

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING
Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Highway; Lansing, Michigan
May 16, 2014 @10:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mast called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Harold Mast, Michael Burri, Douglas Chalgian, Joan Ilardo, Gerald Irby, Donna Murray-Brown, Donald Newport, Richard Ortega, Renee' Reid-Smith, Jeffery Schade, Michael Sheehan and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon English and Patricia Rencher (excused).

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Kari Sederburg, Leslie Shanlian, Wendi Middleton, Scott Wamsley, Dan Doezema, Sherri King and Carol Dye.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Steve Chambers, Adult Well-Being Services, Janet Clark, RSVP, Diana Hrit, SCP, Devoria Thomas, DTE, Jordon Kotubey, AAA 1-B, and Dona Wishart, OCCOA.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mast asked to add Update on ADRC under Informational Items as VII. c).

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the amended agenda.
Commissioner Schade seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the April 18, 2014, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Mast thanked Commissioners Zamora, Sheehan and Reid-Smith who reviewed 13 applications for the State Advisory Council on Aging with him.

Commissioner Mast recognized and thanked Consumers Energy and DTE utility companies who participated in the Gatekeeper Program.

Commissioner Irby asked about marketing this program in the U.P. and requested information to share.

Carol Dye, the Commission Secretary, stated she would provide that information.

Commissioner Reid-Smith suggested postal workers would be a good source to market this program to, as those who make contact with citizens on a daily basis, and she offered to assist with the program however she could.

Commissioner Ortega asked if Hospice participates in this program.

Ms. Dye stated to her knowledge, in Michigan only these two utility companies participate.

Commissioner Ilardo stated another good place would be at the banks, and suggested a subgroup be formed to look at marketing.

Commissioners Irby, Reid-Smith and Ilardo agreed to work together to come up with a plan to market and expand the Gatekeeper Program.

Commissioner Mast stated he attended the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan conference and the Governor spoke and emphasized four topics: No-Wait State, which he'll continue to push in his message and budget; Elder Abuse and the 12 bills that were signed into law, stressing education on this topic needs to move ahead; senior's financial security and financial issues they don't talk about; and he encouraged senior's higher education and entrepreneurial opportunities.

OSA Director Report

Director Kari Sederburg stated the Federal budget has proposed potentially devastating cuts to the senior volunteer programs. OSA has asked the Michigan representative from the Corporation for National and Community Services to come to a future CSA meeting to talk about what that would mean for Michigan. She said the CSA may want to decide if they'd like to do any kind of advocacy with Congress, to educate them on the importance of these programs and the potential dismantling of them. In the President's budget, they would move Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs under AmeriCorps, which would change the programs significantly and reduce the RSVP programs to about one-third of what's there now. OSA is continuing to keep an eye on this issue.

Director Sederburg stated the State budget revenue projections came out lower than expected, but the Governor confirmed his commitment and investment of aging services in the 2015 budget, with the goal to finalize the budget in June.

Director Sederburg stated the Governor will be coming out with his special message on aging, and the CSA will be notified of the dates and locations once those are set.

Director Sederburg stated Lynne McCollum has decided not to return to OSA, and Dawne Velianoff has been named as the new Elder Abuse and Wellness Unit manager.

Commissioner Murray-Brown thanked Director Sederburg and staff for attending and supporting the Giving and Volunteering event that the Governor addressed, where Mary Gionet, a Foster Grandparent volunteer and member of the Senior Corps, was honored.

Commissioner Reid-Smith stated at a recent legislative forum, she spoke to Congressman Fred Upton, who said the Silver Key Coalition and elder abuse issues are on his radar, and rather than using stats to make the case, he asked for creative ideas. With permission and consent, she's created YouTube videos showing real life testimonies of what this means to real people and the impact of a huge evidence-based program with nearly zero overhead.

Commissioner Newport asked Director Sederburg to strongly encourage the Federal Senior Corps representative to address the Commission at a meeting.

Director Sederburg stated Commissioner Murray-Brown knows that person and said they will reach out to see about getting her there. She stated the Commission may want to discuss a strategy to elevate the issue, and offered to have OSA draft a letter based on today's discussion opposing the proposed changes in the Senior Corps programs.

