

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**  
**Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center**  
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI  
September 17, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Kennedy welcomed the Commissioners and thanked them for participating and for their concern for seniors. The welcome was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Kennedy introduced the newly appointed, Commissioner Sheehan.

**ROLL CALL**

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jerutha Kennedy, Chair, Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary P. Gardner, Valerie Lafferty, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Michael Sheehan, Ramesh Verma, Janice Wilson, and James Wright.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Joan Budden, Kathleen Johnston-Calati and Amne Talab.

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

None.

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

Sharon Gire, Peggy Brey, Steve Betterly, Jan Bowlin, Emma Buycks, Dan Doezema, Carol Dye, Bonnie Graham, Laura McMurtry, Sarah Slocum, Sally Steiner and OSA student intern, Andrea Mayes Kruerer.

**VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Karla Fales, AAA Region 3-B Executive Director, Luann Sommers, AAA Region 3-B, John Gelletich, AAA Region 3-B, Stephen R. Todd, AAA Region 3-C Executive Director, Laura Sutter, AAA Region 3-C Aging Programs Coordinator, Judy Sivak, AAA Region 3-A Executive Director, Tom Czerwinski, AAA Region 8 Executive Director, Sandra Davis, AAA Region 8, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, AAA Region 8, Pam Curtis, AAA Region 14 Executive Director, Amy Florea, AAA Region 14, Tina Abbate-Marzolf, AAA Region 1-B Executive Director, Angela Willis, Director, Macomb County Dept. of Senior Citizen Services, and Merilee Griffin of E. Lansing for public comment.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Gardner made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2010 meeting with one correction. Commissioner Rau seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

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

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Merilee Griffin provided the Commission with a flyer on an operating software idea she began developing three years ago, called "Memo." Memo is a small touch screen device that sits on a table where it will be seen frequently by seniors needing reminders during the day while their caregivers are away, which can be programmed remotely. Ms. Griffin is looking for input and investors. Her website is mg@memotouch.com.

Commissioner Wilson suggested statements and reminders be put in a positive format.

## **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- ❖ Director Gire reported OSA received notification that we've received two significant grants, the Mega MIPPA grant, which is additional funding for outreach in the MMAP program and includes information on prevention. Money Follows the Person funding which will be jointly administered between OSA and DCH.
- ❖ Director Gire noted she visited Gaylord and Hale for two faith-based conferences focusing on what they can do to identify elder abuse in their fellowship. She will go to Escanaba for their senior expo, then on to Traverse City for the National American Indian Council on Aging Conference to provide greetings and to serve on an aging panel. She participated on a panel with AARP in a Public Health Nurses conference this month related to the new Healthcare Report and its impact on seniors, and she provided a handout.
- ❖ Director Gire highlighted detailed background on the newly Governor-appointed Commissioner Michael Sheehan.
- ❖ Director Gire invited the Commissioners to an event being planned by OSA's Honoring Difference Committee, to raise cultural awareness of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community, scheduled for October 26, 2010, at OSA.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 11 Annual Implementation Plan**

Dan Doezema, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 11 Annual Implementation Plan

Mr. Doezema recognized and thanked Emma Buycks, who did most of the core work on the new AMPS system that produced the reports.

Mr. Doezema introduced Jon Mead, Director of the AAA Region 11, which serves Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft Counties.

Mr. Doezema noted AAA Region 11 had no special conditions, and highlighted some of their newest activities. They have developed their Kinship program and recently received a grant from the Brookdale Foundation for Relatives as Parents, establishing their own regional Kinship Resource Center to serve more people in their areas; they've continued to enrich their 211 call center, moving in the direction to be the core of the aging and disabilities resource collaborative; they've participated in the Community Living Program and contracted with the Veterans for Self-Determination in home and community-based settings; their two SAVVY Caregiver master trainers have trained many people in the program; and they've helped to pioneer and develop the TCARE model in the UP and supported the training of 2 of their care managers as TCARE Master Trainers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2011 Annual Implementation Plan for the U.P. Region 11 as presented. Commissioner Pawelski seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

Commissioner Rau asked about the planned services summary pages and noted that some had X's as opposed to dollar amounts and he requested that dollar amounts be inserted in all future summary pages.

