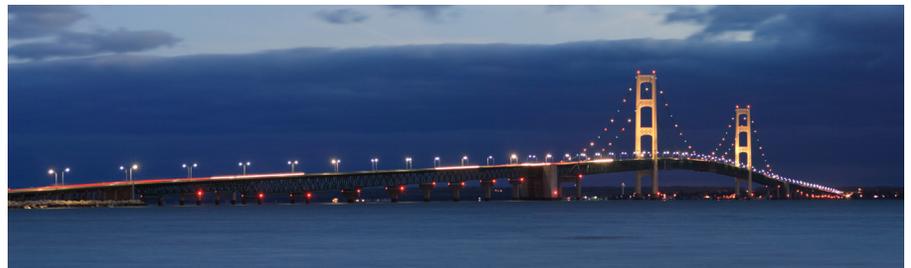


State Advisory Council on Aging

2019 REPORT

Executive Summary



MICHIGAN AREA AGENCIES ON AGING Innovative Practices Supporting Older Adults

- DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE
- ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION
- TRANSPORTATION

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Commission on Services to the Aging

The Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) is a 15-member, bipartisan body that is appointed by the governor. The CSA advises the governor, the Michigan legislature, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) on matters relating to policies and programs for older adults. Members are appointed for three-year terms, and membership reflects the distribution and composition of the state's older population. A majority are aged 60 and older, and no more than eight members are from the same political party.

Working in close collaboration with AASA, the CSA approves funds for services statewide; participates in preparation of the multi-year state plan required as a condition of federal funding; determines aging policy; serves as an advocate for older adults in government decisions; holds public hearings across the state; and appoints a 40-member State Advisory Council on Aging to advise state-level decision-making.

State Advisory Council on Aging

The 40-member State Advisory Council (SAC) is appointed by the Commission on Services to the Aging to represent the needs and interests of local communities providing sage advice on vital state issues and policies impacting Michigan's older and vulnerable adults. The council researches important topics assigned by the commission to inform Michigan's older adults, the aging network, and state government.

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Executive Summary

In 2018, the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) charged the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) with compiling a list of innovative practices implemented by Michigan's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in three critical areas of concern: Direct Care Workforce, Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention, and Transportation Solutions. SAC sent the AAAs questions to learn about innovative practices that could be shared. SAC workgroup members discussed the responses and made follow-up conference calls with AAA staff. This report highlights these practices.

Direct Care Workforce Highlights

- Recruitment and retention strategies were implemented by AAAs including offering cash support for unmet emergency needs of direct care workers (DCWs) or providing cash grants to homecare agencies for bonuses to high performing DCWs.
- To have a better-trained, high-skilled workforce, several AAAs implemented the Building Training...Building Quality (BTBQ™) personal care assistant training. The 77-hour training curriculum focuses on older adults and people with physical disabilities living at home.

Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Highlights

- Many AAAs participate in community coalitions to prevent elder abuse and neglect. Several have created multidisciplinary and specialty teams to support various elder abuse prevention strategies such as improving investigations, establishing death review committees, and reviewing financial fraud and hoarding situations.
- A set of risk assessment tools for assessing the risk of financial exploitation, developed by Peter A. Lichtenberg, Ph.D., are available online. One tool is the *Financial Decision Tracker*, a 10-item interview, that examines a specific financial decision made by an older adult to assess his or her financial judgment and/or vulnerability to theft and scams, and whether financial predation may have taken place.

Transportation Highlights

- Three southeast Michigan AAAs came together to provide a *One-Click, One-Call* mobility management service, myride2, which helps users coordinate transportation.
- AAAs have actively collaborated with local transit authorities to improve transportation options for older adults. As a result, in Flint, telephone and website access was improved. A volunteer driver program developed with the Wexford Transit Authority is very successful.

All innovative practices came with needs for funding, continuous improvements based on technology, and other potential barriers, which must be addressed. This report details the AAAs' responses to the SAC's questions about their innovative practices and includes a discussion of issues.

The full 2019 State Advisory Council Report may be found at: <http://bit.ly/MISAC2019>