Commissioner Mast asked to add the letter to June's CSA agenda.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval to Adjust August and September Commission Meetings During the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Presentations to Begin at 9:00 AM

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to adjust the time of the August and September Commission Meetings when AIPs will be presented, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 AM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schade to approve the motion, as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Approval to Begin Future Public Hearing Meetings at 1:00 PM

Commissioner Mast asked to begin public hearing meetings from 1:30 PM to 1:00 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby for approval to begin future public hearing meetings at 1:00 PM, as presented. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Approval of 2014 Senior Project FRESH Funds

Sherri King, OSA staff, and Dona Wishart, Executive Director, Otsego County Commission on Aging, provided handouts and an overview of the Senior Project FRESH program.

Ms. King stated OSA received notice from United States Department of Agriculture for funding of the 2014 Senior Project Fresh program. Ms. Wishart provided an overview of a pilot they'll conduct to assist those most in need and with no transportation, the availability to get a ride from four subsidized housing locations to the local farmer's market for fresh produce using Senior Project FRESH coupons once a week during the season.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve 2014 Senior Project FRESH, as presented. Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Approval of 2014 State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Appointments

Commissioner Michael Sheehan stated Commissioners Mast, Reid-Smith, Zamora and he reviewed 13 SAC applications for a term beginning in June 2014, for a term of three years. All were approved for appointment and reappointment, noting regions 1-B, 3-A, 3-B, 4, 7 and 14 could use more representation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid-Smith to approve the 2014 SAC appointments, as presented. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

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

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, asked for a volunteer to attend the June 19, 2014 SAC meeting to represent the Commission.

Commissioner Irby offered to volunteer.

Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Grants for the No Wrong Door/Aging and Disability Resource Centers (NWD/ADRC) Sustainability Project

Ms. Middleton stated OSA received a grant from the Administration on Community Living to develop sustainable ADRCs with the capacity to provide competent, standards-based, person-centered options counseling and streamlined eligibility determination. OSA will issue grants to ADRCs who request funding through a two-week RFP process, to support options counseling services and related activities.

Approval was also requested for Director Sederburg to have the ability to approve the grants once the RFPs are completed so those who receive funding can be implemented by the end of the fiscal year, and information on which ADRCs receive funding will come back to the commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve FY 2014 grants for the NWD/ADRC Sustainability Project, and for the ability for Director Sederburg to approve the

grants as they are issued, as presented. Commissioner Burri seconded the motion.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Commissioner Mast stated the State has a standard mileage rate of .39 per mile for travel reimbursement, and a premium rate of .56 per mile. OSA determined that shifting from the premium rates to standard rates for the SAC and CSA will be put back into programs, and back in line with the standard State rates like all State employees beginning in June 2014.

Review of CSA Bylaws and Open Meetings Act

Commissioner Mast stated the Attorney General's office issued an opinion to allow those who participate in meetings via conference call the right to discuss issues at hand, but not the right to deliberate or decide by casting a vote, nor be counted towards quorum, to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Sheehan stated Commission By-Laws Section 3.4 will need to be rewritten.

Director Sederburg stated the Open Meetings Act hasn't been updated since 1976 and does not include language to allow participation by teleconference and other technologies.

Commissioner Mast asked Commissioner Sheehan to draft new language for the bylaw, and Commissioner Chalgian to review the language.

Update on ADRC

Ms. Middleton provided handouts and an update on the ADRCs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mast asked for volunteers to work on two things, the expansion of the Gatekeeper program; and to develop a draft letter of advocacy for the senior volunteer program funding.

Commissioner Newport will coordinate the effort to draft an advocacy letter with key points to federal legislators on the RSVP & FGP senior volunteer programs with Commissioners Ilardo, Reid-Smith and Murray-Brown and bring it to the June or July meeting.

Commissioner Irby will take the lead with Commissioners Ortega, Zamora and Ilardo to come up with a strategy to market the Gatekeeper program.

Director Sederburg notified Commissioners whose terms are expiring, to reapply with the Governor's Appointments Office by May 23rd.

Commissioner Mast noted his term, along with Commissioners English, Irby, Schade and Zamora, are expiring.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irby. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Mast adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM.