

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Public Hearing - FY 2020-2022 Multi-Year Plan
May 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm
NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena**

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

Roll Call

A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, R. Matelski, E. Corpe, C. Wilder, B. Kaye, T. Dutcher, E. Ableidinger, D. Burdine, E. Howell, V. Ward, J. Mathis, M. Tappan, M. Downs, D. Fay, M. Hiller

Excused: C. Corwin, C. Proulx, P. Knaus, T. Dutcher

Unexcused:

Guests: Dan Doezema, John Briggs, Gary Wilder

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kelly Robinette, Yvette Smigelski, Kitty Glomski, Brooke Mainville, Sara Gusler

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by V. Zygiel with support from C. Wilder 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 April 22, 2019. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Nothing to report.

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

Public Hearing – FY 2020-2022 Multi-Year Plan

Copies of the draft plan were distributed as well as a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Kitty Glomski reported we are in a new three year cycle beginning in fiscal year 2020. This begins our 2020-2022 Multi-Year Plan (MYP) process. The MYP is required by the Aging and Adult Services Agency of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. It must be approved by the Michigan Commission on Aging. The MYP highlights our accomplishments, includes program priorities, planned services, program development objectives, advocacy efforts and budgets. It outlines the direction the AAA will take over the next three years through goals, projects and OAA funding. The OAA (Older Americans Act) funds critical services that keep our nation's seniors healthy and independent in their own homes and communities. The OAA is up for reauthorization in 2020.

Kitty also reviewed the results of the Needs Assessment conducted by the AAA. 530 surveys were completed, of that, 43% live alone, 43% live with a spouse and 11% live with family or friends. The age range of participants shows 33% age 70-79, 24% age 60-69, 22% age 80-89,

8% under age 55, 7% age 90 and older and 4% age 55-59. Most of the respondents were from Alpena County. Congregate, home delivered meals, in-home care and adult day care services were rated as very important to seniors.

The core functions of the AAA are to concentrate resources to develop capacity, develop a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery system, provide planning, program development, administration and monitoring, and advocate for a vulnerable population. The AAA organizational chart was reviewed.

B. Kaye - Can we get the organizational chart as a separate document? Laurie – Yes we can get that for you. There is an organizational chart for each division of NEMCSA.

Our planning and service area covers 12 counties and approximately 7,000 square miles. One community focal point is designated for each of the 12 counties. In our region they are the COAs. Our COA partners leveraged \$795,736 to provide additional services such as Outreach, Transportation and Information & Assistance.

Region 9 has set goals to align with the four state specified goals as follows:

State Goal #1 Advocate, inform, and empower those we serve. Region 9 Goals: Host an annual legislative town hall style meeting with state and federal elected officials and Promote caregiver wellness and empowerment by providing education to enhance the caregiver experience.

D. Doezema – I just want to clarify that we don't require you to do the state goals. Those are set for our state plan. If your regional goal matches up with the state that's great, it makes sense that we do.

State Goal #2 Help older adults maintain their health and independence at home and in their community. Region 9 Goals: Hold a caregiver wellness and empowerment conference to provide a supportive and educational environment for learning and skill enhancement, Expand opportunities for seniors to participate in Evidence-Based Disease Prevention (EBDP) programs and Promote independent living and self-choice in developing care programs by offering long-term supports and services.

State Goal #3 Promote elder and vulnerable adult rights and justice. Region 9 Goals: Provide education on Medicare and Medicare-Fraud awareness, and Increase public awareness of signs of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation among senior populations.

State Goal #4 Conduct responsible, quality management and coordination of Michigan's aging network. Region 9 Goals: Foster development of new collaborations & enhance current partnerships to build the aging continuum and Improve the quality and effectiveness of services provided through the regional aging network and Region 9 Area Agency on Aging partners.

The AAA provides five direct services: Long Term Care Ombudsman, Outreach for Kinship Care, Care Management, Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) and Dementia Consultation. The last one is a new program Brooke is providing. The grant is ending but we want to continue the program. Our priorities are to: Promote Evidence-Based Disease Prevention Programs, Continue person-centered thinking education and training, Provide technical assistance to COAs and other partners, Effective stewardship of funding and Caregiver and dementia education and services. Purchase of service is available primarily for Care Management clients for Medication Management, Specialized Respite, and Personal Emergency

Response Systems (PERS). The area plan budget of \$5,278,462 is broken down with 2% in purchase of services, 16% in direct services, and 82% in contracted services.

