

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, September 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm
Virtual Teams Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair D. Fay at 1:02 am.

Roll Call

Jerry Broad, Darlene Huff, Cindy Sabin, Roberta Matelski, Lorelei King, Carol Wilder, Cindy Fleming, Terry Dutcher, Julie Kendrick, David Burdine, Eileen Howell, Mitzi Downs, Dennis Fay.
Excused: Connie Messina, Mike Maturen
Guests: Lisa Bolen, Lacey Charboneau, Emil Bellenbaum, John Paulus
AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Kitty Glomski, Connie McQuarrie, Brooke Mainville, Kelly Robinette.

Approval of Agenda – D. Fay reported we need to amend the agenda to add setting a date for the combined November/December meeting under Action Item. A motion was made by T. Dutcher with support from D. Burdine to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by T. Dutcher with support from C. Sabin to approve the minutes of 7-26-2021. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Oscoda County Appointments – C. Sabin reported we have several vacancies to fill. Two appointments were received from the Oscoda Council on Aging. Tammy Emig has been appointed Delegate and John Paulus as Member-at-Large. C. Sabin reported that we would like more information on the two appointees. We have not received their Board Member Information forms to date and would like to table the vote until the information is received and reviewed. J. Paulus reported he will send the form to Connie today. His driving is limited so the plan is for him to attend the virtual meetings and Tammy will attend those held in person. A motion was made by T. Dutcher with support from C. Wilder to table the vote until our next meeting. Motion carried.

Legal Services Board – We need a replacement for Corky on this board. Terry Dutcher is interested. A motion was made by C. Wilder with support from J. Broad to appoint T. Dutcher as our representative to the Legal Services Board. Motion carried.

MSAC – C. Sabin reported we also need a representative on the Michigan Senior Advocates Council. C. Wilder would like to appoint L. King if she is interested. Laurie reported the MSAC meets once a month. Meetings have been virtual, but they typically meet in person in Lansing and then go on to advocate to their legislators or staff members. Laurie will send her more information. A motion was made by C. Wilder with support by C. Sabin to tentatively appoint L. King to the MSAC if her schedule allows. Motion carried.

NEMCSA Board Member – C. Sabin reported we need a member to represent this council on the NEMCSA Board of Directors and asked for volunteers. T. Dutcher reported he will likely be joining the NEMCSA Board to represent Iosco County, so he is unable to volunteer. L. Bolen reported the board meets monthly on the first Friday of the month at noon. No meetings are held in the months of July and January. Committee appointments typically go with being on the NEMCSA board. Meeting locations rotate. Lunch is provided and mileage is paid. D. Fay is automatically on the board as the chair of this council and J. Kendrick is on the board as well. We need three representatives from this council, so we need one more.

Discussion followed. C. Wilder is interested but needs to check her schedule. The vote will be tabled until our next meeting.

Director's Report

AIP 2022 – The Commission on Services to the Aging met on August 20th and approved our FY 2022 AIP. We will begin work on implementing the goals for the next fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021.

Region 9 Director's Meeting – AAA staff met with the COA directors on September 14th. We discussed updates to our local policies. Most of the changes were updates to language and procedural items. They were given two weeks for review and comment which expires tomorrow. No comments have been received to date. Another topic of discussion was the Criminal Background Check Policy which is now law. As contractors, the COAs are required to follow the law and must be in compliance. There was some confusion about the continuation of the Grab and Go Meals being offered. Some thought they had to stop the meals once the center was reopened. As long as the federal emergency orders are in place, they can continue. It is not a mandatory stop. This option has become very popular in the communities so we hope they will keep them going as an option. Laurie will also ask the group for a representative to be on the Regional Council on Aging.

Immunization Grant – We received the grant last fiscal year but haven't done a lot with it to date. The money will carry over into this next fiscal year. Our original intent was to have staff go into the homes to give shots, but we ran into a lot of liability and insurance issues. We are currently working with Adult Foster Care Homes and Homes for the Aged to assist them in getting their residents and staff vaccinated.

C. Sabin – Has anyone thought about having a vaccination clinic at our COAs? Maybe pick a day to have them available and they could stop in and get a shot and a meal. Laurie – That's a good idea. Contact your local health clinic, I'm sure they would be more than willing to hold a clinic. Any other ideas for outreach? We promoted it on our website and Facebook page.

C. Sabin – What about putting an ad in the local newspapers? Run an ad that on such and such a day and timeframe, we will have an immunization clinic. Come to the center and see what's going on and get immunized. Laurie – That's a good suggestion. We can put that out to the COAs and see if they are interested in hosting something at their sites.

Laurie - Any ideas to get the word out to the homebound individuals to stress the importance of getting vaccinated? How can we encourage them to get their immunizations? People have a lot of different reasons for not getting vaccinated.

