

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, July 24, 2017 at 1:00 pm
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. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, J. Mathis M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: M. Fox, C. Athan, J. Drozdowski

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Liz Kowalski, Yvette Smigelski, Becky Hawks, Susan Bowen, Kelly Robinette, Amy Fuller

Guests: John Briggs, Suzan Krey

Quorum – yes

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from M. Hiller to approve the minutes of June 26, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

No report.

RSVP Update – Amy Fuller, Project Director

Handouts distributed. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) along with the FGP and SCP make up the Senior Corps through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Nationwide Senior Corps has 245,000 volunteers providing 74.6 million hours of service to 840,000 elderly in need, 267,000 children in need, and 332,100 veterans. RSVP volunteers can volunteer any way they want based on their individual skills and interests. There is no stipend for this program and no income eligibility requirement. Volunteers must be age 55 and older and pass a criminal background check. Each RSVP is different because they are designed to meet the needs of local communities. An example of some of the placements Amy has volunteer positions are; for home delivered meal drivers, medical transporter, food pantries, thrift stores, blood drives, hospice, nursing homes, schools, hospitals, telephone reassurance and senior centers. We currently have the RSVP in Crawford and Roscommon Counties.

M. Downs – How do you get the volunteers? Amy – Usually it's word of mouth. I do get referrals from our volunteers and volunteer stations. I also advertise the program in local newspapers and on the radio.

A copy of the July RSVP newsletter was reviewed. Benefits to joining RSVP include; the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people, free supplemental excess accident medical, volunteer liability and automobile liability insurance, limited mileage reimbursement, placements tailored to your interests and skills, quarterly newsletter, recognition for service, volunteer luncheon, and research shows that those who actively volunteer experience better health and live longer. The mileage reimbursement is capped at 50 miles per month. Mileage reimbursement is from home to the location and back. For the fiscal year that just ended June 30, 2017, Amy had 133 volunteers providing 13,655 hours of service at a value set by the national office of \$321,712 (based on \$23.56 per hour).

Program Expansion News – RSVP is expanding. The AAA was recently awarded a grant to expand the program into nine more counties to support 300 new RSVP volunteers in Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Presque Isle. Otsego has their own program. All of our region will now be covered beginning in September. The grant is for three years with half of the volunteer focus on providing transportation, telephone reassurance, mentor school children, and serve at food pantries. The other half we have free range on where to place volunteers. We will be working to find both work stations and volunteers. Only non-profits can be volunteer stations and include; COA's, government entities, churches, and schools. Volunteers cannot conduct religious services or be involved in politics.

C. Proulx – Can you explain how a group who needs help gets volunteers? Amy – Your COA can be a volunteer station. You would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with RSVP. We ask volunteer stations for support in getting volunteer timesheets turned in.

S. Krey – Are there any benefits to the volunteer when providing transportation? Amy – Yes, they get mileage to and from their home to the volunteer station and the supplemental insurance.

S. Krey – What if there is only PL/PD on the vehicle, will the insurance cover any costs? Amy – I'm not sure, I don't know all of the legalities of the policy. I can check into it.

M. Downs – We would call you and you would provide the volunteers? Amy – Yes, if you have a Memorandum of Understanding with us.

C. Proulx – Can the non-emergency medical transportation be combined with the RSVP? Amy – possibly. Laurie – It is possible, we specifically chose to write that service into the grant.

V. Zygiel – Arenac needs volunteers, we have a hard time finding them.

C. Corwin – I'm not seeing new volunteers, we need more. Amy – We did recently place a few at the Houghton Lake Center.

E. Corpe – I encourage you all to take this information back to your COA's and help Amy get the program established in your county.

Directors Report

RSVP – Laurie thanked Earl, Chuck, and Madeline, who are RSVP volunteers, for their volunteer service to their communities. The expansion grant is for \$122,000 for 3 years. It was a very competitive grant process across the country and is a great accomplishment for Amy and all her hard work. Amy will hire two staff people to cover the northern and southern counties in the region. One will be housed in our Alpena office and the other with Amy. Our commitment to Roscommon and Crawford County will not waiver. RSVP has a bright future in Region 9.

AAA Staff – We have a new RN for our Gaylord office starting today. Her name is Amy Travis. She comes to us from District Health Department #4 where she was a Public Health Nurse. This brings us one step closer to having our Gaylord office ready.