Commissioner Newport asked to include an additional column on the planned services summary page to show the previous year's allocations.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 3-A Annual Implementation Plan**

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 3-A Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Berke introduced Judy Sivak, Executive Director of the AAA Region 3-A, which serves Kalamazoo County.

Mr. Berke noted AAA Region 3-A has met all of their requirements, there were no special conditions, and he highlighted some of their activities. They had a transfer request of \$15,000 from Title 3 Part C into Title 3 Part D to provide participant transportation to congregate meal programs; they had a planned entrepreneurial activity to be involved in the Kalamazoo County Senior expo, which includes considerable fundraising; they have been a partner in the Community Living Program, reengineering and strengthening their access delivery system, modified their intake and are providing options counseling.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 3-A Annual Implementation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 8 Annual Implementation Plan**

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 8 Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Berke introduced Tom Czerwinski, Executive Director of the AAA Region 8 of Western Michigan, which serves Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo and Osceola Counties.

Mr. Berke noted AAA Region 8 has met all of their requirements, there were no special conditions, and he highlighted some of their activities. They had one special approval for a waiver of the minimum percentage requirement for priority services for legal assistance. Region 8 is requesting permission to spend less than the minimum required amount of Title 3, Part B on legal assistance and in turn, they are committing more than that amount from the Kent County Senior millage to support legal assistance; they've had an ongoing and continued emphasis in the evidence based disease prevention program received a demonstration grant from AoA, and they've consistently worked to expand and establish the programs throughout their PSA; they've been involved in a caregiver resource network involving a number of agencies and organizations, which entails a wide range of activities;

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 8 Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 14 Annual Implementation Plan**

Eric Berke, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 14 Senior Resources Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Berke introduced Pam Curtis, Executive Director of Senior Resources, the AAA Region 14, which serves Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa Counties.

Mr. Berke noted AAA Region 14 has met all of their requirements, there were no special conditions, and he highlighted some of their activities. There is a new direct service waiver for caregiver education, support and training; they're working with a national consultant to establish a formal collaboration with the partners in Tanglewood Park; they've been a Community Living Program partner, taking an active role in integrating options counseling in their access delivery system; and they've placed an increased and ongoing emphasis on the development of the evidence-based disease prevention program throughout their PSA with master trainers on staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 14 Senior Resources Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of Revised Operating Standards for Legal Services**

Eric Berke and Lynne McCollum, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the Revised Operating Standards for Legal Services.

Mr. Berke and Ms. McCollum gave an overview of the proposed revisions to the Operating Standards for Service Programs, Legal Assistance. Mr. Berke noted that it has been over 15 years since the service definitions and standards have been reviewed for revisions. The proposed revisions are intended to update the standards to promote a coordinated legal services delivery system and continue the legal assistance program enhancement efforts of Michigan's Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Systems grant. This went out for public review and comment and that summary was provided to the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Revised Operating Standards for Legal Services as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The motion approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

Commissioner Kennedy asked for one revision, and a brief discussion followed.

**Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 5 Annual Implementation Plan**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 5 Annual Implementation Plan.

Ms. McMurtry introduced Kathy Boles, Executive Director of AAA Region 5, which serves Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

Ms. McMurtry noted AAA Region 5 had no special conditions and highlighted some of their activities. They continue to focus on the health and wellness of seniors with enhanced nursing transitions to allow seniors to remain in their own homes; they're expanding the PATH program with some of the ARRA funds they've received; they're focusing on Project 2020 in the area of information assistance access, to be more person-centered; Ms. Boles has a monthly radio show entitled, "*Listen To*"; and they are working to strengthen their relationship with the disability community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 5 Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bieber. The motion approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

**Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 4 Annual Implementation Plan**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 4 Annual Implementation Plan.

Ms. McMurtry introduced Lynn Kellogg, Executive Director of AAA Region 4, which serves Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties.

