

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging**  
**Monday, September 26, 2016**  
**NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena**

---

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Chairman E. Corpe.

**Roll Call**

M. Fox, D. Huff, G. Guenther, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Drozdowski, J. Johnston, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, J. Mathis, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin

Excused: R. Lynch, S. Krey, S. Allor, D. Henig, E. Henig

Unexcused:

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kara LaMarre, Susan Bowen and Sara Socia.

Guests: John Briggs, State Commission on Aging

Quorum – yes

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by J. Johnston with support from C. Athan to approve the minutes of June 27, 2016. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Speaker – Identity Theft and Scams - Bob Sacco, Michigan Attorney General's Office**

Mr. Sacco presented a PowerPoint on Identity Theft. Handouts were also distributed. The Attorney General's Office has six presentations that their office can come out for free to speak to groups. They are: In Home Care, Home Repair Improvement, Identity Theft, Investment Fraud, Online Safety, and Phone, Mail & E-Scams. It is recommended that you keep the handouts for future reference because they contain important contact numbers should you need them.

Everyone should be concerned about identity theft. Identity theft happens every two seconds. It can happen to anyone. Various examples were given on how your personal information can be stolen and used. The golden rule of thumb is never give out personal information unless you initiated the contact. It is very rare that a governmental agency such as Social Security or Medicare will call you. If you get a call from a credit card company asking for information, politely hang up and call the 800# on your statement to verify that they are calling you. Also be sure when using free Wi-Fi at a restaurant, hotel, etc. that it is secure. Look for an (s) at the end of the http. It is also recommended that you make a copy of all your credit cards, picture id, passport, etc. but not your social security card and keep it in a safe place at home. Be sure to use your personal copier. Public copiers contain hard drives that store the information being copied. It is also recommended that you have your copier and computer "cleaned" before selling or disposing of it. Check your account statements regularly and shred all old bank statements, medical bills, etc. Also get a credit report at least once a year. The government legally has to

provide one free credit check per year. There are three companies; Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, that will provide one free credit check per year. You could use all three and get one report from one of the three companies every four months.

Mr. Sacco also reported on the statewide Ok-To-Say program for schools. It is a student safety program where students, teachers, or parents can confidentially call in and report bullying, self-harm, suicide, weapons, drugs, etc. The call goes to the Michigan State Police. You do not have to give your name. It has already proven to save lives. Please feel free to call the Attorney General's office to schedule a free presentation of any of the available topics in your community.

**State Commission on Aging** – John Briggs reported he had been with NEMCSA 38 years before retiring. Last year he was asked by Laurie to apply for a position on the State Commission on Aging. He went through the extensive application process but wasn't appointed. This year he applied again and was appointed to the 15 member group. Members are appointed by the governor for a three year term. He has attended two meetings so far. Both have been routine meetings where the AAA's across the state present their multi-year plans for approval. He learned a lot about the other AAA's in the state and how they operate. He was also impressed with Laurie's presentation to the Commission and the AAA Annual Report and fact sheet she provided. All of the plans were approved. Region 9 was also successful in receiving funding for the PREVNT Grant for another year. This is the grant we use to educate nursing homes on bullying. The Commission will meet next in Petoskey on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Friendship Centers of Emmet County, 1322 Anderson Road, Petoskey. Commission meets at 9am with a public hearing scheduled for 1pm. You are all encouraged to attend the public hearing.

### **Directors Report**

PREVNT Grant – We were approved for another year with funding at \$45,000. We will work to revise the anti-bullying training to be appropriate for the COAs and adult foster care homes.

Clinical Quality Review – A handout was distributed of the fiscal year 2016 CQAR for the Waiver program. We are very pleased to have again received the highest ranking score of 4. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row we have attained this achievement. It is not an easy task, we are fortunate to have the staff to make this possible. A big thank you to all Care Management and Waiver staff as well as our administrative staff for all of their efforts. We have a great group of folks working for us.

Federal Budget – The federal government has not passed the 2017 budget to date. It must be done by October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a Senate vote tomorrow. We may have a budget or a continuing resolution.

State Budget – AASA will again be looking at the funding formula and updating with new census figures. A review is conducted every five years now. This is the last year of the gradual reduction for Detroit AAA 1A due to their decline in population.

Long Term Care Ombudsman – The program will transition from AASA to Michigan Public Advocacy effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sarah Slocum will help with the transition before starting her new position with the Alterum Institute in Ann Arbor on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Money Follows The Person Program – This program is still in jeopardy of ending on September 30<sup>th</sup> unless Congress renews it. To date over 50,000 nursing home residents have been helped to transition back to the community. It has been proven more cost effective to help individuals stay at home. This is a good advocacy topic to communicate to your legislators.

