

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) Meeting
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau)**

**Senior Resources of West Michigan, Tanglewood Park
560 Seminole Road, Muskegon, MI**

**May 17, 2024
APPROVED AMENDED MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Interim Commission Chair Kristie Zamora.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Walid Gammouh, Jennifer Lepard, Joy Murphy, Mike Pohnl, Dennis Smith, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Nancy Duncan, Arjan Kallou, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, and Bob Schlueter

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Julie Cortright, Tammy Lemmer, Cindy Masterson, and Scott Wamsley

WELCOME

Pam Curtis, CEO of Senior Resources of West Michigan, welcomed the commission and gave an overview of programs and thanked the commission for coming to the center to hear the voices of the seniors in the Muskegon area. In addition to providing updates about the work of Senior Resources of West Michigan, she shared some concerns about the MI Choice Waiver program reimbursement rates.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Chair Zamora requested a motion to approve the CSA meeting agenda with one noted amendment. Motion was made by Commissioner Tuggle and Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion; amended agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Interim Chair Zamora requested a motion to approve the March 15, 2024, CSA meeting minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion; minutes were approved by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Interim Commission Chair Zamora, reported the following:

- Thanked Pam Curtis and the staff at Tanglewood Park for hosting the meeting and public hearing and making the commission feel welcome.
- Thanked commissioners for all the preparation and time and effort to travel to meetings around the state.
- Led introductions of commissioners and staff.
- Let the group know that last month we celebrated Older Michiganians Day (OMD) at the state capitol and Commissioner Tuggle attended and represented the CSA at the event. She invited her to speak about the event.
- Commissioner Tuggle shared the following:
 - The event was very well attended and all 16 area agencies on aging (AAA) were in attendance. One of the goals of the event is to meet with legislators.
 - She shared with the group in attendance some of the CSA-supported advocacy issues: long-term care ombudsman funding, direct care worker wage increase, establishment of Caregiver Resource Centers, and the benefit of home care services to seniors in Michigan.
 - Commissioner Joy Murphy received the Older Adult of the Year Award.
 - The people in attendance met with legislators and shared the CSA Advocacy letters as well as any additional advocacy efforts from aging network partners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO THE STATE PLAN ON AGING OR ACLS BUREAU PROGRAMS, SERVICES, POLICIES, OR ISSUES IMPACTING OLDER AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

None.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Bomberg, CSA Advocacy Committee Member, provided the following:

- The committee met on April 25, 2024, with the primary focus being on OMD activities and advocacy efforts. They also discussed the Caregiver Tax Credit and will have a motion for CSA approval later in the meeting.
- The committee also discussed the Older Americans Act reauthorization. The committee will need more information before making any motions related to the reauthorization.
- He asked Pam Curtis to share some of the information about the MI Choice Waiver concerns with the advocacy committee so they could do further research to see where the CSA could be helpful.

CSA LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN (LTCO) COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Bomberg, CSA LTCO Committee Chair, provided the following:

- The committee has met three times. The meetings have been largely informational and discussing information they would need in order to address the LTCO funding formula.
- Salli Pung, State LTCO, was invited to the last meeting and spoke about her

perspective on the needs of the program. It was very informative and will help the committee with their efforts moving forward. She was able to give some additional information on differences throughout regions in the state.

- The committee has an approximate 3-5 month window to move forward with CSA recommendations. They are awaiting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget finalization, where there is hope that additional funding will be earmarked for the program, which will have an impact on the funding formula.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) UPDATE

Commissioner Pohnl, SAC Chair, provided the following updates:

- Noted that later in the meeting, there is a business item to approve SAC Applicant Review Committee appointments and reappointments recommendations.
- Currently, the SAC is working on their bylaws with a goal of proposing the changes to the CSA in the near future.
- The SAC continues to work on recruitment.
- SAC Co-Vice Chair, Marjorie Hobe, represented the SAC at OMD. She shared a list of AAA openings for the SAC.
- He announced that he will be stepping down as the SAC Chair and a new chair will be appointed at the June 2024 CSA meeting.

ACLS BUREAU UPDATES

Scott Wamsley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Thanked Pam Curtis and Tanglewood for hosting the meeting and public hearing.
- He gave some additional context about the MI Choice Waiver program:
 - The program has been part of the aging network since the early 1990s. It was designed to help seniors stay in their homes with in-home supports.
 - It has grown since then from a \$5M budget to an approximate \$450M budget.
 - Originally, the state unit on aging role was to be involved in the programmatic portion of the MI Choice Waiver program. The rate-setting portion of the program is in another bureau within our administration. There have been discussions about the reimbursement rates and the data provided.
 - The ACLS Bureau has been in contact with the bureau responsible for rate setting to make sure they have all the information available as well as knowledge of the challenges and concerns of the network related to reimbursement rates.
- Discussed ongoing nursing home closures around the state. A team from the bureau's Long Term Care Services Division has been working around the state to support these voluntary closures to be sure residents are placed appropriately in another setting. This is a heavy lift for the team of three to work on these closures.
- We are watching the FY 2025 budget process closely - the LTCO funding; Caregiver Tax Credit, Structured Family Caregiving, and nutrition funding.
- Work continues on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements. MI Choice Waiver agents will be implementing EVV in September 2024.
- HCBS ARPA projects are moving forward. IMPART Alliance was recently awarded \$25M in ARPA funds for Direct Care Worker (DCW) training. PACE has \$20M in

