

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Office of Services to the Aging, Lansing via Phone Conference
December 19, 2008
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Thomas Rau and Amne Talab

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, and Bonnie Graham

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Amber Dawling

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Newport made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Gardner 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 thanked all those Commissioners who could stay for the 35th Anniversary celebration. Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- Attended a press conference with Michigan Department of Human Services Director, Ismael Ahmend, announcing the new Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP), which expands food stamp outreach efforts to persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Traveled to Holland to participate in the kick-off event to their "Community for a Lifetime" process.
- Attended Operation Able's recognition of older workers.
- Attended the Foster Grandparent Senior Companion volunteer recognition for Catholic Social Services of Wayne County

A brief discussion followed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of the Nursing Home Diversion (NHD) Grant Allocations

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of NHD grant allocations to the area agencies on aging partnering with OSA in the amount of \$649,398 for the 18 month grant period. The proposed allocations also include a grant to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition in the amount of \$125,398 to support the training and consumer involvement components of the grant. Ms. Graham stated the allocations are contingent upon the appropriation and receipt of federal funds authorized by the Administration on Aging (AoA). Ms. Graham noted that AoA notified the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) on September 30, 2008 that Michigan had been selected to receive a second NHD grant that will allow expansion of the program to seven additional Planning and Service Areas. Also, seven of the area agencies on aging (AAA) partners will also be involved in the provision of NHD services to eligible veterans served by the federal Veterans Administration health care system.

Ms. Graham covered, in detail, the proposed program. Ms. Graham also requested approval for the OSA Director to administratively grant waivers to statewide operating standards deemed necessary for implementation of the NHD by our grant partners. She stated the identified waivers will be in effect only for the grant period.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the NHD grant allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bieber. Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Other

Commissioner Wilson talked about the possibility of the Macomb County Government closing the Macomb County Department of Senior Citizens. This organization provides many services to services to seniors throughout the county.

Commissioner Newport stated that Bill Anderson, Director, Department of History, Arts, and Library announced his retirement. Commissioner Newport stated Mr. Anderson has been very supportive of services to seniors for many years. Commissioner Newport requested that a letter acknowledging his contributions be sent from the Commission.

Director Gire announced that former Commissioner Donna Wishart was appointed Executive Director of the Ostego County Commission on Aging, effective January 1, 2009. OSA will be sending a letter of congratulations on behalf of OSA and the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 16, 2009, via conference call. Anyone wishing to attend may come to the Office of Services to the Aging.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be March 12, 2009, with Commissioner Johnston-Calati as guest Commissioner.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Newport. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.