

**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 (ACLS Bureau)**

**Quality Suites - 901 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing, MI  
Friday, June 16, 2023**

**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**

Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Walid Gammouh, Guillermo Lopez, Cassie Lopez-Jeng, Joy Murphy, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Dennis Smith, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Nancy Duncan, Jennifer Leopard, and Tene Milton-Ramsey

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kelly Cooper, Julie Cortright, Suzie Genyk, Tammy Lemmer, Kristina Leonardi, Cindy Masterson, Marla Price, and Scott Wamsley

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Tuggle and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion; agenda was approved by voice vote with an amendment.

**APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES**

Commission Chair Bob Schlueter requested a motion to approve the May 19, 2023, CSA meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bruce and Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion; minutes were approved by voice vote with an amendment.

**COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT**

Commission Chair Schlueter provided the following updates:

- Congratulations to Commissioners Bomberg, Duncan, Gammouh, Pohnl, and Zamora on their reappointments to the CSA for another 3-year term. He noted appreciation for their commitment to the CSA and older adults in Michigan.

- Announced that Commissioner Lopez-Jeng would be resigning from the CSA due to being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. Commissioner Lopez-Jeng's project, "Cross-Cultural Assessment of Public Health Education Best Practices for Aging Populations in Taiwan," will critically analyze public health education and health promotion to address aging issues in Taiwan. A three-part research project will explore the impact of social and cultural determinants on best practices and innovations, with the goal of producing a cross-national analysis to inform programs and policies in both Taiwan and the U.S. This project will support international collaborations for aging research and strengthen applicability of best practices across borders, ultimately improving the lives of an aging population in Taiwan, the U.S., and around the world. She indicated she will reapply for the CSA upon her return. The commission looks forward to hearing about her research and congratulated her on this amazing accomplishment.

**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, Advocacy Committee member, 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.
- The CSA brochure is being translated into Spanish and Arabic. Once printed, commissioners will work to identify best areas to target for distribution.
- Budget follow-up actions:
  - DCW wage increase and Caregiver Resource Center proposal were identified as key issues for conference committee advocacy.
  - Commissioner Duncan will draft letter(s) to Executive branch leadership urging inclusion of these items in final negotiations.
  - Other committee members offered to contact their legislators, with special emphasis on reaching out to legislators on the Appropriations Committee.
- Update on collaborative efforts with other senior advocates:
  - Senior Advocacy Collaborative met to discuss priority budget areas for advocacy; their priorities are consistent with CSA priorities.
  - Commissioner Murphy updated the committee and the CSA on several issues AARP is following, including a "Work & Save" initiative with Treasury and Lt. Governor Gilchrist to help younger persons save for retirement.
  - Older Michiganians Day was well-attended with approximately 250 attending in person and 600 participating in the live stream event.
  - The Advocacy Committee recommends the commission support the State Advisory Council (SAC) recommendation to advocate for improvements to the Senior Project Fresh program – increasing the per person allowance for coupons and increasing the items that are available for purchase through the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh to approve the request to “Support an increase in the annual per person allowance for Senior Project Fresh Farmers Market Nutrition Program from \$50 to \$100 and an expansion of the qualified commodities to include nuts, wild rice, and maple syrup”. Commissioner Tuggle seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed with ACLS Bureau staff, Kristina Leonardi, Marla Price, Suzie Genyk, and Scott Wamsley providing additional information about the program for CSA consideration. There were many questions raised, and with the additional information it was decided that the commission supports the advocacy recommendation, but tabled the motion to allow for program staff to provide more information and meet with the CSA Advocacy Committee to discuss and possibly amend the language and/or focus before any further action was taken by the CSA.

### **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) UPDATE**

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

- Thanked Audra Frye, SAC Co-Vice Chair, for all of her hard work serving for 4-years, and announced that she is stepping down as co-vice chair. Congratulations to Elizabeth Thompson, who was appointed as the new co-vice chair.
- SAC has been discussing adjustments to their goals and priorities and would like to focus on smaller, more timely, research projects and recommendations as opposed to the lengthy reports they have done for the last several years.
- SAC members would also like to continue to foster a strong relationship with CSA Advocacy Committee to strengthen statewide advocacy efforts.
- Thanked the CSA for their support of the SAC Senior Project Fresh advocacy recommendation.
- In order to meet goals, the SAC will form 5-6 internal committees, with a coordinator, to work on priorities.
- SAC members will draft a proposal and vote to formalize the adjusted goals and objectives at their next meeting.
- SAC will be recruiting new members – there are 9 members with terms ending in 2023 and 13 current openings.