ARPA funding to expand programs throughout the state and construction/work is beginning. ARPA funding has been designated for a Home Help respite project. Also, the ARPA-funded long-term care awareness and options counseling work has begun.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Cindy Masterson, Director of the Operations & Aging Network Support (OANS) Division, provided information related to ACLS Bureau financial updates.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Updated Home Injury Control Operating Standard

Julie Cortright, Regional Aging Representative, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to implement the updated Operating Standard for Home Injury Control. The development of the draft Home Injury Control Operating Standards for Service programs is the result of extensive program policy analysis and feedback from a workgroup comprised of subject matter experts. The draft standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024. All responses were reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the revised standard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruce to approve the request and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

b. Request for Approval of Revised A-3 Disaster Advocacy and Outreach Operating Standard

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to revise the A-3 Disaster Advocacy and Outreach for Service Programs. The Operating Standards represent a compilation of the policies, standards, rules, regulations, and statutes. The aging network identified A-3 Disaster Advocacy and Outreach as a priority standard in need of review and potential revision. The ACLS Bureau formed a workgroup and collaborated with the AAAs to update the standard.

The revised A-3 Operating Standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from March 15, 2024 - April 15, 2024. There were no responses.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve the request and Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

c. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Funding- Second Allocation

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to award coupon books to lead agencies using the second FY 2024 USDA SFMNP grant awarded to the ACLS Bureau in the amount of \$26,719 for the agreement period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. In addition, CSA approval is requested to award coupon books to lead agencies using rollover local funds in the amount of \$25,042.

This second allocation and local funds will allow for the issuance of benefits to an additional 1,963 participants. Coupon books will be made available to all lead agencies, with priority given to those in counties with high poverty rates and high populations of older adults living in poverty. The first allocation, approved by the CSA on February 16, 2024, allowed for the issuance of benefits to 12,615 participants.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuggle to approve the request and Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.

d. Request for Approval of New Supplemental Nutrition Services Operating Standard for Service Programs and a Blanket Waiver to Amend Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) to Add this Service for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

Scott Wamsley, ACLS Bureau Director, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to implement a new Supplemental Nutrition Services Program Operating Standard. The purpose of this new operating service standard will be to allow AAAs the option to offer supplemental nutrition services that do not fall into the previously defined service categories of (B-5) Home Delivered Meals, (B-12) Carry-out Meals, (C-3) Congregate Meals, (C-4) Nutrition Counseling, or (C-5) Nutrition Education. These nutrition services include oral nutrition supplements, in addition to or outside of a meal; food boxes; and supplemental groceries to eligible participants, age 60 and older, who are at the highest nutritional risk and may need additional nutrition support.

The development of the draft Supplemental Nutrition Services Operating Standard for Service Programs is the result of extensive program policy analysis and feedback from a workgroup comprised of subject matter experts. The draft standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from April 9 – May 9, 2024. All responses were reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard. The ACLS Bureau also requests CSA approval of a blanket waiver for AAAs to amend AIPs to include Supplemental Nutrition Services to continue serving nutrition supplementals, as listed above, to individuals most at risk for malnutrition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh to approve the request and Commissioner Bruce seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

e. Request for Approval of SAC Appointments and Reappointments

Commissioner Pohnl, SAC Chair, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval of the SAC appointments and reappointments recommendations below:

Name	City	AAA Region	Term
Angel	Beverly Hills	1B	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027
Elizabeth Eurich	Bay City	7	6/1/2024 – 5/31/2027
Robyn Ford	Lansing	Ex-officio	8/1/2024 – 7/31/2026
Elizabeth Laster-Miles	Southfield	1B	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027
Kenneth Mahoney	Montague	14	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027
James McGuire	Pleasant Ridge	1B – at large	6/1/2024 – 5/31/2027

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the request and Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

f. Request for Approval of CSA Advocacy Committee Motion

Commissioner Mark Bomberg, asked for a motion and support of the following motion from the CSA Advocacy Committee:

“The Commission on Services to the Aging recommends the creation and implementation of a state income tax credit to help offset costs associated with providing caregiver services for a family member. The Commission further recommends that any such tax credit should be a refundable credit, to ensure that the full credit is available to low-income families even if their tax liability is less than their eligible credit.”

The motion was made by Commissioner Bruce to approve the request and Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Bridging Aging and Disability Community of Practice Overview

Tammy Lemmer, ACLS Bureau State Assistant Administrator, presented an overview of the Bridging Aging and Disability Community of Practice.

b. Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Scott Wamsley, ACLS Bureau Director, provided information to the CSA related to the Older Americans Act Reauthorization for further discussion at the next meeting.

c. Older Americans Act Regulations Implementation

Scott Wamsley, ACLS Bureau Director, provided information to the CSA related to the Older Americans Act Regulations for further discussion at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024, at the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging, 1200 W. Broadway St., Three Rivers, MI, with a Public Hearing to follow at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Interim Chair Zamora adjourned the meeting at 11:59 p.m. Tour of the facility and a working session/lunch followed. Public Hearing began at 1:00 p.m.