

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

**Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center
15885 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068
Friday, May 19, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The 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

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Jennifer Lepard, Cassie Lopez-Jeng, Joy Murphy, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, and Dennis Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Lacey Charboneau, Tammy Lemmer, Cindy Masterson, and Scott Wamsley

WELCOME

Paulette Porter, Chief Operating Officer and Associate Director for Region 3B Area Agency on Aging (AAA)/CareWell Services Southwest welcomed the commission and gave an overview of the AAA and programs.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commission Chair Bob Schlueter requested a motion to approve the CSA meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuggle and Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chair Bob Schlueter requested a motion to approve the April 21, 2023, CSA/SAC meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Schlueter provided the following updates:

- Gave a huge thank you to the Area Agency on Aging Association (4AM) for the

incredible efforts in organizing Older Michiganian's Day (OMD). There has been some discussed about scheduling next year's May CSA meeting to coordinate with their day of advocacy so that more commissioners could attend.

- Noted appreciation to Cindy Masterson for her support of her division staff attending OMD and introducing them to the commissioners in attendance.
- Thanked Commissioner Bomberg and the IFF committee for all the hard work they put into drafting recommendations.

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

None

CSA Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) Committee Report

Commissioner Bomberg, IFF Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the committee:

- Thanked fellow Commissioners Bupp, Duncan, Lepard, Murphy, and Tuggle for their thoughtful review of the IFF and hard work they have put into the draft recommendations.
- Gave an overview of the original CSA-approved IFF committee recommendations.
- Noted that after the CSA approved the draft recommendations, they were posted for a 30-day public review and comment period.
- In May, the committee met to review the public comments received as well as to review more current U.S. Census data.
- The committee made some slight edits to the draft recommendations and added that the recommended new IFF be implemented with the start of the next state-wide plan in Fiscal Year 2024 and phased in over a two-year period.
- Commissioner Bomberg thanked Scott Wamsley and Tammy Lemmer from the ACLS Bureau for providing essential information and data to the IFF committee to assist them with the recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve the Intrastate Funding Formula Committee recommendations (attached to minutes). Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Duncan, Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the committee:

- Advocacy Committee members - Commissioners Bomberg, Lopez, Murphy, and Tuggle. Chair Schlueter; Adam Burck, State Advisory Committee (SAC) member liaison; and Jen Hunt, ACLS Bureau liaison, also attend meetings.
- Provided an overview of the status of the FY 2024 state budget and noted that the Advocacy Committee would meet with other senior advocacy groups to review the budget for any advocacy efforts they would like to focus on related to the state budget.
- Current issues the advocacy committee is continuing work on/research for possible future CSA action:
 - Follow up on a recommendation from the State Advisory Council (SAC) related to the Senior Project Fresh program and advocacy at the federal level
 - Long-term care ombudsman program staffing – waiting to see what is in this year's budget to then look at potential advocacy in the fall or 2023
 - Follow up with Congresswoman Dingell on her bill related to strengthening support at the federal level for home and community-based services

- Propose that the CSA could schedule a time to have someone from the Dementia Coalition speak to the CSA to see commissioners can help support their efforts
- Older Michiganian's Day (OMD) was very well-attended and the Governor, in her speech to the attendees, addressed many of the issues that are on the CSA advocacy agenda
- Noted that Commissioner Tuggle and SAC co-vice chair, Marj Hobe, gave excellent speeches at OMD

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) UPDATE

Commissioner Pohnl, SAC Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the committee:

- Thank you to Marj Hobe for her attendance at OMD and providing information to the attendees in her speech
- SAC members have been continuing discussions related to making changes to their priorities
- Meeting next week with the ACLS Bureau staff to work on formalizing recruitment efforts
- Reorganizing the research teams to work on reports. He encouraged CSA members and others in attendance to let him know if there are issues that they would like to see the SAC research for upcoming reports.

BUREAU OF AGING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT

ACLS Bureau Director, Scott Wamsley, shared the following with the group:

- Announced that Meghan Groen has been hired by the department as the new Medicaid Director for BPHASA. Farah Hanley, Senior Chief Deputy Director for Health for MDHHS, has been acting in both roles since the previous director, Kate Massey, left the department.
- Noted that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) had been moved to the Economic Stability Administration as part of a reorganization as the LTCOP cannot be housed in the same organization that oversees nursing facilities. He advised the CSA that the bureau continues to have a very strong relationship with this program as the State Unit on Aging is federally mandated to support the program under the Older Americans Act. The ACLS Bureau has also been strengthening relationships between the LTCOP and the Long-Term Care Services (LTCS) Division as they are now part of the bureau. The LTCS Division also manages the Civil Monetary Penalty Program, which are penalty funds paid by nursing facilities. Those funds are used for quality improvement projects that directly impact residents in nursing facilities. The division, under Public Act 9 of 2022, was awarded funds to work on infection control projects in nursing facilities. Some of the projects funded so far under P.A. 9 have been in the area of upgrades to HVAC systems and projects to aid in the isolation of individuals in facilities who have infectious diseases.
- As part of the post-pandemic work, the Operations & Aging Network Support Division and the Aging & Community Services Division have been reviewing how to best restart some of the compliance and technical assistance functions post-pandemic and to do so as consistently as possible.
- Staff have been working with AAAs as they develop their Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) for CSA approval in August and September of 2023. Staff have also been conducting financial and programmatic assessments, so that when the CSA is asked to approve the AIPs, they can be assured that the programs administered by AAAs are being monitored for compliance.
- Thanked 4AM staff, Dave LaLumia and Jenn Dubey, on a very successful Older Michiganians Day and the advocacy work they do for older adults in Michigan.