AASA Aging Assessment – On Monday, July 17th, Dan Doezema our AASA Field Rep. conducted an assessment of Aging programs. It went well, no compliance issues mentioned. We expect a report soon.

MMAAP Assessment – We just received the results of our MMAAP Assessment done in January. All is good, no compliance issues.

AAA Director Assessment distributed. All Council members received a copy of the Region 9 AAA Director Evaluation. This is an annual process. Please complete and place in the box before you leave today.

NCQA Assessment – This assessment will be conducted the last week of September. A lot of work has gone into preparing for this visit. Gina, Jenna, Jen and Cindy have been working furiously to pull things together. This assessment is for accreditation so they will be looking at our records and policies and procedures for the Care Management and Waiver Programs. We would be one of the first AAAs to be certified. The goal of accreditation is to better position ourselves for the future. It's becoming much more competitive with other entities applying to be waiver agents. Accreditation will help us prove we do an outstanding job providing these programs.

Waiver Assessment – Staff from the Inspector General's Office will be coming in September to discuss the Waiver Program. We believe this is their check on the MDHHS staff end of the program.

PREVNT Assessment – Dawn Jacobs is coming August 1st to assess the PREVNT Grant. Flyers were distributed for the Elder Abuse Prevention conference scheduled for August 25, 2017. Anyone can attend, we encourage you to spread the word and encourage participation. Sara has been conducting anti-bullying trainings with the COAs. Feedback has been positive. The trainings for adult foster care homes and homes for the aged have been met with very limited to almost no participation. It was not well received. Some have limited staff and other didn't feel it was valuable. We will apply for a continuation grant next year.

American Academy of Diabetes Educators Accreditation – This refers to the D-PATH Plus. The process is going slowly and experiencing some bumps. Information was submitted in October. More questions followed and additional documentation was resubmitted. We were chosen for a random audit conducted in June which raised more questions and issues with a few of our policies. We are in the process of resolving those issues one of which is we can't use Thunder Bay Community Health Clinics to do the billing for us. We are also required to have an advisory group. We were using this Council for that but they feel it's not enough. Liz will need to develop a new advisory group. We were hoping to start with Dale and Ed Henig because you took the classes and Chuck because he is a trainer. We would like to meet prior to the RAC meetings to save you a trip. We anticipate meeting on a quarterly basis. Merianne volunteered to join the group as well.

PAST Handout - MSU College of Human Medicine and MSU Extension are conducting a project called Partners in Aging Strategies and Training (PAST). The goal of PAST is to promote patient health care provider partnerships that improve their communication and patient health. PAST works with local groups that offer classes that teach patients and caregivers how to: manage their own health conditions well, improve balance to prevent falls, diabetes prevention and management, improve fitness and increase caregiving skills. They are looking for input through an online questionnaire at:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_c4VrAgDuMCjD0x. They want your opinions on participating in community classes. C. Corwin – I completed the questionnaire and it only has six questions. It's very quick and easy. It's very worthwhile to give the feedback.

Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC) – A leader training is scheduled for August 25th. We need names of anyone interested in attending as soon as possible. CCC is very important to the communities we serve.

Region 9er's – The next Region 9 AAA/COA Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at 10:00 am at the Nature Center in Grayling.

ServSafe - There is a ServSafe class being offered in Alpena on August 11th.

AAAAM Annual Conference – The annual conference will be held in Lansing on October 5th and 6th. Part of the conference will include a panel discussion on the direct care worker shortage. The panel will be made up of AAA managers, service providers, direct care workers and Laurie suggested COA director involvement.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis reported they met in June. They discussed concerns due to cuts in funding and feel they may have to cut programs. Jim feels they need to look at other areas to reduce costs rather than cut programs.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan reported their next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

Ombudsman Program Report – No report.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen reported there were no findings or compliance issues on the MMAP assessment. This year we will have an on-site visit. Susan attended the MMAP recognition in Lansing last week. She did not submit for the team award this year to give others a chance to win however, our region did receive the following awards:

- Kitty Glomski, Alpena County, Site Coordinator of the Year
- Barb Whalen, Montmorency County, Team Member of the Year
- Jan Williamson, Roscommon County, Most Volunteer Hours, Most Counseling Hours (volunteer), and Most Outreach Hours (volunteer)
- Danielle Kleinhuizen, Otsego County,, Most Counseling Hours (non-volunteer)
- Sara Skowronski, Otsego County, Most Outreach Hours (non-volunteer)
- Region 9, Outstanding Achievement on Performance Measures

Non-volunteers are paid employees. Kitty Glomski works for the Alpena Senior Center. Along with MMAP, she also does the Project Fresh and she wrote the grant from the Michigan Health

Endowment Fund (MHEF) to fund the Student Gourmet Project. Barb Whalen put in 71 counseling hours which doesn't seem like much, but she has been battling cancer for the last four years and continues to provide MMAP counseling between treatments.

