

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
Michigan Conference Room
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing
May 20, 2011
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairperson Kennedy stated Commissioner Valerie Lafferty regrettably resigned from the Commission, and expressed gratitude to her for or her service and participation.

ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerutha Kennedy, Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Mary P. Gardner, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Michael Sheehan, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson and James Wright.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Thomas Rau and Amne Talab.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None.

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Peggy Brey, Eric Berke, Carol Dye, Bonnie Graham, Sherri King, Sarah Slocum, Sally Steiner, Wendi Middleton and Louise Boradko, OSA Intern.

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Alan Brown, Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging, Pam Curtis, Executive Director, Region 14 AAA, Senior Resources, Doreen Lyman & Susan Affholter of MDCH, Bureau of Health Professions, Beth Eisch, RN of the AAANM, Creating Confident Caregiver Master Trainer. From Consumers Energy: Jodi Rubin (honoree), Customer Service Representative, Thomas O'Masta, Executive Manager, Customer Operations, Karen Malenfant, Call Center Manager, Ursula Warren, Credit and Assistance Supervisor, Customer, Operations, Sherrie Bradley, Team Leader, Customer Service, Whitney Skeans, Customer Assistance Coordinator, Regulatory Affairs, Fordine Williams, Administrative Specialist II, Customer Operations, Anne E O'Dell, Cooperative Assistant, Corporate Communications Writer, and Thomas Gilpin, photographer. From DTE Energy: Debra L Wilkerson (honoree), Associate Account Manager, Jillian (honoree's daughter), Janet Burton, Manager Consumer Affairs, Major Account Services, Kenneth Randazzo, Manager, Major Account Services, David C Fontanive, Manager, Major Account Services, Carolyn Mackool, Director, Customer

Service Strategy, Gerald Kish, Supervisor, Energy Theft Office & Field operations, Carol Moore, Strategist, Communications Writer, David Mitchell, Photographer, and Denise Diz, Principle Analyst, Customer Service Strategy and Gatekeeper Program Manager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sheehan 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 April 15, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the April 15, 2011 minutes was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

OSA DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Chairperson Kennedy asked Deputy Director Peggy Brey for her report.

Deputy Director Brey shared the status of OSA's new director appointment and once it's been confirmed, she will send out information to the Commissioners. She noted the Governor respects and understands the need for services and programs, and has a keen interest in volunteer programs and post-retirement issues.

Deputy Director Brey stated the budget proposals are currently being reviewed by the conference committee and she'll update the Commissioners as this progresses

Commissioner Newport asked if the Conference Committee had been appointed.

Sally Steiner stated they had and will provide that information to the Commissioners.

Deputy Director Brey provided an overview of OSA's draft dashboard that includes many of OSA's State Plan goals, which she'll send to the Commissioners.

Chairperson Kennedy thanked OSA for the 2010 Annual Report, noting the ease of flow and readability of the report.

Deputy Director Brey noted credit should be given to OSA staff, especially Shirley Bentsen who reformatted it and did a great job.

Chairperson Kennedy stated Commissioner Rau requested a breakdown of OSA's grants, and she expressed her thanks to OSA staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Gardner asked if the Annual Report was on line and Bonnie Graham stated it will be soon.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of FY 2012 Annual Implementation Plans (AIP) Approval Criteria

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested approval of FY 2012 AIP Approval Criteria.

Mr. Berke reviewed the proposed revised criteria that will conform to the updated Annual and Multi-Year Plan System (AMPS) format, in an effort to focus plans to address cost effective issues, and improve the quality of life of older adults in the planning and service areas.

Commissioner Sheehan asked if criteria would remain internal or appear on a website.

Mr. Berke stated the AMPS is a web-based system and the Area Agencies on Aging will prepare their plan in AMPS, where the criteria will appear.

Chairperson Kennedy asked if criteria were added or expanded.

Mr. Berke stated minor adjustments were made to clarify areas where there may have been factors that needed to be expanded, minimized, updated and streamlined.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2012 AIP Approval Criteria as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport.

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

Approval to Award Funding to Administer the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

Sherri King, OSA staff, requested approval to award funding to administer the SFMNP.