Ms. McMurtry noted AAA Region 4 had no special conditions and highlighted some of their activities. There's a transfer request of \$25,000 from Title III-C1 Congregate

Nutrition Services to Title III-B Supportive Services for in-home services, as they felt the funding for the congregate meals funds are sufficient and the need is greater for in-home services; there was also a transfer of \$10,000 from Title III-C1 to Title III-B to support a large number of the minority and poverty population with a means to get them to the meal sites, out of their homes, and for socialization purposes; they've applied to be an ADRC; they're part of the Nursing Home Diversion and Community Living Programs; they've applied for the Program of the All-inclusive Care of the Elderly; they're committed to addressing the issue of health and chronic disease with "active living every day" as one of their program development objectives; they're a caregiver focal point and are very active in outreach and service to caregivers; and they had a diversity training on LGBT for providers on access to healthcare and issues to be sensitive about when serving those populations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 4 Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. The motion approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

**Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 3-B Annual Implementation Plan**

Steve Betterly, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 3-B Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Betterly introduced Karla Fales, Executive Director of AAA Region 3-B, which serves Barry and Calhoun Counties.

Mr. Betterly noted a correction to Region 3-B's website, it should be [www.region3b.com](http://www.region3b.com). He also introduced Luann Sommers, a planner with the agency, and John Gelletich, the financial person for the agency.

Mr. Betterly noted AAA Region 3-B had no special conditions and highlighted some of their activities. They requested approval to transfer \$30,000 from Title III-B to Title III-C and \$20,000 from Title III-C to Title III-B, to provide the agency some flexibility to move funds if needed, depending on the needs of the community; and Miller College has added Aging Services Certificate as part of their bachelor's of business administration, and they're working with the AAA to refine the curriculum. They asked Ms. Fales to participate and she's teaching four of the modules, and their senior services manager will be teaching the care management piece of it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rau to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 3B Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright. The motion approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief conversation followed.

**Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 3-C Annual Implementation Plan**

Steve Betterly, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 3-C Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Betterly introduced Laura Sutter, Aging Programs Coordinator, and Stephen Todd, Executive Director of AAA Region 3-C, which serves Branch and St. Joseph Counties.

Mr. Betterly noted AAA Region 3-C had no special conditions and highlighted some of their activities. They requested approval of regional service definition for Community Living Program to develop and incorporate it into their formal planning; and they have a request to transfer funds from Title III-C1 to Title III-B to provide the agency some flexibility to move funds if needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 3-C Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief conversation followed.

**Approval of FY 2011 AAA Region 1-B Annual Implementation Plan**

Steve Betterly, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 AAA Region 1-B Annual Implementation Plan.

Mr. Betterly introduced Tina Abbate-Marzolf, Executive Director of AAA Region 1-B, which serves Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties.

Mr. Betterly noted AAA Region 1-B had no special conditions and highlighted some of their activities. They requested approval of planned entrepreneurial activities that cover fund raising, exhibit fees, training fees and website development that will generate revenue for the agency; they included regional service definition for Community Living Program services, same as Region 3-B's; and the agency has added case coordination support.

Ms. Abbate-Marzolf noted some significant changes to the 2011 AIP. Primarily due to budget cuts, they've prioritized services a bit differently. Due to the Community Living Program, they've embraced that concept as a way to address some of the issues of having more need than resources to meet them. They've looked at the CLP as a resource to guide them in serving more people without being encumbered by previous programs and paperwork, and as an opportunity to restructure their whole Community Support Division, which are their nurses and social workers. And they're working on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 AAA Region 1-B Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

A brief conversation followed.

**Approval of Distribution of FY 2011 Title VII Funds to Local Ombudsman Programs**

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of Distribution of FY 2011 Title VII Funds to Local Ombudsman Programs.

