

**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)**

**Capitol Commons Center, 400 S. Pine Street, Lansing, MI
November 17, 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, Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Joy Murphy, Dennis Smith, and Shirley Tuggle

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Walid Gammouh, Jennifer Leopard, Arjan Kallou, Mike Pohnl, and Kristie Zamora

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Cynthia Farrell, Tammy Lemmer, Kristina Leonardi, Cindy Masterson, Lauren Swanson-April, and Scott Wamsley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the October 20, 2023, CSA meeting minutes.

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

**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 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 and Jo Ver Beek, State Advisory Committee (SAC) member liaisons, also attend meetings. Tammy Lemmer is the ACLS Bureau liaison.
- The [Family Caregiver Proclamation](#), initiated by the committee and supported by the CSA, was posted by Governor Whitmer.
- Pending approval of motions in the Business Items of this meeting, the committee will be developing an implementation strategy for the items.
- The CSA approved support of guardianship bills and also heard testimony about them from the Elder Abuse Task Force Chair, Scott Teter, at the October 2023 CSA meeting. The bills have passed the House and are awaiting Senate approval. The committee is watching the status of the bills to determine if there is any action needed to advocate for the full passage of the bills.

ACLS BUREAU UPDATES

Scott Wamsley, Director, provided the following updates:

- Update on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget:
ACLS Bureau and the finance team have been working on the challenges that come from continuing resolutions. The aging network is impacted as it makes it very difficult to plan for and extend services when they do not know what the federal budget will look like.
- Attended the Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA) Conference in October. Many of the concerns that were expressed were items supported by the commission - Direct Care Workforce shortage, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, and the 2024 federal budget.
- Attended the Area Agencies on Aging Association Conference – great conference and very well-attended, great speakers, great to hear about all the work being done by the AAAs
- ACLS Bureau is working on increases for the Community Transition Services (CTS) rates. CTS program helps individuals move from nursing facilities back into the community. The rates for this program have not increased since 2018. The team developed a plan for increasing the rates and that plan is currently out for 30-day public review and comment.
- MI Choice Waiver Program – still awaiting final approval of the renewal application and working with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on finalizing language. It has been resubmitted to CMS after some edits. There has been no service interruption for the program during this time.
- Electronic Visit Verification - work is ongoing. Actively working with stakeholders and meeting with with HHAX (the vendor for the program) to work on logistics regarding the data needs.
- The ACLS Bureau Long Term Care Services Division team has been onsite in Detroit for a nursing home closure. The team helps to transition residents to other facilities and were onsite for almost two weeks, putting in significant work to be sure residents are appropriately placed.

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 Revised B-5 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council Operating Standard

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, provided an overview stating the request is to revise the AAA Advisory Council Operating Standard for Area Agencies on Aging.

The Operating Standards represent a compilation of the policies, standards, rules, regulations, and statutes. The aging network identified AAA Advisory Council Standard (B-5) as a priority standard in need of review and potential revision. The ACLS Bureau formed a workgroup and collaborated with the AAAs to update the standard.

The revised B-5 Operating Standard was posted for a 30-day public comment period from August 28, 2023-September 28, 2023. All responses were reviewed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the standard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve the request and Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.

b. Request for Motion to Recommend Improvements to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an overview of the committee's recommendations for improvements to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Commissioner Bomberg made the following motion:

The Commission on Services to the Aging recommends improvements to strengthen the Long Term Care Ombudsman program by increasing annual funding to hire additional Ombudsman staff in order to reduce the ratio of Ombudsman to facility beds to 1:2,000, at an estimated cost of \$3 million. The Commission also supports efforts to recruit additional volunteers for the program, and to provide additional technology support to staff and volunteers to enable them to better serve their clients. In addition, the formula for distribution of Ombudsman funding should be reviewed to ensure that funds are distributed equitably based on current needs.

Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by majority by voice vote.

c. Request for Motion to Request MDHHS Funding for Unfunded Components of the Caregiver Resource Center Proposal

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an overview of the committee's recommendation to request MDHHS funding for unfunded components of the Caregiver Resource Center Proposal.

Commissioner Bupp made the following motion:

The Commission on Services to the Aging recommends that the Department of Health and Human Services, working with the Area Agencies on Aging Association, provide leadership to ensure that caregivers throughout the state have access to a minimum standard of service regardless of their geographic residency. To that end, the Commission recommends that the Department identify resources to fund, and provide leadership for, the following statewide efforts to improve caregiver services:

- Establishment of a statewide virtual educational resource clearinghouse offering evidence-based educational and training materials and linking caregivers to local AAA resources (\$730,000)
- Implementation of a multi-pronged outreach campaign to improve public awareness of caregiver support resources (\$660,000)
- Creation of a Michigan Caregiver Collaborative to develop a five-year state plan to coordinate, expand and strengthen caregiver resources statewide (\$410,000).

Commissioner Tuggle seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

d. Request for Motion to Support Additional Direct Care Worker Wage Increase

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an overview of the committee's recommendations to support an additional Direct Care Worker wage increase.

Commissioner Tuggle made the following motion:

In order to promote the recruitment, retention, and professionalization of the direct care workforce in Michigan, the Commission on Services to the Aging supports ongoing, regular assessments of the adequacy of the wage structure for direct care workers to ensure that wages are competitive and reflect the skills necessary to safely care for vulnerable older adults. For Fiscal Year 2025, the Commission recommends a wage adjustment of \$4.00/hour.

Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

e. Request for Motion to Support Additional Funding for Dementia Services

Nancy Duncan, CSA Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an overview of the committee's recommendations to support additional funding for dementia services.

Commissioner Bruce made the following motion:

In recognition of the importance of services to persons with dementia, including early diagnosis and access to support services, the Commission on Services to the Aging recommends a \$2 million increase in funding for dementia services in the Fiscal Year 2025 state budget. The Commission also recommends that the Department of Health and Human Services provide leadership for the development, delivery, coordination, and evaluation of dementia services to ensure that persons with

dementia and their families have seamless access to high quality, evidence-based services.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Adult Services Updates

Cynthia Farrell, Director, Adult Services Division, provided updates on the adult services program (presentation attached to minutes).

b. DCW Presentation

Lauren Swanson-Aprill, DCW Specialist in the ACLS Bureau Health Promotion & Active Aging Section, provided a presentation on MDHHS Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee State Policy and Action Recommendations (attached to minutes).

Following the presentation and subsequent discussion, Commissioner Bruce made the following motion:

The Commission on Services to the Aging endorses the “Building Michigan’s Direct Care Workforce: State Policy and Action Recommendations” and supports full implementation of the recommendations through the allocation of necessary resources in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

c. Budget History Presentation

Cindy Masterson, OANS Division Director, gave a presentation on the ACLS Bureau budget history.

d. State Plan on Aging Update

Tammy Lemmer, State Assistant Administrator in the ACLS Bureau, provided an update on Michigan’s State Plan on Aging.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 15, 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 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commission Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Working session/lunch followed.