Ms. King stated OSA previously coordinated the SFMNP, referred to as Senior Project Fresh in Michigan, with DCH WIC Project Fresh, a similar program funded by the USDA. WIC printed the coupons and did the internal work for both programs, but they recently notified OSA that they were changing their process.

Ms. King asked for approval to allow a \$13,500 grant from USDA, and \$350,000 grant from USDA and local contributions, be awarded to the Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) Program, who will reimburse the farmers for the SFMNP coupons through January 31, 2012.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the award funding to administer SFMNP as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati.

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

2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program: Innovations Grants

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, requested approval of 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP): Innovations Grants.

Ms. Steiner stated grant funds were carry-over funding from year one of the grant and will be expended as part of the AoA approved “no cost extension” of the project. The grant period was to have ended March 30th, but was extended to September 30th.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the 2011 ADSSP: Innovations Grants as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan.

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

Creating Confident Caregivers: Master Trainer Certification

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, requested approval on behalf of the Master Trainer Certification review panel and OSA, to award Heather Damon of AAA Region 1-C, and Beth Eisch of Region AAA 10 with Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC): Master Trainer Certification.

Ms. Steiner stated Ms. Damon and Ms. Eisch completed all of the requirements needed to become certified as CCC Master Trainers.

Ms. Eisch stated she is honored, and through this fabulous program, has learned so much and seen differences and improvements in the way caregivers look at their role.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve both Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC): Master Trainer Certifications as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger.

Discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

State Advisory Council on Aging Appointments

Commissioner Pawelski, who is also Chairperson of the State Advisory Council (SAC) on Aging, requested approval of SAC appointments.

Commissioner Pawelski stated due to fiscal uncertainties and other factors, the SAC did not issue a call for applications last fall, and he requested approval to extend the current membership’s terms through the end of 2011.

Commissioner Pawelski also asked to convene a committee on the SAC to accomplish a review of the bylaws; review the membership application process; and review the Michigan census data for possible changes in the geographical distribution of SAC members, allowing the provision of continuity and to implement change in a fair manner.

Commissioner Pawelski stated at the May 19th meeting, the SAC’s consensus was that they prefer to meet in person rather than by phone, with some indicating they would not reapply. He asked for suggestions on how to encourage new prospective members to apply to the SAC.

Commissioner Pawelski stated the charge given to the SAC by the Commission was Technology and Seniors, which is too broad.

Commissioner Sheehan, who participated with the SAC in this meeting, stated this meeting was the first one in nine months, and if any meaningful dialogue was going to be achieved to draft a report, there had to be personal, lively, immediate and engaged interchange.

Commissioner Sheehan stated for the charge, he thought Technology was an excellent choice, but that it could mean computers, access to the Internet, Face Book, a smart phone, a GPS, etc. He originally interpreted it to mean access to information on the Internet and how to get that information out to seniors.

Commissioner Sheehan gave kudos to the SAC for the fine work they do as the Commission's researchers, detecting trends and helping them to see where gaps are, but the charge was an impossible burden to work with, so he asked if the Commission would reframe the charge and accept an interim report.

Chairperson Kennedy stated the need to revisit the charge and asked if Commissioner Sheehan would provide some expertise, and he agreed.

Wendi Middleton suggested OSA could put together a restructuring plan on how to reunite the SAC over the next several months and Commissioner Pawelski agreed.

Chairperson Kennedy named Commissioners Pawelski, Sheehan and herself for the committee, with input from Ms. Middleton, to convene and discuss ideas on how to restructure the SAC to be more effective and efficient, with a draft plan to be sent to the Commissioners prior to the next meeting.

The motion to approve the extension of current SAC member's appointments was made by Commissioner Wilson as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger.

Discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Approval of Proposed 2011-12 State Plan Public Hearing Locations

Carol Dye, OSA staff, requested approval of proposed 2011-12 State Plan public hearing locations.

Ms. Dye provided the proposed locations for the 2011-12 public hearing locations, based on input from the Commissioners, as follows: For 2011, June 17th in Lansing; July 15th in Kalamazoo; and October 21st in Traverse City. For 2012, March 16th in Grand Rapids, May 18th in Pontiac, June 15th in Alpena, and October 19th in Marquette.

