

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

**Capitol Commons Center
400 S. Pine Street, Lansing, MI 48909
Friday, April 21, 2023**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Commission Chair Bob Schlueter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, Nancy Duncan, Jennifer Lepard, Guillermo Lopez, Cassie Lopez-Jeng, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Joy Murphy, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Dennis Smith, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

William Bupp and Walid Gammouh

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Angel, Adam Burck, Chuck Corwin, Robyn Ford, Audra Frye, Marjorie Hobe, Theresa Kerry, Kenneth Mahoney, Joe Massey, Margaret O'Malley, Patricia Rencher, Mary Anne Shannon, Elizabeth Thompson, and Lori Wells

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED

Alan Bond, Beverly Bryan, Susan Cleghorn, Danna Downing, Mary Jones, Ruby Kickert, Elizabeth Laster-Miles, Fred Procter, Ann Randolph, Joseph Sowmick, Joseph Sucher, and Jo Ver Beek

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Ashley Ellsworth, Amy Hall, Jen Hunt, Tammy Lemmer, Kristina Leonardi, Cindy Masterson, Jennifer Onwenu, Marla Price, and Scott Wamsley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Bomberg 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 March 17, 2023, CSA meeting minutes.

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

COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT

Commission Chair Schlueter provided the following updates:

- Thanked commissioners and staff for attending with a special and heartfelt thank you to the State Advisory Council (SAC) members. He recognized that SAC members are the ones who make sure advocacy work gets done and that the CSA knows the issues most important to older adults. The commission is very thankful for the work the SAC does and wouldn't be able to do the work without them.
- Asked for additional volunteers to serve on a committee to review the CSA website. Anyone interested can contact him.

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

Lori Wells, SAC member, shared the following:

- When looking at the Older Michiganians Day advocacy platform related to expanding access to home and community-based services (HCBS), she noted that it mainly addresses MI Choice Waiver and she is asking that they consider the other programs that provide HCBS.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) UPDATE

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

- Thank you to the SAC members for all the work they do and to co-vice chairs Audra Frye and Marj Hobe for the extra work they put in.
- SAC members have been doing yearly research reports for the CSA for many years and have covered most subjects that are important to older adults in Michigan. The 2023 report will be finished in the next few months.
- The SAC will be making some changes to their priorities going forward – increasing their advocacy efforts in alignment with CSA priorities and drafting smaller reports that are more timely and impactful. He asked the CSA to think about how the SAC could be more involved in the work the CSA does.
- The ACLS Bureau has been providing training and informational items at the SAC meetings related to programs for older adults.
- Current SAC membership is 25 members. Once goals and priorities have been more clearly defined, they will be recruiting more members.

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.

- Copies of letters the CSA sent were provided to CSA/SAC members to use in their advocacy efforts – one to Governor Whitmer and one to the Legislature regarding the CSA-approved budget priorities and focus areas. She indicated that the content of the letters has been formally approved by the CSA, so members could feel free to use the letters to advocate for the issues in them.
- Also included in meeting packets is a CSA tri-fold brochure. It identifies the 2023-2024 major priorities of the CSA and includes a brief description of the CSA and what they do as well as a map of the 16 area agencies on aging. It will be shared in both paper and electronic form in many different ways - distributed to legislators, put in packets for Older Michiganians Day, available at future commission meetings, and for CSA/SAC members to use in their advocacy efforts, to name a few.
- Commissioner Tuggle shared information with the group related to Older Michiganians Day (May 17, 2023). More information was sent to all via email after the meeting.
- Current issues the advocacy committee is continuing work on/research for possible future CSA action:
 - Guardianship bills
 - Congresswoman Dingell's bill – strengthening federal support for HCBS.
 - Long-term care ombudsman program
 - Grab n' go meals flexibility
 - Transportation
- Later in the meeting there will be a presentation regarding tips for engaging with elected officials in advocacy efforts.

BUREAU OF AGING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT

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

- Provided an update on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), a federal requirement under the 21st Century Cures Act. As a reminder, this requirement is a way to ensure when personal care and home health care services are provided, the worker documents the time of services, what services were provided, and when services ended. The programs impacted by this requirement are MI Health Link, MI Choice, Home Help, Home Health, community transitions programs, and managed care. The administration has now secured a software vendor to begin the work in meeting this requirement and informational meetings have started. Implementation of EVV will be staggered among programs with the first implementation likely to begin in the first quarter of 2024.
- Staff in the PACE program are assisting in the efforts to build a PACE program in the Alpena area, an area that was identified as currently underserved. Staff in PACE are also working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Programs (CMS) to request some flexibilities to help with addressing the direct care workforce shortage.
- The Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind is in high gear with guidance from CMS. Redeterminations for Medicaid population will start in June. Passive enrollments have begun, where information already in databases is available related to clients. The administration has been actively providing information to clients in a variety of ways to be sure the contact information on file is current so that clients are notified of requirements.
- The bureau is also working with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on the PHE Unwind for Older Americans Act programs in the aging network. The

bureau has been 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 SUA and the ACLS Bureau (and the subsequent flexibilities extended to the AAAs) by the CSA to handle pandemic response have highlighted the need to continue some flexibilities and make adjustments to the current standards to reflect those recommended changes. The bureau will be requesting CSA approval on several operating standards in the coming months.

