

**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**

**Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)
363 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48084
Friday, March 17, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Interim Commission Chair Kristie Zamora.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Jennifer Lepard, Cassie Lopez-Jeng, Joy Murphy, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Michael Pohnl, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Jimmy Bruce, Guillermo Lopez, Bob Schlueter, and Dennis Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Amy Hall, Tammy Lemmer, Kristina Leonardi, Cindy Masterson, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and Scott Wamsley

WELCOME

Katie Wendel, Director of Planning and Advocacy for AAA 1-B welcomed the commission and gave an overview of the AAA and programs.

Odie Fakhouri, Chief Operating Officer of the Arab American and Chaldean Council welcomed the commission and gave an overview of the ACC and programs.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Commission Chair Kristie Zamora requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda with a noted amendment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuggle and Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote with an amendment.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Interim Commission Chair Kristie Zamora requested a motion to approve the January 20, 2023, CSA meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote with a noted amendment.

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commissioner Zamora provided the following updates:

- Commission Chair Schlueter was unable to attend meeting, appointing Commissioner Zamora as interim chair in his absence.
- Thanked commissioners and staff for attending and asked commissioners to introduce themselves.
- Announced that former Commission Chair Dona Wishart was the recipient of the American Association of University Women 2023 Women Making History Award. Known for her professional and insightful leadership, she has been a tireless advocate for older adults and has positively impacted thousands of lives in her community. Congratulations to Dona!
- Announced that Commissioner Walid Gammouh was the recipient of the University of Michigan Geriatrics Center 2023 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award. This award recognizes outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to excellence in the field of geriatrics education in Michigan. The selection committee noted: “Walid’s passion for the MENA population aligns well with our recent interest in this neglected population that is quite unique to our State. He also helps run a radio show in Arabic language, and he is deeply involved with the broad Michigan communities.” “I truly believe that Walid is the best choice for embodying the DeVito award and spirit particularly because of his commitment to excellence in helping all kinds of people, especially elders.” Congratulations to Commissioner Gammouh!
- Kelly Cooper announced to the group that there are five commissioners up for re-appointment in July 2023 and encouraged commissioners to reapply as soon as possible if they are interested.

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

Dave LaLumia, Executive Director of 4AM, addressed the commission regarding the 4AM Caregiver Resource Center Proposal (attached to minutes). He thanked the commission for their continued advocacy and support in addressing the Direct Care Worker (DCW) shortage in Michigan.

He also shared the position of 4AM and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) regarding the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF). He read a statement adopted by 4AM and the AAAs with the following key points:

- Concern that changes to the IFF could disrupt the delivery of essential services to older adults and place existing services at risk.
- Not in favor of potentially disruptive formula changes that restrict or disrupt ongoing programs.
- AAAs have not had the opportunity to review current US Census data which could have an impact on the IFF and they recommend a speedy review of the data which will inform and impact the deliberations for the IFF Committee. They also request to have the opportunity to provide feedback once the data has been received.
- AAAs may have specific information to share during the IFF process and 4AM and

AAAs request to work closely with the commission during this review process.

INTRASTATE FUNDING FORMULA (IFF) COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- He asked that AAAs proposing changes or recommendations put those in writing with specifics about how they would suggest the changes be implemented as well as a time frame for implementation.
- IFF Committee Members – Commissioners Bomberg, Bupp, Duncan, Lepard, Murphy, Schlueter, and Tuggle.
- Committee’s first meeting was spent mainly talking about the IFF review process and how to start as well as the variables needed to start the review. They looked at the existing IFF as it stands and the time frame for formal recommendation to the CSA. They asked the department to provide information on how the formula, as it stands currently, would look with the updated census data, and asked for more information on the 85+ population. 92% of the current formula is comprised of 60+ population, low income (150% of poverty), and non-white population. The other factor in the formula is a geographic component.
- The second meeting was spent reviewing the formula using the newest census data as well as the data related to the 85+ population. While the 85+ population is growing in Michigan, changing the formula to include this population will not change the funding significantly for any of the AAAs. They also discussed data related to minority populations and have asked the department to provide additional data on specific populations as currently data is not as well defined as they would like and only refers to this population as non-white. Current poverty factor for IFF is 150% of poverty and they discussed whether this should be increased to 180% or even 200%. They have asked for additional data on these numbers as well.
- The committee hopes to have a recommendation for CSA to review by the March meeting, followed by a 30-day public review and comment period, and a final recommendation to the CSA for voting by the May meeting.
- ACLS Bureau Director, Scott Wamsley, added the following additional information:
 - Contact has been made with the new state demographer to try to get access to some more specific data that is not available to the public such as poverty populations in some counties. The census suppresses county data where there are very low numbers that meet certain criteria as this might allow an individual to be identified. They will be meeting in the coming weeks to see if more precise data can be provided.

