (NMRHS) to Region IX AAA effective July 1, 2009. Mr. Doezema stated OSA was informed by NMRHS on April 27, 2009, that the organization was terminating its contract with the Department of Community Health (DCH) to serve as a Home and Community Based Waiver Agent. As a result, NMRHS will no longer be eligible for caregiver respite funds from the Merit Trust Fund. NMRHS requested the transfer of the Caregiver Respite Support Program and funding to Region IX AAA so that participants currently served could continue to receive adult day and respite services.

Mr. Doezema noted that NMRHS has provided \$50,000 a year to three different adult day care programs in the Region IX AAA Planning and Service Area and \$41,000 of respite services for several consumers. The Merit Award Trust Fund has helped to develop and sustain the infrastructure to make the existing adult day care centers in this rural region possible as a respite option for consumers and family members to delay nursing home placement. Mr. Doezema stated the three adult day care programs rely on this funding to help continue to operate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Caregiver Respite Support program Transfer as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati. Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Blueprint for Action: "Preparing for Aging in Holland" Application for 2009 Community for a Lifetime Recognition

Mr. Doezema stated the panel reviewed the Blueprint for Action: "Preparing for Aging in Holland" application for recognition of their elder-friendly community assessment of the City of Holland on April 17, 2009. Mr. Doezema stated the assessment team used the original Michigan Community for a Lifetime (CFL) Assessment with additional questions developed by the community group. The assessment covered; walkability, access to health care, transportation, health promotion/disease prevention, safety and security, housing, supportive community systems, community engagement, enrichment, active aging and public infrastructure. The strengths of the assessment were acknowledged in the memorandum prepared by the review panel for the Commission.

Mr. Doezema requested the Blueprint for Action: "Preparing for Aging in Holland" be approved for recognition of their community assessment of the City of Holland.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the Blueprint for Action: "Preparing for Aging in Holland" recognition recommendation for the City of Holland and seconded by Commissioner Budden. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Creating Confident Caregivers: Master Trainer Certification

Dan Doezema, OSA staff, on behalf of Sally Steiner, requested Commission approval of awarding Kara LaMarre from Region IX Area Agency on Aging, with a Master Trainer Certification.

Mr. Doezema noted Ms. LaMarre completed all required activities and is the first to receive certification as a master trainer for the Savvy Caregiver Program. Ms. LaMarre assisted in team training with other trainers in Alpena, Gaylord and Cheboygan and conducted her solo program in Alpena. Mr. Doezema stated she scored well on her fidelity observation and demonstrated her understanding of the Savvy Caregiver Program in her written essay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the Creating Confident Caregivers: Master Trainer Certification recommendation for Ms. LaMarre and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed with Commissioners requesting that master trainers be invited to attend the Commission meeting at which certification was considered as a form of recognition. Attendance by the master trainer would be optional.

Approval of State Advisory Council (SAC) Report

Chairperson Kennedy stated the SAC presented their report, "Senior Centers: Now and in the Future" at the April 17, 2009, joint Commission and SAC meeting. The report and recommendations were accepted by the Commission at that time. Chairperson Kennedy requested approval of the SAC report, "Senior Centers: Now and in the Future" now that adequate time had passed for review and consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the SAC report, "Senior Centers: Now and in the Future" and seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Commissioner Budden Abstaining.

Commission thanked the SAC for their hard work and thoughtful recommendations regarding the future of senior centers in Michigan.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

State Advisory Council (SAC) 2009-2010 Charge

Chairperson Kennedy noted that Commissioners were just handed a ballot sheet to rank their priorities for the SAC charge. Chairperson Kennedy also noted that Commissioners may add their own charge to the ballot sheet. The ballots will be tabulated and the results will be presented for approval at the June Commission meeting. Discussion followed concerning several alternate ideas.

Otsego County Commission on Aging

Dona Wishart, Executive Director for Otsego County Commission on Aging gave a short update on their Technology and Aging Project (TAP). Ms. Wishart thanked Chairperson Kennedy for attending the event recognizing the participants in this project on April 30.

Legislative Update

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, highlighted current legislation affecting older adults in Michigan. Most of the legislation is related to recommendations contained in the Elder Abuse Task Force report issued in 2007.

Discussion of Out-Lansing Commission Schedule

Sharon Gire, Director, discussed the impact of executive order cuts and planned furlough days on the Commission schedule. She stated that information was not yet available regarding the dates of the furlough days but that State government would be closed for business. Alternate dates for Commission meetings would need to be identified if the furlough days fell on days of regularly scheduled meetings. In addition, the Department of Community Health will not be reimbursing Commission travel expenses related to the scheduled meeting in Iron Mountain. Commissioner Kennedy stated the Commission is charged with being an effective advocate for all of Michigan's older adults, including those living in the Upper Peninsula. Given one meeting and public hearing was already canceled at the same location last year, Chairperson Kennedy stated that it was important to honor the Commission's commitment to this community. Following discussion, it was decided that any Commissioner who could travel at their own expense plan would do so. All other Commissioners would be able to participate in the meeting by conference call.

Region VII Area Agency on Aging

Drew Orvosh, Director, gave a short presentation on the work of Region VII AAA and offered all Commissioners the opportunity to tour the facility after the meeting. Mr. Orvosh introduced Region VII AAA board and advisory council members in attendance. Mr. Orvosh announced that on June 24 they will be holding Older Michigianians Day from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and encouraged all Commissioners to attend.

Other

Commissioner Verma announced that Asian/Pacific Day will be held at the Capital on May 19, 2009.

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. CDT on June 18, 2009 at Crystal Lake Senior Center, Iron Mountain. A public hearing is also scheduled from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CDT.

The next State Advisory Council meeting will be held on June 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Newport and seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at noon.