

**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**

**Hilton Garden Inn
633 N. Canal Rd., Lansing, MI 48917
Friday, November 18, 2022**

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The 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

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Schlueter, Mark Bomberg, Jimmy Bruce, William Bupp, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Cassie Lopez-Jeng, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Michael Pohnl, Dennis Smith, and Kristie Zamora

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Jennifer Leopard, Guillermo Lopez, Joy Murphy, and Shirley Tuggle

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Cooper, Lacey Charboneau, Amy Hall, Cindy Masterson, Brenda Ross, and Scott Wamsley

WELCOME

Commission Chair Schlueter welcomed all to the meeting. He let commissioners know of an opportunity to write a monthly newsletter article related to CSA for the Area Agency on Aging Association (4AM). He asked any commissioners interested in this to contact him. He indicated that the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) committee would hold their first meeting after the CSA meeting. The committee, chaired by Commissioner Bomberg, will meet at least monthly to research the IFF and prepare recommendations to present to the full commission for approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Zamora seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the October 21, 2022, CSA meeting minutes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO ACLS BUREAU PROGRAMS, SERVICES, POLICIES, OR ISSUES IMPACTING OLDER AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

None

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE

Commissioner Pohnl, SAC Chair, provided an update on the SAC:

- The SAC is presently reevaluating their goals and discussing what members would like to see as priorities. They now have a draft plan and would like to present it to the commission in the next month or two. Some of their goals include:
 - Expand outreach and collaboration with other groups involved in senior issues
 - Focus research on single issues impacting older adults that can be addressed in a shorter time frame and presented to the CSA and the aging network
 - Taking inventory of SAC members' specific skill sets, abilities, connections, and interests in order to align with the priorities of the SAC and CSA and assign projects/priorities accordingly
 - Once these priorities and goals have been identified and finalized, they will be recruiting new members. He asked commissioners to think about people they may know who would be a good fit for the SAC.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

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.
- In February or March 2023, the governor will present 2024 executive budget recommendations to the legislature. The committee is working to identify budget priorities involving senior issues that would benefit from additional financial resources so the CSA can advocate to the governor for inclusion of those funds in the recommendations to the legislature.
- Commissioner Duncan asked for a motion to support the committee's budget recommendation focus areas to strengthening home- and community-based services: DCW training, DCW inflationary wage adjustment, expanded resources for informal caregivers, and movement toward rebalancing goal.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued and the motion was approved by voice vote.

- The committee will continue discussions to have more specific information related to

the budget priorities and will present the information to the CSA in December.

- The committee has heard from Director Hertel and she has indicated that she will be attending the commission meeting in December to share information related to the department as well as to hear from the commission about senior issues the CSA has identified as concerns. She asked commissioners to think about issues they would like to cover at the December meeting as well and to share those with Commission Chair Schlueter prior to the meeting.
- The committee continues to strengthen relationships with other advocacy groups in Michigan in order to share priorities and strengthen the collective voice of senior advocates.

BUREAU OF AGING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND SUPPORTS DIRECTOR REPORT

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

- It is expected that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will be extended another 90 days beyond the January 11, 2023, date as there was no official word that it has ended. Work continues on the Medicaid PHE unwind, where flexibilities that have been utilized during the pandemic under federal declaration of the PHE will no longer be in effect. Much of this work involves making sure that we are able to contact Medicaid beneficiaries to be sure they understand what this will mean for coverages. There are several work groups focusing on these efforts.
- The expanded PHE Unwind discussions continue to include what the unwind will mean for aging network programs - specifically 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. This will allow for a more seamless unwind for those agencies and providers offering services under both Older Americans Act funding and Medicaid funding.
- There was a quarterly meeting earlier in the week with 4AM as well as Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA). The PHE Unwind processes were shared with the group so they were aware of the possible impact. They were asked to look at the flexibilities allowed for aging programs during the PHE they would like to have extended or made permanent. Some examples may include virtual and telephonic assessments, grab-and-go meals, funding flexibility to transfer funds, etc. Once flexibilities to extend are identified, the ACLS Bureau will gather and assess the feasibility and present the requests to the commission for approval.
- Conversations continue with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) related to the MI Health Link transition plan to transition to Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP).
- A Nutrition Standards Workgroup has been formed to discuss nutrition standards. The group is working with the aging network (AAAs and nutrition providers) to discuss how to incorporate grab-and-go meals into the standards or whether there would be a new standard for this type of service, as well as discussing the possible funding and reporting arrangements that would need to be in place. They will also be looking at general nutrition standards for nutrition programs. Once any recommendations have been identified, the commission would be asked to approve any changes to the standards.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding plans are ongoing. The bureau is working with CMS to seek approval for additional federal funding for home- and

community-based long-term care services. They have submitted an update to the original ARPA plan with three key areas being DCW worker shortage support, expanding access to long-term care (LTC) programs, and infrastructure for LTC programs. Once the particulars have been approved by CMS, the next step is to seek legislative support.

- Senior Project Fresh grant for calendar year 2023 was submitted in November. This program provides coupons to eligible older adults to buy Michigan-grown produce from farmers markets. Additionally, we will be submitting a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Senior Project Fresh. These funds, if granted, would primarily focus on improving technology to track and issue coupons. This is currently a very labor-intensive manual process.
- Beginning discussions related to a possible Falls Prevention Grant with the MDHHS Chronic Disease Division.
- Michelle Martin has been hired as the Division Director for the Long-Term Care Services Division newly formed under the March of 2022 reorganization. This division oversees both the Home Help Section and the Long-Term Care Operations Section.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request to Cancel a Fiscal Year 2021 COVID-19 Immunization Support Grant Agreement

Cindy Masterson, Director of the OANS Division, provided an overview stating the request is to cancel a grant agreement issued under the Public Health Administration's COVID-19 Immunization Support Grant.

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. was awarded \$53,000 in federal funds to assist with COVID-19 immunization support. They have been diligent in conducting the activities allowed under this grant and since there are other organizations providing these same services, the funding is no longer required, and they have requested to end the grant.

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.

b. Request to Cancel a Fiscal Year 2023 Expanding Older Adult Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Grant Agreement

Cindy Masterson, Director of the OANS Division, provided an overview stating the request is to cancel a grant agreement issued under the Expanding Older Adult Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Grant.

The Tri-County Office on Aging was awarded \$59,424 in federal funds to assist with COVID-19 immunization support for seniors and caregivers. They have been diligent

in conducting the activities allowed under this grant and since there are other organizations providing these same services, the funding is no longer required, and they have requested to end the grant.

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

c. Request for Approval of Modifications to the FY 2023-2025 MYP and FY 2023 AIP for Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Lacey Charboneau, Field Representative, Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement Section, provided an overview stating the request is for approval of a modification to the FY 2023-2025 MYP and FY 2023 AIP for Region IV AAA. The original plan was approved by the CSA on September 16, 2022.

Region IV 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 age 60 or older discharging from a medical care facility to the place they consider to be home.

The modification was made available for public review during a 30-day public comment period; approved by the Advisory Board October 3, 2022; and approved by the Region IV AAA Board of Directors on October 31, 2022.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. State Plan on Aging Process Overview

Tammy Lemmer, State Assistant Administrator for ACLS Bureau, gave a presentation related to the State Plan on Aging Process (attached to minutes)

b. Intrastate Funding Formula Process Overview

Scott Wamsley, Director of the ACLS Bureau, gave a presentation related to the Intrastate Funding Formula Process (attached to minutes)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2022, at Hilton Garden Inn, 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 Brenda Ross at rossb11@michigan.gov at leave five business days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commission Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.