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, SAC member liaison; and Jen Hunt, ACLS Bureau liaison, also attend meetings.
- Letter was sent to Governor Whitmer, State Budget Director Harkins, and Director Hertel on December 20, 2022, bringing the CSA-approved focus areas to their attention - strengthening home- and community-based services: DCW training, DCW inflationary wage adjustment, expanded resources for informal caregivers, and

movement toward rebalancing goal.

- Subsequent to the letter to the governor, the committee discussed how they could further quantify the budget priority recommendation. Two of those items will be up for approval later in the agenda.
- As there was \$2.8 million in the current state budget for developing DCW training, the work is ongoing related to the DCW training priority.
- There is a new state legislature, and committee members will be finalized soon. Once those are finalized, the advocacy committee will identify those legislators assigned to services for seniors. More information on this to come at the next meeting.
- Save the Date: Older Michiganians Day is May 17, 2023.
- The committee is in discussions regarding the web presence on Michigan.gov and ways to make it more accessible to seniors.

BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AND AGING SERVICES ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

Chief Deputy Director for Health, Farah Hanley, shared the following with the group:

- When looking at priorities for older Michiganders, the department assesses where supports and services can best be provided, whether it is in the community or in a medical facility. In doing so, they look at coordinating services and supports across the spectrum.
- When Governor Whitmer signed the FY 2023 budget, she said “The budget will protect public health and public safety, expand mental health resources, grow Michigan’s economy and workforce, and empower working families and communities”.
- MDHHS is a roughly \$33 billion department – approximately 44% of the state budget.
- 70% of the department’s finances support Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration. These services are primarily provided by Medicaid, aging, behavioral, and healthy Michigan programs.
- There are significant health inequities in our state, large scale unmet health needs, and the department is focused on addressing these issues. In order to begin addressing these needs, there have been a few reorganizations within the department, to include merging Aging services, Medicaid services, and Behavioral Health.
- Direct Care Workforce:
 - Some statistics on Direct Care Workers (DCWs) in Michigan – there are approximately 165,000 people employed as DCWs - equivalent to 4% of the state’s workforce; DCWs are overwhelmingly female, disproportionately black, and represent a very diverse age range of between 25-64. The top categories of DCWs are; nursing assistants (48,000), personal care aides (48,000), paid individual Home Help providers (31,000), and home health aides (28,000). Both the home and community-based services (HCBS) and the long-term care services (LTCS) industry need a stable work force.
 - The department recognizes that the DCW shortage has a direct impact on the ability to provide necessary services. They have taken an all-hands on deck approach to addressing this shortage by developing a DCW Steering Committee, action teams, and supporting scholarships and tuition reimbursement programs.

- They are leveraging partnerships with universities and external stakeholders, exploring the replication of successful efforts, and are supportive of additional funding for DCWs.
- Medicaid recently approved a policy to allow those pursuing a master's degree in social work or a clinical therapy degree to practice and receive Medicaid reimbursement while awaiting licensure.

BUREAU OF AGING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT

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

- The bureau is currently reviewing some of the service standards including grab and go meals, congregate meals, transportation, adult day services, and caregiver education support standards. Some of the flexibilities granted to the state unit on aging and the ACLS Bureau (and the subsequent flexibilities extended to the AAAs) by the CSA to handle pandemic response have highlighted the need to possibly extending some flexibilities and make adjustments to the current standards to reflect those changes. Workgroups are being formed and once review is complete, recommendations for revised operating standards will be brought to the commission for approval.
- MI Choice Waiver program team is holding public input sessions to allow input on the upcoming renewal, due to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) later this year.
- The current executive budget included a \$15.5 million investment in the PACE program to reflect increased costs during the pandemic. The bureau is looking at policies to continue to make PACE programs more accessible to consumers.
- Michigan Health Endowment Fund Health Equity Grant – covers MI Choice Waiver programs, PACE, MI Health Link, and Home Help, and Home Health programs. The aging network is represented by Tammy Lemmer in the discussions to see how the data and research can also help inform non-Medicaid aging programs.
- The ACLS bureau team is currently building/modifying the annual assessment guide for the Area Agencies on Aging to be sure they are in compliance with Older Americans Act requirements.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATES

