

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI
October 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Kennedy welcomed the Commissioners and thanked them for participating and for their concern for seniors. The welcome 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, Chair, Owen Bieber, Mary P. Gardner, Valerie Lafferty, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Michael Sheehan, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson and James Wright.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Cheryl Bollinger and Joan Budden.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None.

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Peggy Brey, Eric Berke, Carol Dye, Bonnie Graham, Wendi Middleton, Pam McNab, Neelam Puri and Sally Steiner.

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Rebecca Kinney-Phillips of Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program, Michael Moody of the Attorney General's Office, Karen Courneya of the Saginaw Council on Aging, Mark Owen, Julie Maier and Mark Giroux of Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Mary Ablan of the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Johnston-Calati made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

Other

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Moody from the AG's Office gave a brief overview of what his office has done related to the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BC/BS) rate restructure and related Medigap issues. Mr. Moody stated BC/BS filed two cases related to rate increases for Medigap subscribers who live out of state, which the AG's office is litigating and the hearing is scheduled for October 29th. The second rate filing is related to the rest of the Michigan Medigap subscribers, based on their income. Mr. Moody was asked to return to answer any questions raised, along with BC/BS and the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM).

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ❖ Director Gire reported that this fall, all departments are working hard on transition issues and information in anticipation of a new administration.
- ❖ Director Gire noted seven new grants OSA received: \$500,000 for ADRC/Options Counseling; \$373,694 for Creating Confident Caregivers-Savvy Caregiver VA (expansion grant); \$1,106,479 for Evidence Based Disease Prevention (ARRA); \$2,030,000 for HRSA: Personal Care Aides (Affordable Care Act); \$597,426 for Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) (Affordable Care Act); \$400,000 for Money Follows the Person Extension (Medicaid-MSA) (Affordable Care Act); and \$390,000 for Violence Against Older Women/Elder Abuse Prevention.
- ❖ The budget was signed and OSA received the 8% reduction in GF/GP as recommended in the original executive proposal.
- ❖ Seven OSA employees have filed and submitted their paperwork to retire. OSA will be working hard to cross-train and provide additional reassignments.
- ❖ Director Gire traveled to Escanaba for the U.P. Area Agency on Aging Senior Expo where 700 seniors gathered and she presented on Health Care Reform. She attended the Elder Law and Disability Rights Section of the State Bar Fall Conference, and along with the Regional Director of AoA, they participated on a panel presentation on Health Care Reform. She traveled to Traverse City and attended the National Indian American conference where AARP presented on Health Care Reform. She also attended the "What Public Health Nursing Needs to Know About Health Care Reform" event and presented on Health Care Reform. The following week, she'll present at the Michigan Directors of Aging event at the Bavarian Inn Lodge.
- ❖ OSA hosted guests from Sweden who came to learn what the USA is doing in the field of aging.
- ❖ OSA and the AAA Directors had a joint retreat to discuss transition issues, including our common legislative agenda and sustainable funding streams.
- ❖ Director Gire noted the "Hard Times" Conference is being held on Nov. 18 & 19 and encouraged the Commissioners to participate.
- ❖ Director Gire was invited to a meeting sponsored by Michigan Department of Civil Rights to kick off a statewide organizational leadership conference on Civil and Human Rights, which involves many non-governmental representatives.
- ❖ Director Gire noted the Governor recommended that per diems no longer be given to any board or commission. As a result, the Legislature approved the OSA budget for FY 2011 without funds to support Commission stipends. Travel and other expenses will continue to be paid.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Commission Resolution Concerning Newly Proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield Rate Structure

Commissioner Kennedy asked Mark Owen, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BC/BS) Vice President of Federal Business to present.

Mr. Owen provided an overview on two BC/BS Medigap rate proposals, which introduces “means testing” as a way of targeting the BC/BS senior subsidy to older adults most in need of financial support to purchase insurance. The “means testing” provision would be implemented with documentation already established for Medicare and other programs. Mr. Owen stated the AG’s office filed a lawsuit to injunct against those actions and he also noted BC/BS has the lowest admin costs in the nation for profits and non-profits.

Commissioner Kennedy asked Mary Ablan, Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) Executive Director to present.

Ms. Ablan discussed Michigan’s senior subsidy which is law. This subsidy, referred to as “cost transfer” in the law, is applied to lower the premium of several Medigap policies offered by BC/BS. Without this subsidy, the Plan C Medigap supplemental insurance current premium of \$111 per month would be \$182 per month for the lowest income seniors. Ms. Ablan noted the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act, Public Act 350, doesn’t address means testing subsidies. 4AM poses the question, is there legal authority to “means test” a subsidy

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to accept the presentations of BC/BS and 4AM as presented. Commissioner Johnston-Calati seconded the motion. The Commission approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Discussion followed with Mr. Owen, Ms. Ablan and Mr. Moody.

Commissioner Kennedy thanked the presenters for being there stated the Commissioners would need additional dialogue given the extent of information provided and complexity of the issue.

Director Gire provided an overview of how to submit public comments to the Office of Finance and Insurance Regulations on this issue.

Commissioner Gardner asked for a motion to take a position.

Commissioner Rau asked if the Commission would like to take a position on whether discrimination was based on economic status by BC/BS. It was agreed this would be one part of the dialogue that needed to be discussed further.

Commissioner Newport asked Commissioner Gardner if she would accept an amendment to her motion that the Commission take a position no later than the next Commission meeting scheduled for November 19.

Commissioner Kennedy asked Mr. Moody if the decision were tabled to the next meeting, if it would it be too late to take a position.