L. King – I know there is a lot of confusion with our homebound clients because they're hearing different messages on tv. Our COA has done a good job of getting flyers sent out with the meals to help clarify. Drive thru vaccinations are working very well but trying to get people to go into the homes in rural areas is another problem. We need to educate the public on what we know is fact.

T. Dutcher – How about radio to target the homebound. Because it's a medical issue, you may get free ads. Also, I was on a meeting with the health department this morning and the FDA has approved booster shots for both Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson. That may be a little added incentive for those who are afraid to get vaccinated.

Laurie - The state has worked with some of the larger pharmacy chains such as Walgreens and Meijer to host special appointments for people coming from adult foster care homes and homes for the aged to get their immunizations. That's one of the focuses where we are trying to help coordinate some of those appointments and help provide some transportation. Transportation continues to be a huge challenge in rural communities.

Federal Surveys – There are currently two federal surveys being conducted, one through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) conducted by Westat, and the other is the National Core Indicator for Aging and Disabled (NCIAD). Surveyors will be reaching out to program participants by phone trying to gauge their consumer experience with the services they receive. If you hear of anyone being reluctant to participate, please encourage them to do so.

Federal Budget – The budget is still in the negotiation phase. Friday is the beginning of our fiscal year.

State Budget – The premium pay for all direct care workers was passed at \$2.35 per hour. J. Kendrick – Is that for the duration of the fiscal year? Laurie – Yes, that is my understanding. They also approved an additional 1,000 slots for the MI Choice Waiver program.

NEMCSA Office – The main office move to the annex building is almost complete. Our new address for NEMCSA is 2569 US-23 South, Alpena, MI 49707.

Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC) – AASA is hosting a free train-the-trainer series October 5-7. Brooke will be participating. If anyone is interested in becoming a CCC trainer, now is your opportunity. It provides workshops for people caring for someone with dementia. It's a very good program. We have had lots of positive feedback from participants. We certainly hope our COAs that are not currently offering this class will take this opportunity to have someone within their organization trained whether it's a staff person or volunteer.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training – Our staff has started with a training last week with SAGE Metro Detroit talking about LGBT issues. This training was also made available to our COA partners provided they got their staff scheduled by the end of the month. All have scheduled a training. NEMCSA as an agency is also working on some of these issues as well and will make additional trainings available for staff.

Annual Report – A video of the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report for the AAA was shown. All participants received a handout of the report prior to the meeting.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Corky submitted a report for us. Payroll - The August amount includes the retroactive raises for the attorneys. The amounts for September through December will be higher because we now have a second attorney in Alpena. The Secretary amount is also going to increase as we are in the process of hiring an additional half time secretary in Traverse City. The high rent amount reflects the increase in Traverse City rent and the security deposit which was required. The bottom line for the location change is an extra monthly cost of approximately \$900 per month. Contract Services for clients is running

over budget but most of these services are offset by the OVP grant in Traverse City and the CERA eviction grant. The high amount in item 553 Office Equipment reflects the purchase of the computer parts (we are still waiting for one component before we can build).

Revenue – The third quarter filing fee grant payment brought that grant to a level slightly greater than last year and we will possibly see a greater amount than budgeted. The EDP grant is the eviction funds from the State Bar Foundation, and it is likely to be twice what we budgeted. The demand for eviction work remains high. The donation amount looks higher than it actually is as the Access to Justice Campaign amount (our largest donation) is distributed early in the year. You will see a misc. grant amount of \$25,122 which is a grant from the Michigan State Bar foundation to cover the cost of our new computers. The only revenue item running significantly below budget is the SSI Fee item. This is probably due to the lack of hearings being scheduled.

Region 9 Directors Report – No report.

SCSEP Report – Connie reported the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a community service and work-based job training program for older adults. SCSEP is authorized by the Older Americans Act, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, and sponsored by the AAA. The program provides useful part-time opportunities in community service employment for low-income, unemployed seniors. Participants also have access to employment assistance through their local Michigan Works! The program's goal is to assist in the participant's development for placement into a permanent unsubsidized job allowing the opportunity for another eligible person to receive training.

SCSEP is a work training program. The Department of Labor requires that participants be at least 55 years of age or older, unemployed, and have a family income of no more than 125% of the current federal poverty guidelines. Region 9 has seven assigned slots with a focus on placement in Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, and Oscoda Counties. AASA will also allow placements in Arenac, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon.

Participants are enrolled a total of 48 months in a lifetime. They work 20 hours a week or less at the current minimum wage. They are required to develop an Individual Employment Plan, set employment goals, job search on a monthly basis, and attend required trainings. Twenty hours of annual sick leave is allowed with a doctor's slip. A general physical is also offered. Host sites sign an agreement form stating they will provide orientation to policies and procedures, provide supervision, training, and verify timesheets.