MDHHS Director, Elizabeth Hertel, shared the following with the group:

- The department continues to advocate for increased access to care services for individuals as well as advocating on behalf of DCWs. It is the hope that there will be continued investments for DCWs and increased wages, training, credentialing, and other necessary supports to increase and sustain this essential workforce.
- The department is working on stabilizing revenue streams and reimbursement methodologies for nursing home partners. They have been working closely with the industry to identify and introduce a different methodology in order to be more responsive to economic factors.
- The department is also continuing to focus on access to safe housing to include risk mitigation in communities with infrastructure and environmental issues. MDHHS

works closely with their partners in Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy on the regulatory side as well as offering supports and services to those in communities where a risk has been identified.

- There was a question-and-answer session following Director Hertel's updates.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Modifications to the FY 2023-2025 Multi-Year Plan and FY 2023 Annual Implementation Plan for Senior Resources of West Michigan, Region 14 Area Agency on Aging

Julie Cortright, Field Representative, Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement (TAQI) Section, provided an overview stating the request is for a modification to the FY 2023-25 MYP and FY 2023 AIP for Region 14 AAA. The original plan was approved by the CSA on September 16, 2022.

Region 14 AAA is requesting to add Care Transitions Coordination and Support (CTCS) as a direct service. CTCS is an access service program standard focused on providing guidance and support to adults aged 60 or older discharging from a medical care facility to the place they consider to be home.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zamora to approve the request. Commissioner Tuggle seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of FY 2024 Annual Implementation Plan Approval Criteria

Julie Cortright, Field Representative, TAQI Section, provided an overview of the FY 2024 AIP Approval Criteria, providing a document that highlighted new and updated criteria with an explanation for the changes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the request. Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

c. Request for Approval of Materials Translation Support Project grant to Area Agencies on Aging

Tammy Lemmer, State Assistant Administrator, provided an overview stating the request is for approval for the Materials Translation Support Project from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant awarded to the ACLS Bureau for this project in the amount of \$35,572.

The purpose of the Materials Translation Support Project grants is to award funding to the eight Area Agencies on Aging for the creation of translated materials and other outreach/education supports to improve access to information and services for Limited English Proficiency or non-English speaking older adults.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lopez to approve the request. Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 11-0-0.

d. Request for Approval to Advocate for At Least \$1/Hour Inflationary Wage Adjustment for Direct Care Workers as part of the FY 2024 Budget

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, presented an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to support and advocate for at least \$1 per hour inflationary wage adjustment for DCWs in the FY 2024 state executive budget. Upon approval, the intent is for the CSA Advocacy Committee to send a letter to Governor Whitmer and others indicating the commission's support.

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

e. Request for Approval to Support 4AM Caregiver Resource Center Proposal and Advocate for funding to be included in the FY 2024 Budget

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, presented an overview stating the request is for CSA approval to support and advocate for the 4AM Caregiver Resource Center Proposal (attached to minutes) and for funding to be included in the fiscal year 2024 state executive budget. Upon approval, the intent is for the CSA Advocacy Committee to send a letter to Governor Whitmer and others indicating the commission's support.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Homes for a Lifetime: Housing Justice for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Julie Cassidy, Senior Policy Analyst, Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP), provided a presentation related to housing for older adults and people with disabilities and specific challenges and recommendations to address those challenges (attached to minutes).

b. State Plan on Aging Update

Tammy Lemmer, State Assistant Administrator for ACLS Bureau, gave a presentation related to the State Plan on Aging Process and provided a schedule for the Community Conversations being held throughout the state (attached to minutes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023, in Lansing, MI.

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

ADJOURN

Interim Commission Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.