

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging and
Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 AIP
Monday, May 22, 2017
NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Chairman E. Corpe.

Roll Call

S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, M. Newman, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Johnston, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: M. Fox, J. Mathis and J. Drozdowski

Unexcused:

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Susan Bowen, Connie McQuarrie, Yvette Smigelski, Becky Hawks and Liz Kowalski

Guests: Dan Doezema, John Briggs,

Quorum – Yes

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by C. Athan with support from K. Schreiner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by D. Huff with support from D. Fay to approve the minutes of April 24, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Roscommon Member-at-Large – C. Athan introduced Madaline Hill who was nominated by the Roscommon County Commission on Aging to fill the vacant position. A motion was made by D. Huff with support from D. Henig to accept the nomination. Motion carried.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to close the meeting and open the public hearing. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan

Susan Bowen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). A copy of the draft plan and her presentation were distributed. This is the second year of the Multi-Year Plan. She reviewed the following: What is the AIP? What is in it? The Older Americans Act (OAA) and its purpose, OAA Titles, The Core Functions of the Area Agency on Aging, The Planning and Service Area and Focal Points, Services Leveraged by our COA Partners, State and Regional Goals, AAA Direct Services, Regional Priorities, Funding Considerations, Purchase of Service, Planned Services and Area Plan Budget, Advocacy Strategy and Older Michigianians Day. The following are comments made and questions that were addressed.

M. Downs – I have a friend in Ohio, would these services be available in Ohio? Susan – Maybe not the exact services we have but certainly the ones through the Older Americans Act. Susan gave her a contact number for services in Ohio.

C. Proulx – Does Probate Court get invited to your Elder Abuse Conference? Susan – Yes, Probate Judges have participated in past conferences. Local law enforcement is also invited. Public Guardians have been invited in the past but we never had a good response from that group.

C. Corwin – People seemed more prepared to talk with legislators at this year's Older Michiganians Day.

K. Schreiner – It also helped that the legislators came to us. It made people feel more comfortable rather than sitting in their office.

C. Proulx – Are we still doing the assistive devices alert button? Laurie – Yes. It's a very small pot of money that is mostly used to provide PERS units for Care Management clients.

C. Proulx – Is a unit for adult day care fifteen minutes or an hour? Susan – A unit is one hour. Laurie – Waiver is the only program that deals with fifteen minute increments.

The deadline for written and/or electronic testimony is June 5, 2017. Send any written comments to the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging Attn: Laurie Sauer, Director, 2375 Gordon Road, Alpena, MI 49707 or email sauerl@nemcsa.org.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by C. Athan with support from D. Fay to close the public hearing and re-open the meeting of the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 1:30 p.m.

Directors Report

AAA Staff – Laurie introduced Becky Hawks. Her revised job description as the AAA Financial Services Assistant puts her into the administrative side of the AAA rather than in Care Management and Waiver programs where she was previously. As part of her duties, she will be visiting the COAs helping Yvette with assessments and attending board meetings.

Older Michiganians Day – Laurie reported the day went really well. We had a good group with a total of 18 people representing 6 of our 12 counties including 5 COA Directors and 3 Regional Council members. We would love even more next year. We were able to speak with all but one of our legislators, Representative Chatfield was not available. Representative Jason Wentworth expressed interest in visiting with some of our clients to get a better understanding of our programs. Senator Stamas and Representative Sue Allor are also interested in speaking at one of our Regional Council on Aging meetings. Karl will follow-up with legislators on our invitation to speak at one of our meetings when he goes down to Lansing on Wednesday for his next MSAC meeting.

State Revenue Estimating Conference – The Revenue Consensus Panel met on May 17th. The General Fund is down due to personal and corporate tax collections being down and school aid being up. We need to keep up our advocacy efforts. The House proposes an increase of

\$750,000 for Home Delivered Meals and \$1.5 million for In-Home Services. The Senate and Governor's version is twice that amount.

AASA – We were notified by the state office that they will have PREVNT grant funds available next year. This is the CORE (Campaign of Respect and Empathy) program that Sara worked to develop the anti-bullying campaign and presentations. The anti-bullying trainings will start in June. Kate Schulz, who has been working with Sara on this project, resigned effective June 13th. This is a very part-time position, one day a week.

American Health Care Act (AHCA) – In Washington the House passed their version which will allow for the elimination of community ratings for premiums. Currently, the community ratings spread the costs across all insured making it more affordable for the sick. If the AHCA eliminates that pricing strategy, older, sicker adults will pay more (up to five times more) for their premiums than the young and healthy. This also includes an \$880 billion cut to Medicaid by changing the way it's funded jeopardizing optional programs like the MI-Choice Waiver. There is no guarantee this program will survive. The Senate is set to make their decision by early June.

Aging Achievement Award – The AAA recently received notice from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging that we will receive an Aging Achievement Award for our work in the Elder Abuse Prevention category for the CORE (Campaign of Respect and Empathy) program. This is a result of all the work done by Sara, Kate and Susan on the anti-bullying project. We are very proud of their work.

Best Practices Conference – Laurie attended the conference on Friday. It was a great turnout with approximately 80 in attendance. The speakers were all very good. The Best Practices Committee did an outstanding job.

MiCafe – Elder Law of Michigan will conduct a MiCafe Application Assistant Training in Grayling at The Nature Center on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. More details to follow. The trained MiCafe Assistants screen applicants for the Bridge Card and other services they may be eligible for such as the Medicare Savings Program, Medicaid, and utility assistance. We just sponsored an event at the Lincoln Senior Center last week and helped five seniors sign up for food assistance. This is a nice service for the COAs to offer to seniors.