Ms. Dye requested assistance from the Commissioners with meeting location logistics.

The motion to approve the proposed 2011-12 State Plan public hearing locations was approved by Commission Newport as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski.

Discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Commissioner Sheehan stated he would assist with Traverse City; Commissioner Newport stated he would assist with Alpena; and Commissioner Bieber stated he would assist with the Owen Bieber Building in Grand Rapids.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Presentation on Pain Management and Palliative Care Program

Susan Affholter and Doreen Lyman of DCH Bureau of Health Professions Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management.

Ms. Affholter provided a PowerPoint presentation and brief overview of a new pain management program initiated in 2008, intended to create better pain care in Michigan.

Ms. Affholter quoted a statement from the 2009 Human Rights Watch Report entitled, Access To Pain Treatment is a Human Right: "For too long, pain and its management have been prisoners of myth, irrationality, and cultural bias."

One of her goals in talking with various agencies and organizations is to educate professionals and the public on the public health issue of pain, and to galvanize action to address the issue of pain management. The Pain Program provides staffing support to the State Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management, and one of its recommendations that apply to OSA and the Commission is to advocate, improve pain symptoms of the elderly, and those with advanced illnesses by impacting health professionals, patients and their families in long term care environments.

Ms. Affholter will send their MIPain Management Newsletter to the Commissioners. For additional information, their website address is www.Michigan.gov/PM.

Chairperson Kennedy suggested they work with the AAAs more closely to disseminate information, as AAAs are going into people's homes who are dealing with pain.

Commissioner Bollinger asked about controlled substances and Class A drugs, and she said in Michigan, patients can not get refills without seeing their doctor every month.

Ms. Affholter stated in Michigan, a patient can have an agreement with their physician, but she will research and provide additional information on that issue.

Chairperson Kennedy thanked Ms. Affholter for her presentation.

2010 Gatekeeper of the Year Award

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed the staff from Consumers Energy and DTE Energy.

Chairperson Kennedy stated the Commission on Services to the Aging honors those who have gone above and beyond, as the eyes and ears in the community to assist Michigan's seniors in need who may have otherwise remained invisible or isolated. Gatekeepers are employees of DTE Energy and Consumers Energy who have been trained and are supported to identify seniors in need. Each month, OSA receives many inspiring and thoughtful Gatekeeper referrals and one employee within each company is

selected as the top Gatekeeper. At the end of the year, one of the 12 monthly winners is selected and honored as Gatekeeper of the Year.

Chairperson Kennedy introduced Debra Wilkerson of DTE Energy, and Jodi F. Rubin of Consumers Energy, as the 2010 Gatekeepers of the year.

Deputy Director Brey read and presented them with a letter from Governor Rick Snyder, and Chairperson Kennedy presented them with a certificate of recognition and plaque, and thanked them for their dedication and commitment to Michigan's seniors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kennedy stated Ms. Affholter's committee on pain and symptom management is having a June 15th workshop.

Chairperson asked everyone to strongly encourage all seniors to attend the Older Michiganians Day event at the State Capitol on June 15th at 10:00, noting many of the AAAs are having busses bring their constituents.

The next Commission and State Advisory Council on Aging joint meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 17th at the Ramada Inn at 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Johnston-Calati stated the UAW Building, Region 1-D Headquarters in Grand Rapids, was named after Commissioner Bieber. As quoted from the bronze plaque on the building, "Owen Bieber is well known locally and worldwide, not only as a defender of civil and human rights, but also for his efforts to protect millions of working families from the effects of globalization and the assault on the rights of labor. A modest man of character and integrity, Owen is not only an international symbol as one of the best of the American labor movement, he is our hometown hero..."

Chairperson Kennedy noted Commissioner Bieber has a long history of advocating for people, and the Commission is very fortunate to have him. He has been very helpful and instrumental in advocating for our citizens from his perspective and his many contacts around the state.

Commissioner Wilson stated she attended a Meals on Wheels recognition event in Macomb County where 300 volunteers attended.

Commissioner Newport stated on his trip to China, he learned they have 215 million seniors over the age of 60 and 100 million seniors over the age of 80 with no human services in place, other than family.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:15 P.M.