

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
October 16, 2009
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.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Joan Budden, Valerie Lafferty, and Amne Talab

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Wendi Middleton, Sarah Slocum, and Sally Steiner

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Mary Ablan, Carol Barrett, Anne Holmes Davis, Ginny Wood-Bailey, and Angela Willis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bieber 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 September 18, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Newport 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:

- Invited Commissioners to attend the OSA Cultural Diversity Event on October 21, 2009
- Sally Steiner, OSA staff, gave a Legislative update
- Announced OSA received the Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers (ADRC) grant from the Administration on Aging
- Announced the Office of Long Term Care Supports and Services (OLTCSS) migration to OSA is complete
- FY 2010 State Budget update

A discussion followed with the Commission asking what more they can do to advocate on behalf of the OSA budget given the 5.3 million reduction in state funding included as part of the continuing resolution. Discussion also followed on various health care reform options being considered at the federal level. Commissioners requested that at a future meeting they would like to hear more about the Elder Abuse Task Force Report, as well as, a presentation on alternate funding sources for aging services. Commissioner Verma asked for more information regarding the integration of OLTCSS. Director Gire explained in detail that six OLTCSS staff connected to two grants had been transferred to OSA and that budget issues would not be a concern for two years.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Creating Confident Caregivers: Master Trainer Certification

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of awarding Dona Billey-Weiler from Region IV Area Agency on Aging, with a Master Trainer Certification for the Creating Confident Caregivers Program. Ms. Billey-Weiler works at the Cass County Council on Aging.

Ms. Steiner stated Ms. Billey-Weiler completed the required activities and is the 10th master trainer recommended for certification. Her pilot trainings, solo training, and personal essay reflect her understanding of the Creating Confident Caregivers Program and she has scored highly as an effective trainer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the recommendation for certification of Ms. Billey-Weiler as Creating Confident Caregivers Master Trainer and seconded by Commissioner Pawelski.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Billey-Weiler was present via conference call to accept her certification and talked briefly about her experience in the program. Commissioner Kennedy thanked Ms. Billey-Weiler for her participation in the program.

A brief discussion followed.

Approval of Request for Temporary Authority to Approve Area Plan Amendments Pertaining to Long Term Care Ombudsman Services

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of to grant temporary authority to the OSA Director to approve Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) area plan amendments related to Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman services.

Ms. Slocum stated that beginning in FY 2010, OSA no longer has a state contract for with Citizens for Better Care (CBC) to provide LTC Ombudsman services in Michigan. This decision is independent of decisions made by AAAs in providing these services Ms. Slocum noted several AAAs are closely monitoring the status of their contracts with CBC for FY 2010 given the agency's ongoing performance and financial issues. OSA is requesting authority to temporarily approve the direct provision of Long Term Care Ombudsman/Advocacy services by an AAA should the decision be made to terminate their contract with CBC order to avoid, or minimize, any interruption in services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston-Calati to grant temporary authority to the OSA Director to approve temporary AAA area plan amendments pertaining to LTC Ombudsman services as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rau. Commission approved with an 11-0-1 vote with Commission Rau abstaining.

A discussion followed regarding current procedures including AAA Request for Proposal (RFP) processes. Discussion also focused on the checks and balances in place to prevent any interruptions in service. Ms. Slocum gave a brief history of CBC. Commissioners requested a summary of the federal guidelines pertaining to the LTC Ombudsman Program.

Approval of Direct Service Waiver for Region 2 Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of direct service waivers for Region 2 AAA for Long Term Care Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention services. Ms. Slocum introduced Ginny Wood-Bailey, Executive Director of Region 2 AAA.

Ms. Slocum stated Region 2 AAA released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on June 29, 2009, which included a legal notice in three county newspapers and letters to interested agencies with a deadline of August 13, 2009. Two organizations submitted proposals to provide LTC Ombudsman services. A proposal review committee met and reviewed one proposal for LTC Ombudsman services and denied the other because it was incomplete. Two proposals were submitted for Elder Abuse Prevention and Education services. Both proposals were denied by the review committee. All agencies were notified in writing of their right to file an appeal within 10 days of the denial letter. No appeals were submitted. As a result, Region 2 AAA is requesting a waiver to provide LTC Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention and Education services directly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rau to approve the direct service waiver for Region 2 AAA as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 9-0-2 vote with Commissioner Rau and Commissioner Verma abstaining.

A discussion followed regarding the RFP process and if all AAAs are aware of issues with CBC.

INFORMATION AND COMMENT

Ombudsman Update

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, presented a comparative analysis of LTC Ombudsman program data for Michigan with other states from Administration on Aging's (AoA) Region V. (IL, IN, MN, OH, and WI). This covered the number of facilities, number of licensed beds, funding, and Ombudsman complaints in Michigan from data collected in FY 2006.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Grant

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, introduced Carol Barrett, from So What...Evaluation Resources. Ms. Graham highlighted the new ADRC grant in detail stating the Michigan approach will focus on a "no wrong door" model and build on lessons learned from the Single Entry Point Demonstration. Ms. Graham noted ADRC core functions include: Information and Awareness; Streamlined Access; Options Counseling; Person-Centered Hospital Discharge Planning; and Quality Assurance and Evaluation. Ms. Graham stated the outcomes include consumers: having choices regarding long term care services; live in their preferred residential setting; have the services and supports in place to maintain their preferred residence; and local communities have successful partnerships to address long term care planning, policies and services to meet the needs of consumers. Ms. Graham further noted that all ADRC grant funding will be maintained at the state level to support various IT solutions and consultation services needed to sustain local ADRC functions and partnerships.

Nursing Home Diversion (NHD)/Community Living Program(CLP) Update

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, and Carol Barrett, from So What..Evaluation Resources provided a power point presentation on the status the NHD/CLP grant, inclusive of the characteristics of people served through the program and challenges/opportunities surrounding statewide expansion.

Other

Commissioner Rau distributed information on MLive as follow-up to the previous discussion on health care reform.

Commissioner Wilson noted that Macomb County held a drug awareness workshop for older adults.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2009 via conference call or you may come to the Office of Services to the Aging, 300 East Michigan Ave, Lansing.

The next State Advisory Council meeting will be held on October 22, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. via conference call.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bieber and seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.