

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING
Branch-St. Joseph Area Agency on Aging (3C)
570 Marshall Road; Coldwater, Michigan
June 20, 2014 @10:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mast called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSION ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Harold Mast, Michael Burri, Douglas Chalgian, Shannon English, Joan Ilardo, Gerald Irby, Donna Murray-Brown, Donald Newport, Richard Ortega, Renee' Reid-Smith, Patricia Rencher, Michael Sheehan and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeffery Schade (excused).

OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING (OSA) STAFF PRESENT

Kari Sederburg, Leslie Shanlian, Wendi Middleton, Scott Wamsley, Dan Doezema, Laura McMurtry and Carol Dye.

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Laura Sutter, Coordinator, AAA 3C, Dale Swift and Rod Olney, Branch County Commissioners, Steve Chambers and Kirk Glezen, Adult Well-Being Services, Representative Matthew Lori, Lynn Coursey, SJCCOA, Don Reid, Gatehouse Medicine, Terry Vear, HCSSC, Elena Hines, Three Rivers Commercial News, Amy Duff, BCCOA, Keith Moore, and Dona Wishart of Gaylord.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mast asked to amend the agenda and add Gatekeeper Program Committee Report under Informational Items, VII b.

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2014, CSA minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Mast introduced State Representative Matt Lori, and thanked him for his advocacy for seniors and for all his work in leading the charge.

Representative Lori stated it's been his pleasure working on the Department of Community Health budget for the past six years, and to chair that committee for the past four years, noting the difficult decisions he had to make in regards to the budget, but thankful this year was a very good year. He credited Director Sederburg for her recommendations, and fully supports the efforts of this Commission and will assist however he can in the future.

Dale Swift, District 2 Branch County Commissioner, introduced himself, and is serving his 10th year on his Commission. He thanked Laura Sutter and her staff for the great work they've done in the community.

Rod Olay, Branch County Commissioner welcomed the Commission.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Mast welcomed everyone to Branch County, and called attention to the updated Commission schedule and member list in their meeting folder.

OSA Director Report

Director Kari Sederburg thanked Laura Sutter for hosting the Commission, and thanked Representative Lori for his advocacy and all the work he did on OSA's budget.

Director Sederburg stated the State budget is going to the Governor for signature, and includes \$20+ million for aging-related programs, and she praised the network and Silver Key Coalition for their advocacy efforts on this budget.

Director Sederburg stated the Governor gave his special message on aging on June 2nd.

Director Sederburg stated two new grant requests will be coming before the Commission soon for additional funding for an evidence based program on fall prevention, and an aging and disability resource collaboration (ADRC) grant for systems change, which will create an ADRC at the state level in bringing all the state partners together to look at the systems and at streamlining eligibility.

Director Sederburg stated the Home Help Program, a Medicaid funded program administered through the Department of Human Services for individuals who need in home supports, was audited. It showed about 3,800 people who are caregivers had criminal backgrounds, were convicted felons and were paid to provide care to elders. Although this is not OSA's program, it's an issue OSA is very concerned about for the older adults and disabled individuals being served by these caregivers. OSA has been invited to sit on a

work group to look at how to reinvent the program and build in safeguards. There's something called self-determination, which allows individuals to choose their caregiver, and be paid with Medicaid funds, but the debate is if self-determination is allowed, should background checks be considered for those caring for our most vulnerable population.

Commissioner Burri stated the Home Help program is instrumental to competent citizens who choose to stay in the community and allows them to select family members to provide care that may have criminal backgrounds. This is an artificial obstacle we shouldn't be promoting because it's troubling when the right to choose a caregiver is impeded by these issues. These are low income folks who are most in need and in communities that may have a higher percentage of those with criminal backgrounds, so he felt it wasn't right to impose the perspective of one group to suggest this is wrong for everyone. He's unsure of the Commission's position, but he hopes they are not trying to impede the process.

Director Sederburg stated this has been the ongoing debate and why criminal background checks haven't been done in the past. When caregivers committed a crime 30 years ago and have since reformed their lives, they may actually be very good caregivers. There's also been discussion on tiers of crimes.

Commissioner Reid-Smith stated there are two different issues; self-determination of a family member with a past history, versus someone that's been assigned because they're in the DHS pool. There are three tiers of felonies, so there are exclusions, but the other issue is caregivers accepting state and federal money and using that as their excuse to continue receiving unemployment, who weren't given any training as a health provider, taking a stipend, and claiming that as work, which is another issue with self-determination.

Commissioner Mast stated the report has been shared with the Commission and directors of the Departments of Community Health and Human Services, who will deal with the issue, and he noted he would wait to see what happens with that.

Director Sederburg stated the Governor spoke at Older Michiganians Day, which was a huge success with 700+ in attendance, and the Silver Key Coalition met and advocated with key Legislators.

Commissioner Newport stated several advocates came out in support of OSA's budget and he suggested a letter go out on behalf of the Commission to those who helped.

Director Sederburg stated OSA sent thank you letters to legislators that voted in favor of OSA's budget, but offered to draft a letter from the Commission as well, to the advocates.

