

**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)**

**Antrim County Building, 203 E Cayuga St, Bellaire, MI 49615
Friday, October 18, 2024**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Bob Schlueter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Schlueter, Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Guillermo Lopez, Joy Murphy, Mike Pohnl, Dennis Smith, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Walid Gammouh, Arjan Kallou, Jenifer Lepard, and Tene Milton-Ramsey.

STAFF PRESENT

Darcia Brewer, Kelly Cooper, Nick Drzal, Tammy Lemmer, Cindy Masterson, Marla Price, and Scott Wamsley

WELCOME

Heidi Gustine, Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, welcomed the commission and gave an overview of programs.

Judy Parliament, Director, Antrim County Commission on Aging, welcomed the commission and gave an overview of programs.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the CSA meeting agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion; motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the September 20, 2024, CSA meeting minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion; additional discussion ensued, and minutes were approved with amendments by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Chair Schlueter reported the following:

- Noted that there would be a public hearing following the meeting as well as an opportunity to provide public comment during the regular business meeting. He thanked everyone who has given feedback to the CSA during public comment and hearings and noted that those opportunities are for the CSA to listen to the concerns, but that the CSA would not be able to answer questions or make immediate comments on the concerns at that time. Many of the issues brought before the commission take time to research and involve further discussions to evaluate appropriate and effective responses.

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

- Jack Messer, Board of Directors for Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, former Director of the Commission on Aging in Charlevoix County, provided public comment encouraging the CSA to consider that every decision should be made with the mission of advocating for seniors in mind. He noted that the MMAP program is a touchstone for those turning 65, and that this is an important connection to have for future needs as they age and may require additional supports. He indicated that the MI Choice Waiver program is very important for seniors in Michigan and that the state failing to fully fund catastrophic claims negatively impacts the financial operations of waiver agents and AAAs. He implored the CSA to continue to advocate for seniors as well as aging network partners.
- Jean Swaffer provided public comment indicating that she had been a caregiver for many years, and knew that when she needed answers, she could go to her local Commission on Aging as well as the Region 10 AAA to. She also noted that when she needs assistance, she calls her local MMAP Coordinator who always helps her navigate the paperwork involved for senior benefits. She is concerned that moving to a different process, and possibly including a third party in the MMAP process, could frustrate seniors, and that the connections and local relationships they have developed with their MMAP staff is very important.
- Pam Niebrzydowski, Board of Directors for Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, County Commissioner for Missaukee County, noted that she was a registered nurse for 52 years, has spent 40 years dedicated to long-term care (LTC), and has spent the last 14 years with the Missaukee Commission on Aging. She provided public comment noting she has learned that the LTC system excels on building relationships; with trust and communication being key to its success. She indicated that MMAP is one of the most important parts of the LTC system. She noted that this is a face-to-face program, and that technology and internet is not physically or financially accessible to all seniors, especially in northern Michigan. She said that MMAP staff provide clear, unbiased information related to benefits, and they explain them in a way that seniors understand. MMAP counselors have saved seniors millions of dollars in Missaukee County. She encouraged the CSA

and bureau staff, when making decisions about the MMAP program, to remember that many relationships have been built over the years that allow seniors to trust the information and staff in their local areas, and that not all AAAs are the same, so a cookie cutter approach may not be the most effective.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, provided the following:

- The committee has been working on activities for November, which is National Family Caregivers Month. There is a proclamation in process asking Governor Whitmer to also declare November as Michigan Family Caregivers Month. They are working with other senior advocate groups to coordinate activities to use the month as a way to highlight the important work of informal and family caregivers as well as to share the resources that are available to support the work of caregivers. The committee has invited several guest speakers to come to the November CSA meeting to talk about what they do to support family caregivers and the resources that are available to them.
- The committee has begun the process of identifying potential budget priorities to request the governor include in the budget. The hope is to have recommendations for the full CSA for approval by November or December.
- She noted that there is a vacancy on the CSA Advisory Committee and she invited commissioners to let her know if they are interested or have questions about participation.
- Commissioner Murphy, CSA Advocacy Committee member, added that AARP is working very hard on caregiving and issued a related press release. They have also developed a website that addresses caregiving that can be accessed here: <https://states.aarp.org/michigan/supporting-family-caregivers-in-michigan>.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) REPORT

Commissioner Tuggle, SAC Chair, provided the following updates:

- Noted that the next SAC meeting is October 24 at the Capitol Commons Center in Lansing.
- The SAC is currently working on identifying the next research topic, and is asking for CSA input on what they would like to see as a topic. The following topics were identified by the research committee as potential topics for their next research project: NEMT affecting the vulnerable aging population, cohabitation for seniors for housing, and fragmentation of information around respite caregiver and services available to support them. She asked for the CSA to consider these recommendations when assigning the next research project to the SAC.