State Advisory Council – The MSAC has been working to complete their Creative Aging Report and is looking to highlight programs in our region and across the state. If you have any enrichment activities with crafts, writing, or the arts going on at your centers, please let Laurie know by June 16th and she will pass them along to Chuck for MSAC.

Senate Bill 135 – Senate Bill 135 contains a threat to the MI-Choice program, Section 1852. This Section contains language directing the DHHS to implement a pilot program that would require individuals receiving home and community based services through the Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program to transition to a long-term service and support program administered by an integrated care organization. This is concerning. J. Briggs – This is being added to the bill late in the process so it may not make it. This was done by one managed care company. We need to try to stop it at this point. This is a good topic of conversation if you are out advocating. A copy of a Comparison of Home and Community Based Long Term Care Programs was distributed.

C. Corwin – The last payment to the counties was held back. Was it ever sent out? Laurie – No not yet because the state didn't receive their allocation of federal dollars.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis was not here. No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan reported the COA Directors are scheduled to meet on June 1st.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Report – Sara is off today, no report.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen distributed a handout to help protect funding for supporting Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries. This document contains a lot of good information for advocating and educating your elected officials. Senators Chris Murphy, Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow are signing in support. Susan will be training six new MMAP volunteers next month. Another training is planned for September.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she will attend a Master Training for PATH on June 6th through June 9th. She had to submit an application and go through an interview process prior to the training. This will certify her to train new leaders. She will also cross train for the Diabetes and Pain PATH. In August she will take the two-day training for Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC). Assessments are underway on the Adult Day Care Centers in our region. One has been completed and three are scheduled. She hopes to have them completed by August. These are conducted annually and includes a general review of their criteria, needs assessments, service plans, staff training records, emergency procedures and fire safety compliance. She does a physical walk through of the facility and talks to staff and participants. Any compliance issues must be addresses within 30 days. Liz is also working on quality assurance for all the trained PATH leaders and is reviewing their files as well as the information in the data base. All leaders need an updated background check every five years.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – K. Schreiner reported he attended Older Michiganians Day. If you look through the platform for the day, it contains a lot of what we advocate for with MSAC. One issue we need to continue to address is the need for standards for home based workers. Many of the people caring for older adults in their homes have no training. Elder abuse is another topic. A series of laws were passed years ago sighting the need for more protections for aging adults. Maybe the laws need to be redefined. Karl will draw up a list of key points that he can hand out to our legislators when he does his visits for MSAC. If there is anything you want him to advocate for, let him know. He would be happy to include it in his advocacy efforts.

J. Johnson – An elderly lady in our town recently advertised for an in home caregiver. I know the person she hired and I'm not sure it was a wise choice. Is there any state licensing for home care providers? Laurie – Unfortunately no. That's a big issue right now. Persons working for a private individual in their home don't even need a background check.

C. Proulx – You need to report to Adult Protective Services if you suspect any type of abuse.

State Advisory Council – C. Corwin reported the group continues to make improvements to their report. One of the problems they are having is it includes pages and pages of references. The group will meet again in Lansing on June 16th. Regarding the home care worker issue, last year the State Advisory Council produced the Direct Care Worker Report that went to all the AAAs, COAs, legislators, and the Governor. We had a path of mandated training and education.

We are hearing that people have not heard about it. Our workgroups worked on this for a year. I don't want to reinvent the wheel. Laurie – We can get that report back out to our legislators.

John Briggs – There are several issues with home based workers including; finding one, what they are paid, and trainings. Laurie – We did provide training through the BTBQ training series. But it's not required. That program is being revamped this year.

C. Proulx – If home care workers go through the COAs, they get trained. It's the private sector workers we have no control over. Laurie – Right, there are varied trainings being provided by the aging network.

C. Corwin – Reports show that in the next five years we will need 25,000 more in home care workers. We want them to be better trained. Maybe we need to have the State Commission revisit this issue as well. J. Briggs – I will have a talk with Dona Wishart about this.

Local Updates From Council Members

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported May is Older American's Month and he has been doing his part by visiting a few of the senior centers in our region. He had dinner in Posen on Mother's Day and complimented them on their building improvement project. He attended the Foster Grandparent Program recognition on Friday and stopped at the Crawford COA on his way down to his last Commission meeting. Yesterday he was at the Alpena Senior Center. The NAPIS report was given to the Commission. It doesn't appear that much has changed from last year. The Commission was updated on AAA 1-B. They are currently on probation and making progress on the accountability of their funding. Eric Burke was also there to give an update on the AIP process. John recounted his attendance at the MSU Commencement in Ann Arbor when President Lyndon Johnson gave his speech on the Great Society reforms establishing the Older Americans Act.

AASA – Dan Doezema reported he went out on the financial assessment we conducted at the Presque Isle Council on Aging. He reported the AAA did a really good job. John's right, the senior center did look great. The Section 1852 pilot program put in to the legislature that will affect the Waiver program is a concern. These companies are there to make money. It's a concern as to what the future is going to look like. There's a perception that it will quickly save money which isn't the case.

Action Items:

Endorsement of the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan. A motion was made by C. Corwin with support from D. Henig to endorse the 2018 AIP and submit it to the NEMCSA Policy Board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Questions or Concerns

E. Corpe reminded the group the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26. Also, please remember our fallen veterans this Memorial Day.

Adjourn

A motion was made by K. Schreiner with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:27 p.m. by Chairman Corpe.