

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Office of Services to the Aging, Lansing

November 21, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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.

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) staff to the Commission meeting and asked them to introduce themselves and give a brief description of what they do at OSA.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Bollinger, Joan Budden, Mary Gardner, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Thomas Rau, Anthony Pawelski, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Owen Bieber and Rose Gill

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Eric Berke, Dan Doezema, Bonnie Graham, Wendi Middleton, Sally Steiner, Carol Dye, David Dekker, Dee Lamb, Terri Simon, Holliace Spencer, Chris Korloch, Steve Betterly, Jan Bowlin, Sherri King, Laura McMurtry, Emma Buycks, Hema Malavia, Shirley Bentsen, Tricia Moore, Julia Thomas, Scott Wamsley, Cherie Mollison, Carol Stangel, Lauren Swanson, Pam Hall, Lynne McCollum, Neelam Puri, Drew Walker, Sarah Slocum, Cathy Dufresne, Priscilla Cheever, Brad Geller, Dawn Jacobs, and Lindsay Bacon – Student.

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Celine Taminian, Angela Willis, Jenny Jarvis, and Dana Lazeckko

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Pawelski 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 Bollinger made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Rau 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 updated the Commission on the following:

- Attended the 2008 Voices for Action Poverty Summit in Detroit
- Attended a Mid-West Regional Directors meeting with Administration on Aging (AoA) in Chicago
- Attended an open house for the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition/Quality Community Care
- OSA staff is currently involved in many initiatives, including working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to enlarge the Michigan map to assist those with visual impairments.

A brief discussion followed.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of "Community for a Lifetime" (CFL) Review Panel Recommendations

Dan Doezema, OSA staff, noted that the CFL Review Panel met on October 28, 2008, to review applications for recognition of their elder friendly community initiatives as follows:

Farmington Area Commission on Aging Application for 2008 CFL for recognition of Conducting a Community Assessment – the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills

Mr. Doezema noted the assessments used included the Michigan Community for a Lifetime Assessment and the Cleveland Foundation Assessment. The assessment partners included older adults, non-profit agencies and local government officials. He stated the assessment covered walkability, access to health care, transportation, health promotion/disease prevention, safety and security, housing, supportive community systems, commerce, and enrichment.

Mr. Doezema noted the following strengths of the assessment:

- There is an annual repair program that updates all sidewalks continuously
- Needs of older adults are addressed in city Master Plans
- There are seven Geriatricians in the community
- Good information access to older adults through website, resource directory and flyers
- Fire Department offers continuing education on aging issues to its employees

- Several events celebrating the area's cultural heritage are sponsored by the community
- Looking at opportunities for broadening the whole communities' awareness, understanding and celebration of the broad cultural diversity that exists there.

Mr. Doezema requested Commission approval of recognition for the Farmington Area Commissions on Aging elder friendly community assessment application for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the Community for a Lifetime recognition recommendation for the Farmington Area Commission on Aging application for 2008 CFL of conducting a community assessment - the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Calati. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Senior Task Force of Bay County for Conducting a Community Assessment of Bay County

Mr. Doezema noted the assessments used included the Michigan Community for a Lifetime Assessment and the Cleveland Foundation Assessment. The assessment partners included older adults, non-profit agencies and local government officials. He also stated the assessment covered walkability, access to health care, transportation, health promotion/disease prevention, safety and security, housing, supportive community systems, commerce, and enrichment.

Mr. Doezema noted the following strengths of the assessment:

- Use trail connections to make the whole area more accessible for improved walkability
- A "Tree City" designation, with a planned tree replacement program
- Flexible transportation system that contracts with private taxi services for weekend and holiday medical transport
- A range of affordable public housing options with no waiting lists, accessible to services
- ICANN: I can Create a Nicer Neighborhood groups focus on improving neighborhoods
- Seniors were surveyed in their communities, they rated their community high on elder friendly issues and municipalities incorporated their input within Master plans
- Highly detailed action plans using an advanced, high-tech prioritization process

Mr. Doezema requested Commission approval of recognition for the Senior Task Force of Bay County elder friendly community assessment application for Bay County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the Community for a Lifetime recognition recommendation of the Senior Task Force of Bay County for conducting a

community assessment of Bay County as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

The Blueprint for Aging Application for 2008 CFL Recognition of Making a Community Improvement – Washtenaw County

The Blueprint for Aging developed and created an “Aging with Attitude” art exhibit to tackle the diversity of individual and collective responses to growing older and expand a shared viewpoint about the possibilities and potential of aging residents. Mr. Doezema noted that the partners included older adults, young children, artists, non-profit agencies, for-profit businesses and local government officials. The improvement made addressed supportive community systems and broadening of public view of aging.

Mr. Doezema noted the following strengths of the improvement:

- Creative and positive way to address stigma, ageism and preconceived views of aging
- Invited and involved the whole community in re-thinking aging
- Celebrated diversity of gifts of aging and diversity of aging experience
- Involved new connections between outside artists nationally, local artists, local community residents and young persons
- Reached out beyond the normal aging service network to establish new connections and support for community improvement

Mr. Doezema requested Commission approval of recognition for the Blueprint for Aging elder friendly community improvement application for Washtenaw County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston-Calati to approve the Community for a Lifetime recognition recommendation for the Blueprint for Aging “Making a Community Improvement – Washtenaw County as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Amended FY 2007 Nursing Home Diversion (NHD) Grant Allocations to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC)

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, requested Commission approval to amend the FY 2007 NDH grant allocation to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) in the amount of \$20,000. Ms. Middleton stated the re-allocated funds were originally allocated to the Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging to support mentoring activities associated with implementation of the Nursing Home Diversion Program. As the project progressed the needs of NHD partner AAAs changed and the planned mentoring services were found not to be necessary. Ms. Middleton stated OSA would like to re-program the \$20,000 to support training and outreach activities through the end of the initial grant period of March 31, 2009.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the revised FY 2007 NHD grant allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

State Advisory Council (SAC) Update

Commissioner Pawelski, Chair of the SAC, updated the Commission on the SAC meeting held on November 13, 2008. Commissioners requested they be notified of all upcoming meetings.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Commissioner Budden shared information on open enrollment for Medicare Advantage. Commissioner Budden stated that the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) has made many changes on marketing/sales approaches this year due to consumer concerns. Commissioner Budden discussed in detail the changes. Chairperson Kennedy thanked Commissioner Budden for her presentation.

Presentation by Celine Taminian, Curator of Education Arab American National Museum

Celine Taminian, Curator of Education Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, conducted a presentation to the Commission regarding the Arab population and culture. Ms. Taminian provided information to the Commission on the composition of, similarities and differences within the Arab nations. Commissioners thanked Ms. Taminian for her informative and enlightening presentation.

Other

Commissioner Wilson stated she had an opportunity to attend a Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) University workshop called "The Aging Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governments. She also attended a roundtable discussion called Suicide in Michigan: Perspectives in Prevention.

Commissioner Newport recommended a new book called "Age of Aging: How Demographics are Changing the Global Economy and Our World" by George Magnus.

Commissioner Gardner announced a community lunch sponsored by the Tri-County Office on Aging at the Union Missionary Baptist Church on December 10, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for older adults 60+ with a topic of "How Safe Do You Feel at Home".

Chairperson Kennedy announced the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) received funding in the amount of 1.7 million for the Detroit Long Term Care Systems Change Task Force to engage stakeholders in the reform of nursing care facilities in Detroit and other long term care settings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kennedy and Director Gire invited everyone to join OSA in celebrating its 35th Anniversary from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. today.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on December 19, 2008, 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 Newport and seconded by Commissioner Rau. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.