

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Michigan Office of Services to the Aging via Conference Call
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing
June 15, 2007
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 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

Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Owen Bieber, Rose Gill, Albert Lewis, Anthony Pawelski

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, and Laura McMurtry

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Walters made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Verma seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire updated the Commission on the status of the federal budget, along with updates regarding the state budget. Director Gire stated that advocacy for the 2008 budget is still appropriate.

Director Gire noted that she attend the annual meeting of the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan, where she was introduced to John Wren, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management with the Administration on Aging (AoA) and Jim Varpness,

Regional Administrator. Mr. Varpness was also able to speak to the staff at OSA and learn more about our programs.

Director Gire covered the Blue Cross Blue Shield proposed rate increase for Medicare Supplemental Insurance. A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger to draft a letter to the insurance bureau regarding their concern the increase will have on our older adults. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Director Gire also covered the information she obtained regarding the enrollment into the MI Choice Waiver Program being closed. A brief discussion followed and all agreed that this is an area that they will watch closely.

Director Gire noted that the Healthy Michigan Fund will take a small cut and that it will come out of Administration of Nutrition Services line item.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of the PY 2007 Michigan Older American Community Service Employment Program (MOACSEP) Allocations (formerly SCSEP)

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested the Commission's approval of the MOACSEP PY 2007 Allocations. Ms. McMurtry explained that MOACSEP provides part-time employment and training opportunities for low-income persons 55 and older. Ms. McMurtry noted that the goal of the program is to transition participants into unsubsidized employment.

Ms. McMurtry stated that the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has released the figures for PY 2007, which begins July 1, 2007. Ms. McMurtry explained the funding levels and allocations in detail to the Commission. Ms. McMurtry noted that there was an increase in funding but not in positions due to the minimum wage increase.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the PY 2007 MOACSEP Allocations. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The Commission approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Other

Bonnie Graham from OSA stated that the July Commission meeting will focus on reviewing the 2007-2010 Stat Plan and it is our goal to have it up on our website by the end of the month.

Cindy Albrecht from OSA noted that the Senior Citizen of the Year nomination applications are still available.

Commissioner Talab invited the Commission to join the International Arab Festival on June 15, 16, and 17 in Dearborn.

Commissioner Wilson informed us of their Older Americans Festival on Wednesday, June 20 at Freedom Hill in Macomb County.

Commissioner Verma invited everyone to attend the India Days celebration on August 12 in Novi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on July 20. Given ongoing concerns regarding the 2007 State budget, the July Commission meeting will be held via conference call. Anyone from the public wishing to attend may come to the Office of Services to the Aging at 7109 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing to participate.

The August 2 State Advisory Council meetings have been cancelled due to ongoing concerns with the 2007 State budget. We are hoping to be back to normal by October 1, but will keep you posted.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rau and seconded by Commissioner Walters. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.