

**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)**

**Capitol Commons Center, 400 S. Pine St., Lansing, MI  
Friday, November 15, 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, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Jennifer Lepard, Guillermo Lopez, Joy Murphy, Mike Pohnl, Dennis Smith, and Kristie Zamora

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Mark Bomberg, Arjan Kallou, Tene Milton-Ramsey, and Shirley Tuggle

**STAFF PRESENT**

Lacey Charboneau, Kelly Cooper, Nick Drzal, Jen Hunt, Tammy Lemmer, Cindy Masterson, Brenda Ross, and Scott Wamsley

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the October 18, 2024, CSA meeting minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Bruce and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion; minutes were approved by voice vote.

**COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Schlueter reported the following:

- Thanked all the presenters who gave their time and travel to present to the CSA on the important topic of family caregivers.
- Noted that Commissioner Zamora has volunteered to fill the vacancy on the CSA Advocacy Committee.

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

- The committee has been working on activities for November, which is National Family Caregivers Month. A proclamation was issued on November 1 by Governor Whitmer to declare November as Michigan Family Caregivers Month. A related press release was also issued by the department to highlight the importance of family caregivers and to announce the proclamation. The committee was able to procure several guest speakers to provide information about what they do to support family caregivers and the resources that are available to them, and they will be presenting later in the agenda.
- The committee has been working to identify potential budget priorities to request the governor include in the budget. Among those potential issues are additional dementia funding, the caregiver tax credit, strengthening and supporting the direct care workforce (in coordination with other senior advocacy groups), and capitated rates for MI Choice Waiver. The hope is to have finalized recommendations for the full CSA for approval by the December CSA meeting.
- The committee reached out to the governor's office to remind them that the CSA supports the passage of the caregiver tax credit in order to help family caregivers defray some of the costs associated with this important work. A copy of the letter sent to legislative leaders in June 2024 in support of the tax credit was also included.
- The committee is working to update the CSA Brochure with new priorities to share with the new legislature, hopefully by February or March 2025.

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) REPORT**

Commissioner Murphy provided the following updates:

- Noted that she attended the virtual SAC meeting on November 14. She indicated they had three outstanding informational items: GetSetUp, Cultural Meals, and MIGen.
- There was discussion during the meeting about the SAC workgroups and potential research topics. She highly recommended that other commissioners attend the SAC meetings whenever possible to see the great work of the SAC.

**ACLS BUREAU REPORT**

Scott Wamsley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Thanked all of the presenters for attending and giving updates to the commission and staff about what is available to support family caregivers, noting that this is an important topic as most families will experience the need to be caregivers or receive caregiving at some time in their lives.

- The bureau continues work on reviewing the new federal Older Americans Act regulations and is working with ADvancing States (the association for state units on aging) to identify ways for states to come into compliance with new requirements in a way that is manageable. They have been looking at our operating standards, policies, and procedures. Their review of those has concluded, so now work begins on any changes that can be implemented to be in compliance, with a target of early 2025.
- The Grant Funding Opportunity for MMAP and options counseling has been issued. The bureau provided a question-and-answer session for interested parties that was very well attended. Based on the questions raised, a Frequently Asked Questions document will be developed and shared. Once all proposals have been submitted, the team will review them with a target date of February to have grant award recommendations.
- There are currently eight Area Agencies on Aging working with 33 adult day centers as part of a project to provide respite care for Home Help participants.
- Work continues with Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) on the Caregiver Resource Centers.
- There will be an update to the CSA in December related to the direct care workforce work with the bureau and IMPART Alliance.
- PACE infrastructure expansions continue (Alpena, Lowell, Westland, Niles).
- The department continues discussions related to the concerns about MI Choice Waiver rates.

### **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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Approval Criteria**

Brenda Ross, Regional Aging Representative, Aging Network Support Section, provided an overview stating the request is for CSA approval of the FY 2026 AIP Approval Criteria. The ACLS Bureau utilized a variety of methods when reviewing and updating the FY 2026 AIP Approval Criteria which included reviewing current regulations, requesting feedback from key stakeholders, and hosting an input and listening session with the aging network.

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.

#### **b. Request for Approval to Rescind FY 2024 Funding from Friendship Centers of Emmet County, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**

Nick Drzal, Manager, Health Promotion and Active Aging Section, provided an

overview stating the request is for CSA approval to rescind the funding that was allocated to Friendship Centers of Emmet County RSVP for FY 2025. The \$75,000 in funding was originally approved at the September 20, 2024, CSA meeting.

Friendship Centers of Emmet County has requested a termination of their RSVP agreement. This program was state funded only, meaning they received no federal funding, and they attributed the administrative burden of responding to both state and federal oversight separately as a factor in their decision. This funding will be reallocated in FY 2025.

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.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Family Caregiver Presentations**

The following presented information to the CSA related to resources available through their organizations to support family caregivers, recommendations for improving services to family caregivers, and how the CSA can support their efforts:

- AARP - Melissa Seifert, Associate State Director for Government Affairs
- Area Agencies on Aging Association (4AM) - David LaLumia, Executive Director
- MDHHS – Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports - Lacey Charboneau, Caregiver Specialist
- Alzheimer’s Association - Commissioner Jennifer Lepard, President and CEO
- Battle Creek VA Medical Center - Renee Rosenbaum, Caregiver Support Services Coordinator
- MI Adult Day Program Association - Jo Verbeek, Former President
- MI Association of Senior Centers (MASC) and MI Directors of Services to the Aging - Renee Cortright, MASC President
- MI Developmental Disabilities Institute - Nia Anderson, Project Coordinator, Future Planning for Aging Caregivers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 2024, at Capitol Commons Center, 400 S. Pine Street, Lansing, MI.

## **ADJOURN**

Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m. Working lunch was provided after adjournment.