ACLS BUREAU REPORT

Scott Wamsley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Thanked both Heidi Gustine and Judy Parliament for their updates and for welcoming the commission and hosting the meeting and public hearing.

- He acknowledged the concerns and confusion related to the MMAP program changes and the Request for Proposals (RFP) for MMAP and options counseling. He clarified some information to indicate there is no intent to eliminate the in-person aspect of relationships established through local Commissions on Aging or Area Agencies on Aging nor to supplant existing programs. There is also no intent to take funding away from the aging network for options counseling, but to add additional funding through other fund sources.
- Gave an update on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) – the MI Choice Waiver went live with EVV on September 9. There have been concerns about the administrative burden on agencies, and the bureau will be submitting an updated HCBS ARPA Plan to request some additional funding to offset the cost of the additional administrative burden. This will require Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as well as Legislative approval.
- MI Coordinated Health awards have been made. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2024/10/09/mi-coordinated>.
- The department continues discussions related to the concerns about MI Choice Waiver rates. The bureau will be submitting a request for additional funding in the HCBS ARPA Plan for a short-term solution. Also included in the request will be additional funding for infrastructure for the MI Choice program.
- The state unit on aging has been continuing their work to update service standards. The bureau has also been doing a deep dive on funding sources to see if more flexibility can be offered to the network. A new Fundable Service Matrix is being sent to the network with some of those flexibilities noted in the new matrix.
- He also noted that the State Advisory Council support is being moved from the Health Promotion and Active Aging Section to the Aging Network Support Section to form a closer connection to the area plan work, the commission, and the state unit on aging work and advocacy.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Revised B-12 Carry-Out Meals Operating Standard for Service Programs

Marla Price, Nutrition Specialist, Health Promotion and Active Aging (HPAA) Section, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to revise the B-12 COM Operating Standard for Service Programs. The purpose of this revision is to realign state policy with the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Final Rule released in February 2024.

Revisions include the following:

- To allow 25% of Title III-C1 funds, after all transfers, for COMs that complement the congregate meal program when used for emergency purposes, to serve those with an occasional and/or regular need, as determined by an individualized assessment, and ensuring prioritization to those who are in greatest economic and social need.
- To remove extended eligibility of caregivers from the B-12 COM Operating Standard.

The revised B-12 COM Operating Standard for Service Programs draft is the result of extensive program policy analysis and consultation with ADvancing States to ensure compliance with ACL's Final Rule. The draft standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from August 22 – September 22, 2024. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

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 by roll call vote 11-0-0.

b. Request for Approval to Transfer MIPPA Aging and Disability Resource Centers Funds

Nick Drzal, Manager, HPAA Section, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to transfer funds from the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to ACLS Bureau administration costs. This is an amendment to the previously approved August 2024 memo titled, "Request for Approval of Grant Year (GY) 2024-25 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) - Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) Funding, MIPPA - Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Funding, and MIPPA - State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Funding".

The purpose of the MIPPA ADRC grant is to award funding to agencies to conduct outreach, education, and enrollment assistance for the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Program and the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The Michigan Medicare Assistance Program (MMAP), Inc. will provide training and enrollment/outreach verification, and ACLS Bureau will provide programmatic, administrative, and outreach support to its grantees. This reduction in funding to MPHI stems from savings to the program resulting from the departure of an MPHI contract employee.

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 by roll call vote 11-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Older Americans Act State Performance Reporting Overview

Darcia Brewer, RD, NAPIS Departmental Analyst, gave an overview of the Older Americans Act State Performance Reporting (attached).

b. Long-Term Services & Supports Awareness Campaign

Tammy Lemmer, ACLS Bureau State Assistant Administrator, gave an update on the long-term services and supports awareness campaign.

c. Person-Centered Options Counseling Update

Tammy Lemmer, ACLS Bureau State Assistant Administrator, gave an update on person-centered options counseling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2024, at Capitol Commons Center, 400 S. Pine Street, Lansing, MI.

ADJOURN

Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m. Working lunch was provided at the Antrim County Commission on Aging from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING commenced at 1:00 p.m. at the Antrim County Commission on Aging, 308 E Cayuga St, Bellaire, MI 49615.