### **BUREAU OF AGING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT**

ACLS Bureau Director, Scott Wamsley, shared the following updates:

- Congratulations to commissioners who have been reappointed; their hard work and dedication is appreciated.
- Meghan Groen, new Medicaid Director for BPHASA, looks forward to attending an upcoming CSA meeting soon and meeting commissioners.
- Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind updates:
  - For Medicaid programs, June will be the first month to restart eligibility redeterminations, which will include anyone with a June redetermination date from the last three years. The same process will be in place each month until all redeterminations have been completed. Materials have been sent to those affected to notify them of the upcoming redetermination requirements. For those no longer determined eligible for Medicaid services, every attempt will be made to connect them with other agencies that may be able to assist, including Area Agencies on Aging and other aging network partners.

- Reminder, at last month's CSA meeting, authority was restored to the CSA for approval of flexibilities moving forward now that the PHE has ended.
- Work continues on the MI Health Link transition to an Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP). More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- A number of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) programs throughout the state are expanding - either adding to their facilities or adding to the number of people they can serve. Additionally, there will be a new PACE program opening in the Alpena area. He noted that Lori Wells, Community Outreach Director from PACE North in Traverse City, invited him to speak at the October Bay Area Senior Advocates meeting and tour the PACE program after.
- The ACLS Bureau is still awaiting legislative approval of the Michigan Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A reminder, the plan is intended 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 the hope is to gain approval as soon as possible.
- Noted that post-PHE, the bureau has been beginning to work pro-actively on some issues impacting older adults, as the last three years have been largely focused on pandemic response. The bureau is researching to see where there is potential programming to support older adults in the areas of veterans and housing and homelessness.
- Guidance was recently released to review the Older Americans Act (OAA) regulations. There will be a public review and comment period and the bureau will send that information to the CSA for their consideration.
- The bureau is working to update the transmittal letter to the network related to criminal background checks and has engaged the MDHHS legal team to respond to questions received in order to clarify areas of the guidelines.
- The bureau recently renewed the contract with GetSetUp for another year – in Michigan, there have been 1.15 million attendees; 267,000 unique users; and 3,414 classes. As a reminder, this program started as a way for older adults to connect socially in a safe manner during the pandemic. Michigan was one of the flagship states to contract with GetSetUp and is also one of the largest users of the platform.
- Compliments to the ACLS Bureau finance team as they have been undergoing the statewide single audit and have received an unqualified (unmodified) opinion, which is the best designation you can have, with no material findings or recommendations. This is a huge accomplishment and the team works hard to be sure the bureau is in compliance and this is a testament to that fact.

### **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 Revised Information and Assistance (I&A) Operating Standard for Service Programs**

Julie Cortright, Field Representative in the Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement (TAQI) Section, provided an overview stating the request is for approval to revise the I&A Operating Standard for Service Programs.

The ACLS Bureau formed a workgroup and collaborated with Area Agencies on Aging and service providers to update the I&A standard. The revised I&A Operating Standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from April 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg to approve the request and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by voice vote.

**b. Request for Approval of Program Year 2023-24 Senior Community Service Employment Program Allocations**

Julie Cortright, Field Representative in the Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement (TAQI) Section, provided an overview stating the request is for approval of the PY 2023-2024 SCSEP allocations. The SCSEP grant agreements are for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Please see the attached table for the breakdown of funding and authorized position levels.

The SCSEP is authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act to provide part-time employment and training opportunities for low-income older adults, 55 years of age and older, at community service agencies. The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing a second quarter employment target of 37.4% and a fourth quarter employment target of 22.8%.

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

**c. Request for Approval of Updated Transportation Operating Standard**

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is to implement an updated Operating Standard for Transportation. This operating service standard will allow transportation programs to provide a high standard of service delivery to all participants.

The development of the draft Transportation Operating Standard for Service Programs is the result of extensive program policy analysis and feedback from a workgroup comprised of subject matter experts, including representatives from Area Agencies on Aging. The draft standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from April 15, 2023 – May 17, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

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

**d. Request for Approval of the Michigan State Plan on Aging for Fiscal Years 2024-2026**

Tammy Lemmer, ACLS Bureau State Assistant Administrator, provided an overview stating the requests is for approval of Michigan's State Plan on Aging (SPoA) for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-2026.

State Units on Aging are tasked under the Older Americans Act with developing and administering a multi-year SPoA that provides goals and objectives related to assisting older residents, their families, and caregivers in their states. Content and process for developing the plan is prescribed by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the submission is due to ACL by July 1, 2023.

Following several months of planning activities, including a comprehensive needs assessment and input from the CSA, a draft of the SPoA Narrative for FY 2024-2026 was made available for a 30-day public review and comment through June 4, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh to approve the request and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by voice vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 21, 2023, at the Avery Square Center, 510 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, 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](mailto: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. Working session/lunch followed.