Michigan Health Endowment Fund – These is a grant opportunity for funding between \$25,000 and \$100,000 for new health programs targeting infant mortality, foster and adopted children, wellness programs, access to healthy food, technology enhancements, health related transportation and foodborne illness prevention. Concept papers are due October 24<sup>th</sup> and grant applications are due November 7<sup>th</sup>. These are some things COAs could apply for.

iCanConnect Program – This is a resource offering free equipment and training for those with hearing and vision disabilities. To access benefits you must be at or below 400% of poverty which is 47,520 for a single person and \$64,080 for a couple. Contact Perkins School for the Blind at 617-972-7724 for more information.

Silver Key Coalition – A handout was distributed. The Coalition along with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is offering the Tess Canja Innovation Award to recognize social service agencies that have implemented innovative approaches to increase their efficiency in providing in-home services for older adults. The COAs are eligible. First place is \$2,000.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Accreditation – Accreditation is something we are striving for all of our care management and waiver programs. We feel this is something we will have to do in the future so doing it now makes us ready to work with health plans moving forward. We want to be part of the picture and be prepared.

Commission on Aging – Laurie strongly encouraged all council members to attend the public hearing at 1pm on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Friendship Center in Petoskey. This is a great opportunity to hear discussions from the state level.

### **Program Reports**

**Legal Services Board** – Jim Mathis reported they will meet in October. It will be a 2-day planning session.

**Region 9 Directors Report** – No report.

**Long Term Care Ombudsman** – Sara Socia reported the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference was a success. Over 50 participants. She is also wrapping up the first year of the Prevent Grant. We would like to see more support for the anti-bullying training from nursing homes. Moving forward we will include assisted living facilities next year and provide presentations for the COAs in the spring. Sara is always looking for ombudsman volunteers.

**MMAP Program Report** – Laurie reported for Susan. Open enrollment begins October 15<sup>th</sup> and goes through December 7<sup>th</sup>. Some sites are already booked full and starting waiting lists. Once again, we will be in competition with Region 10 to see which region saves beneficiaries the most money. MMAP counselors have been busy all across the region with presentations on BCBS Legacy Medigap changes and what options are available. There are many angry people because of the increase in costs and the fact that they will have to go through underwriting to change to a new company. Also, MMAP clients aren't able to provide premium costs for Medigap plans so the beneficiaries have to do the shopping on their own. Tomorrow starts the second Initial Training for new counselors. It will be held in Grayling and there are six who will be attending. The first training in July also had six people. There seems to be great interest by FQHCs and Munson Medical facilities in getting all their social workers, community outreach people and navigators trained.

**Special Projects Coordinator** – Kara LaMarre reported she had two new CCC leaders; Eileen Howell from Ogemaw and Donna Schnoor from Crawford. There are some purchase of service

funds for Kinship available for grandparents raising grandchildren. Kara and Kelly had a Diabetes PATH update training and there will be a leader training starting next week. Stanford doesn't have the manuals available yet. An update training for current leaders will be held soon.

### **Advocacy Reports**

**MSAC** – Karl Schreiner reported his next meeting is this Wednesday. They will not be talking to legislators but Jo Murphy from MMAP will present on new changes. It should be a good discussion. He had 31 people show up for his changes in BCBS Legacy presentation.

**State Advisory Council** – Chuck Corwin reported they continue to work in focus sub-groups on the concept of Creative Aging. The sub-groups are meeting by phone until the State Advisory Council meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Lansing.

### **Local Updates From Council Members**

Dennis Fay – The Presque Isle COA has a new assistant director, Tia Sager, and Christine has been offered the site manager position in Onaway.

Alpena Senior Center – Laurie reported that Sara Moe resigned her position as director as of last Friday.

Montmorency COA – C. Proulx reported the COA will hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> food give away at the Atlanta Senior Center on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They also received a \$2,500 grant to help seniors with their pets. They can purchase food, supplies or even vet services. It's on a first come first serve basis. Eleven requests have been received to date. K. Schreiner reported the Crawford COA received the same grant.

G. Guenther reported the Cheboygan COA received their second free vehicle, a Rav4, for meal delivery. The dealership puts their advertisement on the vehicle. They are extremely happy for this generous gift and encourage other COAs to approach their local dealerships.

E. Corpe – Please keep C. Athan in your prayers. She is having serious eye surgery on Wednesday. Also, please take copies of the NEMCSA Annual Report and get the information back to your COAs and spread the word about the services NEMCSA provides.

### **Action Items:**

None

### **Questions or Concerns**

None

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by M. Downs with support from D. Huff to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was ended at 2:50 pm by Chairman Corpe. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm here at NEMCSA.