Ms. Slocum stated that each year for the past six years, OSA has distributed a portion of the federal long term care funds directly to local programs so they can enhance their local services to residents of long term care facilities through the ombudsman program. This year, \$140,000 will be distributed by formula to all the AAAs for use in local ombudsman programs. The AAA's that operate the program directly would use the funding internally and those that contract the program out will contract the funding to their contractors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the Distribution of FY 2011 Title VII Funds to Local Ombudsman Programs as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. The motion approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

A brief conversation followed.

#### **Approval of the 2010-2011 State Advisory Council Charge**

Commissioner Pawelski requested Commission approval of the 2010-2011 State Advisory Council Charge.

Commissioner Pawelski noted that the State Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2010, at 9:30 AM and he welcomed the Commissioners to attend. The SAC will begin their work on the charge and final decision of the Commission, "Older Adults and Technology."

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the 2010-2011 State Advisory Council Charge as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The motion approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval of Revised FY 2010 Title VII Long Term Care Ombudsman Allocations**

Sarah Slocum, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of Revised FY 2010 Title VII Long Term Care Ombudsman Allocations.

Ms. Slocum stated that OSA was notified just this week by AoA, of a revision to the current year distribution of excess Title VII Ombudsman funds in the amount of \$25,000. Approval is being sought to distribute the funds to local ombudsman service providers through the AAAs by formula prior to the end of the fiscal year, or be forfeited.

As well, OSA was notified of an additional allocation of \$7,000 in Civil Money Penalty Funds for support funding to the Ombudsman office in OSA. Approval is being sought to distribute the funds to Region 11 as a fiduciary, to print consumer materials and distributed to ombudsman in all regions that will last through the end of next year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the \$25,000 in Title VII Ombudsman funds as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner. The motion approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve allocation of \$7,000 in Civil Money Penalty Funds as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Verma. The motion approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

### **Approval of the FY 2011 Older Volunteer Program State Allocations**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2011 Older Volunteer Program State Allocations.

Ms. Graham stated that since the state budget has not yet been finalized, the state funding allocations for the three older volunteer programs reflect an approximate 8% reduction from state funds awarded in FY 2010, and are based on the proposed FY 2011 executive budget. The proposed total funding for the three older volunteer programs is \$4,441,460 with \$23,840 allocated to evaluation of the programs, which will be conducted on a state level through the approved contract with *So What Evaluation Resources, Inc.* for all three programs.

Ms. Graham noted she would need three motions: 1) to approve \$2,225,990 for the Foster Grandparent Program of Michigan; 2) to approve \$1,598,120 to the Senior Companion Program; and 3) to approve \$615,350 to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the FY 2011 Older Volunteer Program State Allocation of \$2,225,990 for the Foster Grandparent Program of Michigan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. The motion was approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the FY 2011 Older Volunteer Program State Allocation of \$617,350 to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the FY 2011 Older Volunteer Program State Allocation of \$1,598,120 for the Senior Companion Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

#### **Discussion of the Newly Proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield Rate Structure**

Commissioner Kennedy noted that this issue would be discussed in further detail at the October meeting. Information related to this was sent to the Commissioners and should be read. As well, someone from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be presenting for part of the discussion.

Commissioner Gardner asked for more information on how this is impacting folks.

Director Gire clarified that the proposed rate restructure is filed before the Office of Finance and Insurance Regulations (OFIR) who oversees that and makes the final decision. It is currently in a public comment period that will end November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is related to retirees who do not have group insurance and are purchasing Part B Medigap insurance. Should the Commission choose to provide input, there will be time to do so if this is discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Verma asked where to send comments. Director Gire said she would send that information on OFIR to the Commissioners.

A brief discussion followed and it was decided to place "Newly Proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield Rate Restructure" as a business item for vote on the October meeting agenda and placed first on the agenda.

Commissioner Verma made the motion to place Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Rate Restructure as the first business item for vote on the agenda for the October meeting agenda. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Kennedy stated another volunteer is needed to assist in reading the Aging and Disability Resource Center applications coming up soon. Commissioner Wilson volunteered to do so.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2010, at a location yet to be determined.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be held on September 23, 2010 at the Ramada Inn located at 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bieber. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.