- Another area the bureau is addressing is the March 2020 authority granted to the State Unit on Aging (SUA) director by the CSA to provide flexibilities in policy and programming to the aging network during the pandemic. It was indicated at the time the authority was granted to the SUA, when the PHE comes to an end, the authorities would be returned to the CSA. There will likely be an agenda item at the May meeting related to returning these authorities back to the CSA to return to normal pre-pandemic operations.
- The administration is waiting on legislative approval for the HCBS American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Plan, which is largely Medicaid related, to provide some significant investments into HCBS, which will benefit the aging network as a whole. The plan has already been approved by CMS. There have been three main areas of focus in the plan: support for direct care workforce, expanding access to HCBS programs, and infrastructure to include supporting expansion of PACE programs. The bureau will keep the CSA updated on the status.
- The DCW Advisory Committee continues their work in supporting wage increases and building a training, education, and credentialing structure for direct care workers. IMPART Alliance and Lauren Swanson-Aprill from the ACLS Bureau are very involved in these efforts and priorities. This work is very complementary to the work of the CSA and SAC on advocacy priorities.
- MI Choice Waiver renewal application is close to going out for public review and comment, after several stakeholder feedback sessions.
- The bureau has been working on the State Plan on Aging (SPoA) with a deadline of July 1, 2023, to be completed and approved. Staff have been looking at the feedback data to build goals and objectives and the plan will then be out for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) needs to be submitted with the SPoA, and the IFF is also going out for public review and comment. The IFF committee will review feedback received and come to the full CSA for approval soon.

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 New Carry-Out Meals (COM) Operating Standard for Service Programs

Kristina Leonardi, Director, Aging & Community Services (ACS) Division, provided an overview stating the request is to implement a new COM Service Program Operating Standard. This new operating service standard will facilitate the continuation of COMs to adults aged 60 and older through an optional service

category after the federally declared Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends on May 11, 2023.

The ACLS Bureau's nutrition policy and standards were revised to ensure that the COM program remains an option for providers and participants. The development of the draft COM 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 February 13 – March 17, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

The ACLS Bureau is also requesting the flexibility for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to continue using existing contracted meal providers to offer the COM service for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Beginning in FY 2024, AAAs will opt into this service standard during the Annual Implementation Plan process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg to approve the request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of Revised C-3 Congregate Meal Operating Standard for Service Programs

Kristina Leonardi, Director, ACS Division, provided an overview stating the request is for approval to revise the C-3 Congregate Meals Operating Standard for Service Programs. The purpose of this revision is to align state policy with federal regulations, regarding meals taken from congregating dining sites and consumed at home or other off-site locations, once the federally declared Public Health Emergency ends on May 11, 2023.

Per the Administration for Community Living's guidance, carry-out meals consumed at home without congregating is not allowed under the Congregate service ([Title III-C1 and -C2 Service Delivery Decision Tree](#)). The revised C-3 Congregate Meals Operating Standard removes takeout meals, second meals, and weekend meals without congregating and provides updated guidance pertaining to off-site congregating meals. Additional updates to the C-3 Congregate Meals Operating Standard will be forthcoming later in the year.

The revised C-3 Congregate Meals Operating Standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from March 13, 2023 – April 13, 2023. All responses have been reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lopez to approve the request. Commissioner Pohnl seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Advocacy Tools

Commissioners Nancy Duncan and Joy Murphy and Jen Hunt, Director of the Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement (TAQI) Section, gave a presentation on how to communicate advocacy priorities with elected officials most affectively.

CSA and SAC members were provided folders with Advocacy Tools as well as contact information for their elected officials.

b. Senior Mobility and Transportation Presentation

Patricia Heiler, Aging Driver Program Coordinator for the State of Michigan Traffic Safety Section, and Ashley Ellsworth, Field Representative in the TAQI Section, gave a presentation on senior mobility and transportation efforts for older adults in Michigan (presentation attached to minutes).

c. SAC Report Presentation Overview

Commissioner Joy Murphy gave an overview of the materials she developed to help promote the 2022 SAC Report “Aging in Place, Aging in Community” (presentation attached to minutes). She has used it when speaking with various groups as a summary of information contained in the report as well as to encourage people to use and share the report.

d. SAC Member Recruitment

Commissioner Mike Pohnl, SAC Chair, and Majorie Hobe, SAC Vice Chair, provided an overview of the recruitment efforts of the SAC and the status of current membership, as well as regions that have openings. Additional discussion and questions ensued, and the SAC/ACLS Bureau will be working together to recruit more members once goals and priorities have been firmly established.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center in Marshall, MI, with Public Hearing to follow at 1:00 p.m.

The next State Advisory Council on Aging Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am on Thursday, June 15, 2023, and is scheduled to be a virtual meeting.

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

Commission Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.