

**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)**

**St. Patrick Senior Center, 58 Parsons Street, Detroit, MI  
Friday, October 20, 2023**

**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, Arjan Kallou, Jennifer Lepard, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Joy Murphy, Michael Pohnl, Shirley Tuggle, and Kristie Zamora

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Mark Bomberg and Dennis Smith

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kelly Cooper, Kristina Leonardi, Cindy Masterson, and Scott Wamsley

**WELCOME**

Jonita Bunch, Detroit Area Agency on Aging Chief Administrative Officer, welcomed the commission and gave an overview of programs.

SaTrice Coleman-Betts, St. Patrick Senior Center Executive Director, welcomed the commission and gave an overview of programs.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Bruce and Commissioner Tuggle seconded the motion; agenda was approved by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the September 15, 2023, CSA meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh and Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion; minutes were approved by voice vote.

### **COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Schlueter provided the following updates:

- Thanked the commissioners for their kind, compassionate, and caring service to Michigan's older adults.

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

Katie Wendel, Director of Planning and Advocacy for AAA 1-B shared a letter and a document with commissioners related to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in Michigan (attached to minutes). The letter was a request for support in advocating for additional resources for the program.

### **CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

- Advocacy Committee members - Commissioners Bomberg, Duncan, Lopez, Murphy, and Tuggle. Chair Schlueter; and Adam Burck, State Advisory Committee (SAC) member liaison also attend meetings. New members joining the committee are Jo Ver Beek from the SAC and Tammy Lemmer is the ACLS Bureau liaison
- The committee has been primarily discussing and preparing for potential budget recommendations to the governor for the 2025 fiscal year, with a goal of finalizing these recommendations by November. Below are three key issues identified:
  - Support for long-term care ombudsman – SAC has completed research on the issue in relation to the needs and comparisons to other states
  - Direct Care Workforce issues – looking at ways to further strengthen the workforce recruitment, retention, training, credentialing, wages, etc.
  - Dementia services – may be funding needed to strengthen
- The committee is working on joint efforts with the department related to November National Family Caregivers Month. It is expected that a proclamation will be issued by Governor Whitmer to make November Michigan's Family Caregiver Month.

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

Commissioner Pohnl, SAC Chair, provided the following updates:

- Shared a document outlining a revised structure and outline of State Advisory Council activities and goals (attached).
- Thank you to Kristina Leonardi, Sophia Hines, Liz Aastad, and Cre'Chona Mobley for their support and for helping the SAC move forward with toward their goals and objectives.
- The SAC will continue to schedule informational meetings outside of the regularly scheduled SAC meetings and will send invitations to CSA members if they would like to attend.

### **ACLS BUREAU UPDATES**

Scott Wamsley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Thank you to the St. Patrick Senior Center and Detroit Area Agency on Aging for graciously agreeing to host the commission meeting and for all the great work they do for Michigan's older adults.

- ACLS Bureau is currently working on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Operating Standards with a work group of internal and external stakeholders. The goal of the work group is to look at the standards to be sure they are reflective of current times. They will be taking into consideration the new federal regulations of the Older Americans Act to be sure operating standards are in line with the new regulations.
- Electronic Visit Verification - work is ongoing. Program areas are meeting weekly with HHAX (the vendor for the program).
- Public Health Emergency unwind continues. There is a website devoted to the determinations and redeterminations - <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/end-phe>
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are seeing an uptick in people reaching out to them for services that may be available if they have been determined to no longer be eligible for Medicaid services.
- MI Choice Waiver program is working with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to obtain approval for renewal of the program.
- Recent speaking engagements attended by Mr. Wamsley:
  - Bay Area Senior Advocates – gave updates on Michigan’s State Plan on Aging
  - Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA) 2023 Fall Conference – gave updates on Michigan’s State Plan on Aging
  - WILX Interview - Regarding ACLS Bureau partnership with GetSetUp - <https://www.wilx.com/video/2023/10/17/mid-michigan-matters-mdhhs-offer-free-virtual-classes-older-adults/>

## **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 the Caregiver Resource Centers Funding**

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is to award \$5.0M in state general funds in Fiscal Year 2024 to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) for caregiver resource centers as required in Section 1976 of Public Act 119 of 2023. The funds will be distributed using the Intra-state Funding Formula.

