

Overview of the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging An Advisory Board to the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging

Agency Structure

The Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) is a multi-purpose agency with an approved waiver from the State Commission on Aging to operate as an area agency on aging.

As such, it has “designated a component unit of the agency as the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to provide a visible focal point for advocacy, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of programs for older persons in the Planning and Service Area (PSA).

The Aging unit must have a separate advisory council to advise continuously on all matters related to the identification of needs and development of the area plan.

What is an Area Agency on Aging

“The Older Americans’ Act (OAA) provides that each state is to be divided into planning and service areas (PSAs) and that an AAA be designated within each PSA.

The general purpose of a AAA is to:

- Concentrate resources to develop greater capacity
- Foster and implement a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery system to serve older individuals
- OAA specifies various administrative, planning and program development activities
- OAA instructs that AAAs shall “serve as the advocate and focal point for the elderly within the community”

Our Advisory Council

Intent—to ensure that those persons receiving benefits from programs to older persons, as well as representatives from the broader community at large, have an opportunity for direct involvement in the development of such programs.

Requirements of an advisory council –

- Operates according to written by-laws
- Meets at least six times per year
- Operates in compliance with the Open Meetings Act
- Membership must consist of more than 50% older individuals (60 or older) who are participants or eligible to participate in programs included in the area plan
- Some members should be of great social and economic need
- Must review the area plan and any substantive amendments before submitted to OSA

- Operates under a board-approved code of ethics consistent with the Older Michiganians Act.

Purpose

- To advise the NEMCSA staff and Board of Directors on all matters relating to the identification of needs and the development of plans to meet those needs. This includes all matters of concern to the senior population of the PSA;
- To encourage the participation of seniors in the development of such plans;
- To promote and participate in such activities and endeavors that are necessary to promote those plans; and,
- To provide a member to the NEMCSA Board of Directors.

Membership

Not less than 25 and not more than 30 members composed of the following:

- Once member appointed by each county COA
- One member appointed by any relevant organization, e.g. county Board of Commissioners
- Up to 5 members from organizations/entities which serve older persons
- One member from the Region 9 Directors' Association
- Members of the State Advisory Council from this region are ex-officio members of the council
- No direct employee of NEMCSA shall be a member

Terms of Membership

- Terms shall be for 3 years with rotating terms.
- One-third (1/3) of the membership rotates each year.
- Members may serve more than one consecutive term; and,
- Terms of members who resign, or are removed, will be filled by the nominating committee for the rest of the term.
- Persons who have missed 3 consecutive meetings without prior notice will be considered to have resigned.

Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau) and AAA Fusion

Statement of ACLS Bureau Operating Standard—the AAA shall have an advisory council to advise continuously on all matters relating to the identification of needs and development of the area plan.

In conjunction with Region 9 AAA Mission—The mission of Region 9 Area Agency on Aging is to promote lifelong independence and dignity for all individuals and to assist the aged and disabled in meeting that goal.