

# **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

## **Conference Call Meeting**

Michigan Office of Services to the Aging  
300 E. Michigan Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor; Lansing, MI 48933  
December 17, 2010

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Jerutha Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Kennedy welcomed the Commissioners. Several Commissioners provided well wishes to Director Sharon Gire and thanked her for her advocacy and service, and this 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, Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Valerie Lafferty, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Michael Sheehan, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson and James Wright.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Mary P. Gardner, Thomas Rau and Amne Talab.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None.

#### **OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT**

Sharon Gire, Peggy Brey, Bonnie Graham, Wendi Middleton, Eric Berke, Lynne McCollum, Neelam Puri, Carol Dye and Andrea Mayer Krueger.

#### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Joe Hehir, CFO of Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the November 19, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- ❖ Director Gire stated the ADRC was reviewed and final designations were completed.
- ❖ Director Gire conducted a Cable TV interview on seniors and winter safety.
- ❖ Director Gire stated the CMS fraud prevention summit was postponed a second time and wasn't sure if it would be rescheduled.
- ❖ Director Gire stated OSA hosted a retirement party for five OSA staff.
- ❖ Director Gire noted if anyone wanted to contact her after the first of the year, Carol would provide her home e-mail address. She values the Commissioners for the skills, excellent thinking and work they bring to the Commission.
- ❖ Director Gire stated Commissioner Rau had to have unexpected surgery, but his prognosis is good. Carol will provide Commissioner Rau's address to the Commissioners so they can send him a card. Commissioner Pawelski stated he also had recent surgery and was doing well.
- ❖ Director Gire stated Governor-elect Snyder announced a health insurance industry veteran, Olga Dazzo, as the new director to Community Health.
- ❖ Director Gire stated Governor elect Snyder has been using terms that recognize things are going to have to be phased in, related to eliminating the budget deficit, noting advocate's focus should be on making the business case that OSA's services are wise investments.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Proposed Statewide Operating Standards for Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP)**

Eric Berke and Neelam Puri, OSA staff, requested approval of the proposed statewide operating standards for the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP).

Mr. Berke stated the proposed operating standards, outlined in two components, were submitted for public review by aging network organizations and the Centers for Independent Living. A summary of the comments received were provided to the Commissioners.

Mr. Berke stated MMAAP, Inc. administers Michigan's State Health Insurance Assistance Program on behalf of OSA. The program is designed to educate, counsel and empower Michigan's older adults and individuals with disabilities to make informed health benefit decisions. Although the program has existed for many years, no formal operating standards have been adopted until this point. These standards will guide the operation of the program at the state and local level from this point forward.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the proposed statewide operating standards for MMAAP as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport.

Mr. Berke provided detail on the section related to personnel issues in the proposed standards, noting the standards can be modified if needed.

Mr. Berke asked for approval to immediately put the standards into effect with the understanding that the next grant year will be one of implementation. He stated OSA will work with MMAP, Inc. to accomplish compliance as needed.

Commissioner Budden proposed a friendly amendment for Program Organization, #2, to include language, "...or receive funding from any insurance company."

Commissioner Kennedy also proposed a friendly amendment that #6, under Program Organization, be moved up and re-numbered as #3.

Commissioner Sheehan seconded the motions as presented. The motions were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Puri noted she will be retiring from OSA at the end of the year and thanked the Commissioners for their wonderful support, understanding and advocacy.

Commissioner Kennedy asked how OSA's work will continue, given so many staff will be retiring. Director Gire stated succession planning has been in the works for several months, although there is a learning curve that will be a factor in transition activities.

**Approval of FY 2011 Grants to Emerging Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) for Implementation of the ADRC Options Counseling Grant**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, wished the Commissioners a happy holiday season and the very best of New Years.

Ms. Graham thanked Commissioners Gardener, Johnston-Calati, Kennedy, Rau and Wilson, who participated and assisted in the review process of the ADRC applications for designation. The three emerging ADRCs partnerships identified were: ADRC Consortium of Southwest Michigan; ADRC Southwest and Western Wayne County; and, ADRC Resource Collaborative of the Upper Peninsula. Each partnership will receive a \$50,300 grant to assist OSA in the implementation of the ADRC options counseling grant. This grant is intended to develop statewide standards for options counseling and to test those standards in each area. The standards will be evaluated and information collected will be shared with the Administration on Aging to assist in the development of national standards.

Ms. Graham asked Commission approval of FY 2011 grants to the identified emerging ADRCs for implementation of the ADRC options counseling grant. Ms Graham further stated that an approved fiduciary agent and memorandum of agreement will be negotiated with each ADRC partnership prior to the release of any grant funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 grants to the identified emerging ADRC partnerships as presented.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan.

Commissioner Newport sought clarification on the role of the area agencies on aging

(AAA) in the designated partnerships.

Ms. Graham stated the AAAs were designated as “conveners” by OSA in the development of the partnerships and they provided key leadership and guidance in the initial development of their applications.

Additional discussion followed.

The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Newport thanked Director Gire for her service to OSA. Commissioner Newport stated he will be in China for the next four-six months and asked that staff keep him informed through e-mail. When possible, he will try to join meetings via conference calls.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Kennedy noted the next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 21, 2011, via conference call. She wished everyone a very happy and blessed holiday and new year. She also thanked OSA staff, those retiring and those remaining. Commissioner Lafferty echoed the same sentiments and looks forward to being with the Commissioners in January.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bieber.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:55 A.M.