Advocacy Strategy is also very important. The AAA holds membership at the local, state and federal levels, has representation on six advisory councils, the Michigan Senior Advocates Council, the State Advisory Council and various senior organizations. The AAA will continue to support a coordinated system of information, referral and access to services. Support MMAP, Senior Corps Programs and the Long Term Care Ombudsman as well as Community Based Care Programs – long-term care rebalancing. Advocacy efforts are also conducted annually by attending Older Michiganiaan's Day which was held this year on May 15, 2019 at the State Capitol in Lansing.

The deadline to accept written or electronic testimony is June 10, 2019. Send testimony or comments to Laurie Sauer at 2375 Gordon Road, Alpena or sauerl@nemcsa.org

Questions/Comments

Laurie – Regarding core services, while we are the central entity to develop programs and services, we are not alone in this effort. The COAs are phenomenal partners. We have a great team dedicated to making this system work.

There were no further questions.

A motion was made by V. Zygiel with support from D. Huff to close the public hearing and resume the Regional Council on Aging meeting. Motion carried.

Speaker – Dave Bisgrove, Legal Services of Northern Michigan. Due to time constraints, we have invited Dave to speak at our July meeting if he is available.

Director's Report

July Meeting – Our next meeting will require action on the RFP recommendations for funding so a quorum will be very important to keep the process moving forward.

Board Member Commitment Form – The form has been revised to include a signature line and the addition of #10 -To take information from the meeting back to my community and report to my nominating organization. It's our hope that what you hear at this meeting is taken back to your COA to keep everyone updated.

AAA Staff – We have a new case manager starting in Cheboygan on June 3rd, two new case managers starting in West Branch and one case manager in Alpena will be leaving in July.

Foster Grandparent Program – The FGP Recognition was held on May 14th both Earl and Elaine attended. E. Ableidinger reported the luncheon was very nice, good food and well attended.

Older Michiganiaans Day – Laurie attended the event in Lansing along with 13 other participants representing 7 of our counties. Three legislators stopped by; Senators Stamas and Schmidt and Representative Rendon. When arranging visits, the legislators always ask if constituents from their counties will be there. They want to hear from you.

RSVP – A grant was received to provide another Veterans Coffee Hour. This one starts this Thursday in Alpena at 8:30 am at the Great Lakes Maritime Center. The United Way has partnered with us to pay for the coffee and donuts.

Federal Budget Proposals – A handout was distributed of the FY 2020 Labor-HHS Budget and Appropriations. The House budget shows increases to: IIB funding by 10%, Congregate Meals 6%, Home Delivered Meals 21%, National Family Caregiver Support 10%, Long Term Care Ombudsman 9%, Elder Justice 33%, SHIP which is our MMAP \$55 million which restores the 2016 cut, Senior Corps 6%, SCSEP 16%, as well as increases in CSBG and LIHEAP funding. These increases are all great news for senior programs. The recommendations now go to the Senate then on to the president.

Age-Friendly Communities Act – A handout was distributed. This bill, introduced by Senator Peters, would amend the Older Americans Act to support healthy aging and age-friendly communities similar to our current Communities for a Lifetime. The bill directs federal agencies that impact senior living in the U.S. to come together and create a national set of goals on healthy aging and age-friendly communities. It's a positive move for all ages.

Senior of the Year – Laurie shared a story in the Alpena News naming Pat Rondeau as the Outstanding Senior of the Year. Pat Rondeau has been very involved over the years in every aspect of aging services. She was instrumental in getting the adult day care started in Alpena as well as bringing the Alzheimer's Association into this area. She has been involved with the senior center board and is the Vice Chair of the NEMCSA Board of Directors. Congratulations to Pat on this well-deserved award.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis reported they will meet next month. E. Corpe reminded the Council that if anyone is interested in taking Jim's place, let him know.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne reported the COA director's met with the AAA on May 1st following the RFP Pre-Bidders Conference. It was a very good meeting which included a training on the I-9 form by HR staff at NEMCSA and MI Choice Waiver program updates. We learned we need to keep files for ten years. Sara gave an Ombudsman update and we had a review by Kristina Warner of the new NAPIS system which was developed to allow each COA to enter their own information. The system looks great. We also had program updates from Brooke and Kelly. One issue arose regarding the rough winter we had and how many senior centers were closed for a lot of days leaving seniors without hot meals or services. We discussed the need to brainstorm as a group to resolve this issue.

