



HISTORY

In 1949 Gov. G. Mennen Williams appointed an interdepartmental committee to study the problems of older adults, and to make recommendations for addressing those problems.

In 1950 the committee recommended that a commission on aging be established.

In 1952 Gov. Williams appointed a study commission that sponsored a conference on aging, and recommended that a commission on aging be organized to focus on aging issues.

In 1956 the Michigan Legislature passed a bill which created a legislative Advisory Council on Problems of the Aging.

In 1960 the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 11, which enabled a Michigan Commission on Aging to begin operating under the Michigan Department of Social Services.

In 1965 The Older Americans Act was passed, as part of the Great Society initiative. This act established the Administration on Aging within the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and called for the creation of State Units on Aging. The first State Unit on Aging for Michigan was the Division of Services to the Aging under the Michigan Department of Social Services.

In 1973 Public Act 106 created a new Commission on Services to the Aging and a new Office of Services to the Aging as an independent agency under the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. Their charge was to research and draft a comprehensive plan for aging, which was published in 1975. This was the beginning of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA).

In 1973 Gov. William Milliken appointed nine persons to serve on the new Commission on Services to the Aging. In the same year amendments were

added to the Older Americans Act, which increased the range of services offered by the aging network, and mandated the establishment of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in every state to coordinate federal and state programs and services with local efforts. This change led to the formation of the Michigan aging network as we know it today.

In 1974 Gov. Milliken issued Executive Directive 1974-1, which merged OSA with the Division on Aging under the Michigan Department of Social Service to create a new state unit on aging, directed by C. Patrick Babcock.

The 1973-1974 State Plan for Programs on Aging was submitted to the Administration on Aging on January 25, 1974. It identified 13 regions that followed the boundaries of Gov. Milliken's Planning and Service Areas for Michigan, and it detailed plans for designating an AAA in each one. That year, OSA administered nearly \$12 million in federal funds, including Titles III and VII under the Older Americans Act and the SSI Alert Program. The total allotment for aging services under Title III of the Act was approximately \$2.5 million.

In 1975 the Michigan Legislature unanimously passed Public Act 146, also known as the "Kehres-Huffman Senior Citizens Act." It was signed by Gov. Milliken on July 9, 1975 to establish OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging as a part of state government, and as a designated state unit on aging. It also expanded the Commission to 15 members, and made it a part of the Executive Office.

In 1981 Public Act 180, also known as the Older Michiganians Act, established OSA as a permanent and autonomous entity under the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. It also established in state statute the duties and responsibilities of OSA, the Commission on Services to the Aging, and Area Agencies on Aging.

In 1997, by executive order, OSA was transferred to the Michigan Department of Community Health where it remains today.