Director Sederburg stated AARP came out with a national report on long term care supports and services ranking the states on 26 different indicators. OSA had a call with them and they recognized there were some areas they didn't think were fair. Michigan ranked 31st out of 51, but they used data from 2009 and 2011, so it didn't necessarily capture some of the great progress made since then. Although there are areas for improvement, looking at the home and community based funding did not take into account the increase in funding over the last couple of years.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Commissioner Newport asked to write a letter expressing appreciation to the Legislature and the Governor for the funding increase for this year's budget for OSA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve this motion, as presented. Commissioner Burri seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Approval of Program Year (PY) 2014-2015 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, provided an overview on SCSEP, which is an employment and training program funded by the Department of Labor under Title V of the Older American's Act, designated for seniors 55 and older on a limited income.

Ms. McMurtry requested approval to award the PY 2014-2015 SCSEP allocations in the amount of \$2,881,903 to 10 subgrantees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zamora to approve the PY 2014-2015 SCSEP award allocations, as presented. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Request for Approval to Amend an Elder Law of Michigan (ELM) Grant

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, requested approval of an amendment to the Model Legal Approaches grant in the amount of \$14,000 to be awarded to ELM, to support their work on Michigan's elder rights charter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murray-Brown for approval to amend an ELM grant, as presented. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Ombudsman Funds to Legal Services of South Central Michigan

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, requested approval to award \$12,000 to Legal Services of South Central Michigan, to provide assistance to local ombudsman on individual case analysis, administrative appeals training, level of care problems, involuntary discharges, and other topics, for their attorney who provides technical assistance to the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ortega to approve FY 2014 Ombudsman funds to Legal Services of South Central of Michigan, as presented. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Approval of Revised Commission By-Laws Language

Commissioners Mast asked Commissioners Sheehan and Chalgian to present.

Commissioner Sheehan stated the Attorney General's Office issued a memo indicating telephonic meetings of the Commission might not conform with the Open Meetings Act. He called attention to the Commission By-Laws, Article III Meetings, Section 3.4, Telephone Conference Meetings. In consulting with Commissioner Chalgian, he recommended the CSA By-Laws language in Article III Meetings be amended as follows:

3.4 Member Participation by Alternate Means

- A. A regularly scheduled or properly rescheduled Commission meeting may be held via telephone or by electronic means such as video conferencing when it is in the interest of the Commission and the Office of Services to the Aging to do so. Public notice of the telephone conference meeting shall be given and notice of the telephone conference number shall be provided to each Area Agency on Aging Director for the purpose of public notice and access to the meeting.
- B. A member who is not physically present may vote or be considered present for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists, only to the extent allowed by the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the revision of the Commission By-Laws language, as presented. Commissioner Chalgian seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

Approval of Draft Senior Corps Letter on Proposed Changes

Director Sederburg provided an updated draft letter to members of Congress in opposition of President Obama's budget recommendation to cut and eventually eliminate the Senior Corps programs for review and approval.

Commissioner Newport met with Commissioners Ortega, Ilardo, Reid-Smith, Murray-Brown and Irby, along with Dan Doezema, OSA staff, and reviewed a draft letter to Congress opposing the proposed funding cuts for the volunteer programs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the letter opposing funding cuts to the volunteer programs, as presented. Commissioner Reid-Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner English suggested adding titles after names in the letter for better impact.

Commissioner Reid-Smith suggested adding Michigan is the top state in the nation who provides the most funding for these volunteer programs, and could be a national model.

Commissioner Ilardo suggested sending a similar letter to Michigan's state legislators with a dashboard of what we're doing as a state and how there's two pots of money, with one for federal level funding, to ensure the \$5 million state appropriation is understood.

Commissioner Mast stated he would speak with Congressman Huizenga and let him know his programs are in jeopardy, and discuss the issues with the proposed funding cuts.

The amended motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

NAPIS 2013 Data Overview

Scott Wamsley, OSA staff, provided handouts and an overview of the NAPIS 2013 data.

Mr. Wamsley stated he would e-mail the URL and a copy of the report.

Commissioner Newport stated when he tells folks he's a Commissioner of the Commission on Services to the Aging, they are not familiar with us, and he asked for more press.

Director Sederburg stated there has been a lot of press lately, but OSA will do more.

Gatekeeper Program Committee Report

Commissioner Mast asked Commissioner Irby for an update from his workgroup of Commissioners Ilardo, Newport and Reid-Smith to discuss the Gatekeeper Program.

Commissioner Irby stated they had brief discussion on how to market the Gatekeeper further and decided to continue discussions. They will provide a detailed report in the fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mast asked Commissioner Sheehan about the State Advisory Council on Aging report.

Commissioner Sheehan stated their draft report on Baby Boomers, what they're going to do, and what they should know, will be brought to the next meeting, at which time the next assignment options will be discussed.

Commissioner Mast stated the next meeting will be held on July 18, 2014, in Port Huron.

Commissioner Mast stated there are five Commissioners whose appointment terms are expiring. He hopes to be reappointed, along with Commissioners Irby, Schade and Zamora. He thanked Commissioner English for her time served on the Commission, and for her geriatrician knowledge and expertise. He noted the expectation is that those who are not immediately replaced are expected to continue serving until that happens.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mast asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Newport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheehan.

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Mast adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.