Activities that will be conducted with this funding include, but are not limited to, the following caregiver services: outreach, information and assistance, assessment and care planning, counseling, support groups, education and training, respite care, caregiver crisis response, and communication.

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

### **b. Request for Approval of the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network for States Grant Funding to Area Agencies on Aging**

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is to continue the Care Transition Program agreements for the period covering October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, with the following grantees: Region 2 AAA, Region 3-B AAA, Region IV AAA, Region VII AAA, Region 14 AAA. The

Administration for Community Living awarded federal funds with a Public Health Workforce Development grant to the ACLS Bureau for the period of January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2024, and the funds are being awarded to support the Care Transition Program.

The purpose of the Public Health Workforce Development grant is to expand the public health workforce within aging and disability networks to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges. The grant award provided to AAAs will fund public health services and supports needed to transition from medical care institutions, diverting from high-risk congregate settings to community living and the grant awards will cover the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

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

**c. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 COVID-19 Immunization Support Grant Funding**

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is to award the Detroit Area Agency on Aging \$248,681 in federal funds. The funds are from the Public Health Administration from their COVID-19 Immunization Grant.

The purpose of the COVID-19 Immunization Support Grant is to support vaccination efforts. The grant award period will cover the period of November 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

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

**d. Request for Approval to of a Blanket Waiver to Allow for Gap-Filling Services to be Added to Area Implementation Plans for Fiscal Year 2024**

Kristina Leonardi, Aging & Community Services (ACS) Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is for a blanket waiver for area agencies on aging (AAA) to amend AIPs to include the Gap Filling Regional Service that will allow oral nutrition supplements (ONS) to be included as a service within this service definition. This blanket waiver will not require that the AAA add this service but will allow them the option to add this service if they plan to continue serving ONS to individuals outside of or in addition to a meal.

Allowing ONS to be offered in addition to a meal or separately from a meal enhances options for serving individuals based on personal preferences. Additionally, this provides an avenue to report “Other Nutrition Services” such as food boxes and groceries that are not considered meals. These services support individuals who are considered most at risk for malnutrition.

The Gap Filling Service would ensure that a reporting mechanism is in place to allow

for accurate reporting. Acceptable Older Americans Act (OAA) funding sources will include Title III-C funds, and on a limited basis Title III-B and Title III-E funds. Approval of this request would bridge the gap for ONS and supplemental food services in FY 2024, allowing ACLS Bureau time to develop a service definition that will allow for consumable supplies to be implemented in FY 2025.

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

**e. Request for Approval of SAC Appointments and Reappointments**

Commissioner Mike Pohnl, SAC Chair, requested approval of the appointment and reappointments to the State Advisory Council as noted below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>AAA Region</b>	<b>Term</b>
Mary Anne Shannon	Sault Ste. Marie	Region 11	11/1/2023 – 10/31/2026
Jo Ver Beek	Holland	Region 8	11/1/2023 – 10/31/2026
Vincent DeCiantis	Rochester Hills	Region 1B	11/1/2023 – 10/31/2026

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**a. ARPA Home and Community-Based Services Presentation**

Kristina Leonardi, Director, ACS Division, gave a presentation on the ARPA Home and Community-Based Services plan (attached).

**b. Alzheimer’s Disease in Michigan**

Jean Barnas, Alzheimer’s Association Program Services Director and Matt Phelan, Alzheimer’s Association Public Policy Manager presented an overview of Alzheimer’s Disease in Michigan.

**c. Elder Abuse Task Force**

Scott Teter, Chair of the Elder Abuse Task Force gave a presentation related to the ongoing work of the task force (attached)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**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 12:35 p.m. Working session/lunch followed and Public Hearing began at 1:00 p.m.