- MI Choice Waiver renewal application is currently out for public review and comment. Elizabeth Gallagher and her team have been working diligently to conduct stakeholder feedback sessions related to the application and used the feedback to inform the draft of the application presented for public review and comment. The application must be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by June 30, 2023, for implementation by October 1, 2023.
- Provided an overview of the Michigan Home and Community-Based Services American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Plan (attached to minutes), which is largely Medicaid related, to provide some significant investments into HCBS, which will benefit the aging population. The plan has been approved by CMS and is awaiting legislative approval. These funds are only available until March of 2025, so we are hoping for approval as soon as possible. The bureau will keep the CSA updated on the status.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Updated and Combined Adult Day Services and Dementia Adult Day Care Operating Standards

Lacey Charboneau, Field Representative and Caregiver Specialist in the Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement (TAQI) Section, provided an overview stating the request is for approval to implement an updated and combined Operating Standard for Adult Day Services. This combined operating service standard will allow adult day programs to provide a high standard of care to all participants, including those living with dementia.

The development of the draft Adult Day 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 March 2, 2023 – April 2, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy to approve the request. Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 USDA Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Funding – Second Allocation

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is for approval to award lead agencies coupon books using the second FY 2023 USDA SFMNP grant awarded to the ACLS Bureau in the amount of \$63,267 for the agreement period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

The purpose of the USDA SFMNP, known as Senior Project Fresh in Michigan, is to provide low-income older adults with coupons to purchase Michigan-grown fresh produce at farmers markets and roadside stands. Program benefits are \$25 per participant and are distributed as coupon books. Each coupon book includes five \$5 coupons for a total value of \$25. Eligible older adults receive coupon books from the lead agency within the county they reside.

This second allocation will allow for the issuance of benefits to an additional 2,277 participants. Additional 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 March 17, 2023, allowed for the issuance of benefits to 13,015 participants.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the request. Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

c. Request for Approval to Restore Authorities to the CSA for Flexibilities Approved to Address COVID-19

Scott Wamsley, ACLS Bureau Director, provided an overview stating the request is for approval to return authorities to the CSA on May 19, 2023. It is also recommended that some of the non-federal flexibilities remain in effect until the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2023 to lessen impacts to clients currently being served under these flexibilities.

As background, in March of 2020, the director of the Michigan Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) requested approval from the CSA to temporarily transfer certain authorities and functions of the CSA to the AASA/State Unit on Aging (SUA) Director to address the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Commission's approval took immediate effect and was approved to remain in effect through the duration of the State of Emergency and/or until determined by the SUA Director, in consultation with the State of Michigan's Chief Medical Executive, that it should end.

In response to the CSA approval of the transfer of these authorities, the Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration, Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (previously AASA), reviewed CSA-approved definitions, standards, compliance indicators, and requirements for area agencies on aging (AAAs), grantee agencies, and service programs to identify potential administrative policy flexibilities that could support the aging network's COVID-19 response. Some of the flexibilities approved included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Transitioning client service delivery from community-based service settings to in-home or limited access service settings.
- Allowing flexibility in program eligibility requirements to ensure service continuity and/or client safety.
- Adjusting service delivery patterns (e.g., increasing the weekly number of frozen or shelf stable meals provided to home-delivered meals clients).
- Allowing telephonic and/or remote client assessments and reassessments.
- Expanding telephonic "friendly reassurance" contacts and wellness checks with clients.
- Purchasing personal protective equipment.

The timing of this recommendation to restore authorities to the CSA is intended to be concurrent with the resumption of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services this spring and the "unwinding" of the many flexibilities allowed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services during the federal COVID-19 PHE for Medicaid-funded programs. Like the non-Medicaid aging network flexibilities, the changes made to the Medicaid program's eligibility, administration, and

policies were intended to ease rules for providers and prevent Medicaid beneficiaries from losing health care coverage.

It is important to note that the CSA's transfer of the authorities described above was an important factor in the aging network's ability to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The experience gained in administering these authorities will be helpful to the aging network should we be presented with any future large-scale public health crises or service delivery challenges.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruce to approve the request. Commissioner Tuggle seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. State Plan on Aging Update - Discussion

Tammy Lemmer, ACLS Bureau State Assistant Administrator, provided updates on the State Plan on Aging and noted that it is currently out for public review and comment and once that period ends, those comments will be taken into consideration and a final draft of the plan will be provided to the CSA before the June 16, 2023, meeting.

b. Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center Overview and Tour

Jen Rice, Manager of the Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center provided an overview of programs offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023, at the Ziiibiwing Center, 6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI, with Public Hearing to follow.

Please note, these meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing assistance should contact Kelly Cooper at cooperk6@michigan.gov at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commission Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Jen Rice provided a tour of the facility and working session/lunch followed.

PUBLIC HEARING at 1:00 p.m.