We are a full quarter into the grant year and are still on track even though some of our numbers are less than 25% of the goal. Susan also attended the SHIP Conference in Texas two weeks ago. The major topic of discussion was funding. We are funded through March 31, 2018. They discussed how we need to educate Washington on what SHIPs are and what we do. She was also a speaker for a breakout session. A new MMAP counselor training is scheduled for September.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she was in East Tawas for a dementia presentation to approximately 20 people from the community. This was part of the taskforce developed by the Area Presbyterian Church to increase community engagement. They have requested on-going Evidence Based Programs. Liz started her first series of PATH classes in Iosco last week. Kelly is her co-leader. She will also attend a 2-day CCC training in Lansing and will co-lead a workshop in Alpena. The Adult Day Care assessments are almost finished. She has one more scheduled.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Karl Schreiner reported his next meeting will be in September.

State Advisory Council – Chuck Corwin reported the group continues to finalize work on the Creative Aging Report. It will be coming out reasonably soon.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported their meeting was held last Friday at the Pine Mountain Resort in Iron Mountain. Eight commissioners attended and approved the Creative Aging Report submitted by MSAC. A lot of work went into the report which is full of good information and ideas. The Commission established MSAC's assignment for next year which is "Volunteerism, what they do to help seniors and what seniors do to help the community". They also discussed how volunteers should not be used to supplement paid positions. Dan Doezema was there and went over the plan process. A public hearing was held in the afternoon with discussions by RSVP volunteers on their experience with the program and their concerns about the need for medical transportation. It was a very good session.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) – No report.

Action Items:

Recommendations for Funding for Fiscal Year 2018 - Handouts were distributed and the information reviewed by Yvette.

Merit Award #1 and #2 and State Caregiver Support Adult Day Services – We have \$122,207 to allocate and received 8 applications requesting a total of \$198,953. C. Corwin - Were there problems with the grant requests again this year? Yvette – Yes, some. The recommended funding is based on the proposal scores.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to approve the recommended funding. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title IIID Evidence Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion – We have a total of \$27,549 to allocate based on this year’s funding level. There were some scoring issues. There were reductions to funding requests for programs where we don’t have qualified leaders.

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to approve the recommendations for Title IIID Evidence Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title VII Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP) – Yvette reported there were some scoring issues. We received 6 applications requesting \$7,356. Funding is expected to be \$6,833. Recommended funding left a total of \$2,277 unallocated. That amount will be reallocated in a second bid process.

A motion was made by E. Henig with support from J. Mathis to approve the recommended funding for EAP. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title IIIE National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). NFCSP provides funding for Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC), Health Resource Centers, Kinship, and Support Groups. Funding is expected to be \$99,114. 28 applications were received requesting \$89,653. \$78,887 in funding is recommended leaving unallocated funding of \$6,563 in Respite, \$6,064 in Kinship POS and \$7,600 in CCC. There may possibly be a second bid process for Respite and CCC. Kinship will go into a purchase of service pool with requests to be made to Liz.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from V. Zygiel to approve the recommendations for NFCSP funding. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

The recommendations will now go to the NEMCSA Board next week.

Local Updates, Questions or Concerns

D. Fay – A lot of things are rolling in Presque Isle. We got a new ice machine donated in Posen, two new defibrillators, one donated and one from a grant match, a new air conditioner in Onaway, and a new bus has been ordered.

C. Corwin – Save the date of August 21, 2017 for the Elder Abuse Conference at the Roscommon COA from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. We have five star presenters and food.

C. Proulx – Update on the straw garden. We picked 2 cucumbers and 1 summer squash.

L. Sauer – AAA 2016 Annual Report and Consumer Handbooks were distributed.

E. Corpe – The August 28th meeting may be cancelled. If so, our next meeting will be September 25th. Enjoy the summer.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Huff with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:30 pm by Chairman Corpe.