It has been very difficult this past year with Covid to find interested individuals. Our numbers are extremely low at this time with only one active participant and two waiting for a host site. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who may be, please let me know. Non-profit host site ideas as well.

L. King – Are people that are in recovery eligible for this program? Connie – Yes, as long as they meet all the eligibility requirements.

J. Kendrick – I believe your one active participant is the one at MCCOA and she is a wonderful addition to our organization. It's a great program.

Planning and Volunteer Coordinator Report – Kitty reported counselors are holding virtual New to Medicare presentations every second Wednesday of the month. Participants can connect by internet or by telephone. Attendance has been very successful with one recent meeting having 21 participants. A statewide training for counselors doing open enrollment will be held on October 5th. Region 9 will hold a planning meeting for all MMAP counselors on October 6th to get prepared and ready for open enrollment to begin on October 15th through December 7th. This is an 8-week period for Medicare beneficiaries to review their Part D or advantage plans.

A virtual MMAP awards ceremony was held on August 18th. Our region did very well. We have some of the most experienced counselors in the state.

Eight new counselors went through orientation and are scheduled for training. Two are from Otsego, two in Cheboygan, one in Alcona who is in healthcare, two in Montmorency, both of which are in healthcare, and one in Presque Isle who is in healthcare. We can always use more counselors. If you have any potential candidates or have any questions, please contact Kitty at: glomskic@nemcsa.org or 989-358-4612

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Brooke reported she has two workshops coming up in October, one for Powerful Tools for Caregivers and one CCC. Start dates are dependent upon receiving our statement of grant award. We are looking for CCC leaders in our region. It is a 3-day training from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm each day. Once trained, leaders are able to provide the CCC workshops for individuals caring for someone with dementia. Also, Brooke and Kelly trained eleven leaders in Matter of Balance in seven counties. They are now able to provide fall prevention workshops. Lastly, we just wrapped up our Caregiver Webinar Series. This year, instead of an in-person or virtual conference, we held six one-hour webinars on a variety of topics from dealing with difficult behaviors to preparing for the future. Overall, we had 104 participants attend the six webinars. You can still watch them on our AAA Facebook page.

Services Coordinator Report – Kelly reported that September is Emergency Preparedness Month. It's never too late to prepare. You should all have an emergency kit ready that includes the following items:

- Contact information for family and friends. Preferably someone out of state.
Pictures of family members.
- List of medications you need, dosage, instructions, and any allergies. Keep a three-day supply of medication in the kit
- Style and serial number of medical and assistive devices.
- Water 1 gallon per person per day. Don't forget to include water for your pets.
- Food that does not need preparing such as canned protein, granola bars, cereal, crackers, candy/gum and a hand can opener
- Change of clothing for everyone, sleeping bag, rain gear, tent, pet bedding, leash, and carrier.
- Dishes, battery operated radio, extra batteries, pen and paper
- Puzzle books, deck of cards and other items you might like to keep you entertained. Toys for the pets, too!
- Toiletries, first aid kit, waterproof matches.
- Cash \$50 - \$100 in small bills and \$10 in quarters,
- Your kit should be portable, easy to lift and carry.
- Each family member should have their own kit.

- Inspect your kit at least twice a year to make sure items have not expired and clothing still fits,
- Have a meeting location in case you and your family get separated.

Also keep a fireproof box or binder with important papers like birth certificates, insurance, banking and medical information, etc.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Laurie reported Pat Rondeau is not with us today and she did not attend the last meeting, so we do not have a report.

State Advisory Council – Laurie reported that Chuck Corwin is seeking reappointment. That will be decided by the State Commission on Aging at their meeting next month.

State Updates

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) – Lacey Charboneau reported she doesn't have much to add, Laurie did a great job with her report. She does know that MSAC meets on the 4th Monday of the month. The date gets switched up for their November and December meetings for the holidays. Laurie added that Lacey graciously agreed to participate in our Region 9 AAA and COA Directors meeting. We appreciated her providing input to our COA directors particularly on the compliance issues.

Local Updates From Council Members

L. King – The Crawford COA is still in a holding pattern with the new building. It looks like spring to break ground. Our community garden has been wonderful this year and provided fresh vegetables when delivering the home delivered meals.

J. Broad – We have been having a lot of difficulty getting some of the Gordon foods items. Is anyone else having problems? Laurie - We heard it was a problem early on at the beginning of the pandemic that some of the COAs were having problems getting certain items.

D. Fay – I know we used a few local grocers when unable to get items through the big companies. Kelly – Sometimes there's trouble with substitutions from Gordon's.

Action Items

Combined November/December meeting – We are not meeting in October. Discussion followed. The fourth Monday in November is the 22nd. A motion was made by T. Dutcher with support from C. Sabin to schedule our next meeting for November 22nd. Motion carried.

Questions or Comments

Nothing further.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm by Chair D. Fay. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 22nd at 1:00 pm.