Mr. Moody stated it would not and they had until at least probably March of next year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to table the Commission's position on this issue until the next CSA meeting. Commissioner Rau seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Proposed Revisions to the Statewide Operating Standards for Service Programs, Transforming Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) into Assistive Devices and Technologies

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of Proposed Revisions to the Statewide Operating Standards for Service Programs, Transforming Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) into Assistive Devices and Technologies.

Mr. Berke stated this service standard is a result of the Long Term Care Supports and Services Advisory Commission, who in 2009, made a recommendation that OSA look at 1) coverage for assistive technology; and 2) what the federal definition is. It was proposed that the statewide definition and operating standards for PERS be transformed into a new service category of Assistive Devices and Technologies. The proposed revisions are intended to expand the scope of the definition and minimum standards in order to enhance an individual's ability to live independently and have a voice for person-centered preferences. Mr. Berke provided the Commission with the proposed changes, which was presented to aging network organizations and centers for independent living for public review and comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the proposed revisions to the Statewide Operating Standards for Service Programs, transforming the current PERS standard into Assistive Devices and Technologies.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of FY 2011 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Grant – Additional Funds

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, asked Commission approval of FY 2011 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Grant – Additional Funds.

Ms. Puri stated the Commission approved a core grant for Medicare Medicaid Assistant Program (MMAP), Inc., in the amount of \$1,353,257 in March. In August, MMAP receive a performance award of \$42,345. In addition, OSA has been granted funding of \$1,213,519 over two years to administer activities under the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider Act (MIPPA).

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve to increase the FY 2011

allocation to MMAP, Inc. in the amount of \$1,245,861 as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Grant Awards

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Grant Awards.

Ms. Steiner stated these grants are for the third year of the three-year evidence-based project, Creating Confident Caregivers. Ms. Steiner has been training and working with the master trainer from this project and stated that sustainability and maintenance will be the focus for the third year. Ms. Steiner listed the five AAAs participating in this project: Regions 4, 6, 9, 10 & 11. \$5,000 of the \$178,061 grant will go to MDRC for data entry services. They have served nearly 500 caregivers in those five regions over the past 2 years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Grant Awards as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Innovations Grant

Sally Steiner requested Commission approval of the F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Innovations Grant.

Ms. Steiner stated the Innovation Project is an Administration on Aging allocation for the next six months for the Veteran's Administration. Ms. Steiner listed the six AAA grantees receiving the \$121,637: Regions 1-C, 3-A, 3-B, 3-C, 8 & 11, with an additional grant amount of \$5,000 to Region 11 to cover the researcher, trainer and fidelity consultant, Dr. Sherman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the F/Y 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs: Innovations Grant as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bieber. The motion approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of FY 2011 Grant to Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) for Systems Transformation

Pam McNabb, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 Grant to

MDRC for Systems Transformation.

Ms. McNabb stated they are seeking permission to grant \$321,200 to MDRC in support of the Systems Transformation Grant (STG) and the Medicaid LTC Task Force Report. This is to support the professional and administrative activities related to deliverables of the STG work that is in the final year of the five-year grant, which goes through the end of 2011; they will develop a person-centered planning curriculum for providers of community and facility-based LTC services; stipends and travel reimbursement will be paid by MDRC, the contracted entity, to consumer participants who attend and provide their recommendations at various work meetings and work group activities; and consultant fees for the “Adapting to Challenges in Hard Times Through Resource Development” conference hosted by OSA in Rochester on November 18 & 19, 2010.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 Grant to Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) for Systems Transformation as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion approved with a 12-0-1 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of FY 2011 Grant to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) in Support of Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 Grant to the MDRC in support of Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Ms. Graham stated this \$80,000 grant to MDRC is a continuation of work that was initiated in June last year to support our “No Wrong Door” partnerships as they developed across the state. Work started in the summer is to support the ADRCs in Michigan to support the work at the local level and within state level steering committee that guides the work. Ms. Graham stated it supports LTC participants in this process, noting the importance of having input from these folks who benefit from these services and their caregivers as policies and infrastructure are developed to support ADRCs. Ms. Graham stated this grant also serves as the foundation to support the work with the new ADRC Options Counseling grant, creating the infrastructure to develop the policies, procedures and standards.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2011 Grant to the MDRC in support of Aging and Disability Resource Centers as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The motion approved with a 12-0-1 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Verma noted the Hard Times Conference is being held on Nov. 18 & 19, but the Commission has their next meeting on Nov. 19th. Director Gire stated there

were efforts to try and schedule this around many other events, and best efforts were made to work around them. She encouraged attendance to at least the first day of the conference. Brochures and invitations are on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Wilson noted there is a Happy Birthday 60 Year Olds event in Macomb County today being sponsored by Macomb County Senior Citizen Services and Health Alliance Plan. The event has several workshops focusing on living life healthy after age 60. And tomorrow, AAA 1-B is hosting its 11th Annual Solutions and Family Caregiving expo that free to the public with many displays.

Commissioner Newport noted on Nov. 2nd, there will be a Best Practices in Nursing Homes event taking place in Grayling, which will include education and information on freedom of sexual expression in nursing homes.

Commissioner Talab noted they are opening up a new office in Macomb County with the ribbon cutting on October 19th. That office will be handling health and mental health issues for refugees. Other mainstream citizens who qualify for services are welcome.

Director Gire mentioned there was an excellent four-part series on Baby Boomers and Aging Services in the Detroit Free Press, which started with a two-hour coffee last winter with her and the reporter Robin Erb, where she gave suggestions and contacts.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 19, 2010, at the Hannah Community Center located at 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Maps will be provided in the next meeting packet.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council is to be determined.

Commissioner Kennedy thanked and congratulated OSA staff on their tremendous amount of effort and the work that's been done for the grants they've been awarded.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pawelski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Talab. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:06 P.M.