Mitzi – Did you provide emergency meals or shelf stable meals? Merianne – Yes, but nothing prepared us to be closed a full week. We just couldn't keep up. The food wasn't the only issue, it was contact with the homebound. We need a policy in place for next time. Laurie – She didn't share this but Merianne delivered meals and checked on folks along with her staff.

Ombudsman Program Report – Sara reported a success story with a nursing home resident in need of an electric wheelchair. She is unable to move but can talk and move her fingers. She currently relies on staff for everything, the wheelchair would greatly improve her quality of life. There have been multiple excuses and denials by Medicaid and the DME company. They kept saying the paperwork was not submitted or wasn't filled out correctly, etc. Finally, she is getting her chair and I'm looking forward to seeing her in her chair in the Fourth of July parade.

C. Wilder – How did you find out Medicaid didn't get the paperwork? Sara – I requested a copy from them to verify what I sent. There were just a lot of a little technical things that kept the process stalled. I finally sent the entire patient chart to the durable medical equipment company.

MMAP Program Report – Kitty reported that MMAP Counselor Recertification is underway. A little over half of our counselors have completed the online process. They have through June to complete. To help meet their requirements, Lansing provides free one-hour webinars relevant to counselors. The new counselor training scheduled for August has now been changed to September 16-18.

Developmental Projects Coordinator Report – Brooke reported she is working on a new Kinship flyer for the holidays and wanted input from the Council. This program helps persons age 55 and older who are taking care of related children i.e. grandchildren, nieces and nephews to purchase clothing or supplies for school, pay to attend camp, etc. A sample Kinship flyer for the holidays was shown. Input was given as follows:

A. Lange – It should all be white or brightened up. It makes me think of baking Christmas cookies.

Laurie – Our biggest concern looking at this example is, do you think by looking at this you will get help with Christmas presents? Council members – No.

B. Kaye – Can you list the assistance being provided? What are you looking for?

A. Lange – The original program was grandparent focused. Laurie – Yes, now it's sometimes another family member such as an aunt that meets the criteria.

J. Mathis – Does kinship mean relative to most people, it's too big of a word. I wouldn't have thought that's what the program was.

C. Wilder – I still don't know what "extra assistance" means. Laurie – This flyer is intended to be a small screenshot of the program to catch your attention on Facebook and other media.

D. Fay – I think you need to list a few examples of assistance.

B. Kaye – Is it just for the holiday? Brooke - This one in particular would be used during the holiday season. I wanted to keep it broad so they will call me for items to consider.

E. Howell – There are so many programs offering assistance around the holidays. I wonder if this will just get lost. Brooke – Maybe the focus should be on back to school time. Thank you all for your input.

Brooke also distributed two approved, county specific, Kinship flyers to council members to take back to their COAs.

B. Kaye – Could you include an address on this flyer to allow someone to send a check for donations? Laurie – Yes, we always accept donations.

Brooke is also looking for two volunteers to fill vacancies on her Diabetes Accreditation Program Advisory Board. Meetings are held twice a year prior to a Regional Advisory Council meeting. Both C. Wilder and D. Huff volunteered.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – A. Lang reported the group is to meet this Wednesday, but she will not be attending.

State Advisory Council – No report.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported last Friday the Commission met at the Negaunee Senior Center. There were two very interesting presentations; one by John Mead, Director of the U.P. AAA and one on the Chronic Care program. This is a telephone and email-based system to provide advice. The BRI (Benjamin Rhode Institute of Aging) has some promise for us. Bob Brown, R-7 AAA Director, has a pharmacist on staff through the Health Endowment Fund. They provide medication review face to face with clients using Skype. It's working out well and reducing re-admissions to the hospital due to drug interactions, etc. They have a physician on staff as well. They are taking more of a Tele-Med business approach. Scott Wamsley from AASA gave a draft copy of the NAPIS report. Total Administrative costs of 5.2% show very good control. During the public hearing portion of the meeting, comments came up regarding the lack of transportation in rural areas and the disconnect from county to county. There was also discussion on the shortage of direct care workers due to the lack of fair wages. It's a challenge. Their next meeting will be in Kalamazoo.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) – Dan Doezema reported he's working on the plans and hoping to submit them soon.

Local Updates From Council Members

Nothing to report.

Action Items

Endorsement of the FY 2020-2022 Multi-Year Plan - A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Huff to endorse the Multi-Year Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Question or Comments

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

Adjourn

A motion was made by M. Hiller with support from D. Huff to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm by Chairman E. Corpe.