

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Public Hearing - FY 2019 Annual Implementation Plan
May 21, 2018 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

S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, M. Newman, E. Corpe, C. Wilder, T. Dutcher, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller, T. Dutcher
Excused: B. Kaye, E. Howell

Unexcused: Jim Mathis

Guests: Dan Doezema, John Briggs

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Becky Hawks, Yvette Smigelski, Susan Bowen

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Huff to approve the minutes of April 23, 2018. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Appointment – D. Fay reported on the appointment of Terry Dutcher as the Iosco County Member-at-Large. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from C. Proulx to accept the appointment. Motion carried. Welcome Mr. Dutcher.

At this time Chairman E. Corpe closed the meeting and opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing – FY 2019 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) – Susan Bowen

Present: In addition to the members listed in the rollcall above also present was Andrea Hepburn and Lisa Bolen.

Copies of the draft plan were distributed as well as a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Susan Bowen explained this is the third year of the 3-year Multi-Year Plan for 2017-2019. The AIP document provides an opportunity to review the AAA's progress, add new programs, and adjust goals. It is required by the Aging and Adult Services Agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. It must be approved by the Michigan Commission on Aging.

The AIP includes program priorities, planned services, program development objectives and progress, advocacy efforts and budgets. 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 plan encompasses various state and regional goals. Region 9's priorities are to; promote Evidence-Based Disease Prevention programs, continue person-centered thinking and awareness education, provide technical assistance to the local Councils/Commissions on Aging and other partners, effective stewardship of funding, and advocate for senior issues. The State specifies six goals. The state goals and the objectives and progress by the AAA were reviewed.

There were two new objectives added for 2019 under State Goal #3: Hold a caregiver wellness conference, and have a staff member trained to lead Powerful Tools for Caregivers an Evidence-Based Disease Prevention class series. The AAA achieved two national accreditations; Care Management and LTSS from the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and one from the American Association of Diabetes Educators which is necessary to bill Medicare for Diabetes education, in certain cases.

The AAA provides four direct services: LTC Ombudsman, Outreach for Kinship Care, Care Management, and the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP). 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 for planned services is broken down with 2% in purchase of services, 16% in direct services, and 82% in contracted services. Funding considerations include the specific objectives under the Older Americans Act along with meeting the AASA Minimum Standards and providing adequate coverage of the region.

Advocacy is also very important. The AAA holds membership at the local, state and federal levels by having representation on six advisory councils, the Michigan Senior Advocates Council, the State Advisory Council, various senior organizations and through the support of a coordinated system of information, referral and access to services. The AAA will continue to support Community Based Care Programs, MMAAP, and the LTC Ombudsman program.

The following questions were addresses:

C. Proulx – Looking at State Goal #1 and the loss of 2% of volunteers for the SCP, can the RSVP divert any volunteers? Laurie – Since developing the draft, the SCP numbers have improved a little bit. There are challenges to recruiting for this program because you must meet income requirements and volunteer a certain amount of hours. Our staff really does a good job of finding which program best suits the volunteer's interests.

M. Downs – What does PATH stand for? Susan – Personal Action Toward Health.

E. Corpe – Is MMAAP still in the state budget? Susan – Yes, it is funded with a \$2 million dollar increase. We still need to advocate for the program.

C. Proulx – Is the PERS unit available to anyone who needs it? Laurie – No it's very limited. Right now it's just available for Care Management clients. It is also funded by Medicaid for Waiver clients.

C. Wilder – Is this all actual money or is some in-kind? Susan – It is all actual money. Laurie – It's not cash that comes into our agency but funds used by COAs which is counted as match.

M. Downs – If a county doesn't use all of their funds, can they give them to another COA? Yvette – Not directly, the money is returned to the AAA and offered to any of the other COAs who then can apply for the funds.

M. Downs – Where do we fit with advocacy? Susan – You are the Northeast Michigan Regional Advisory Council.

D. Fay – I imagine it was a bit scary developing this plan without knowing the funding. Thank you, good job.

The deadline for written or electronic testimony is Wednesday, June 6, 2018. You can send it to Laurie, Connie or myself.

Earl reopened the Region Council on Aging meeting at 1:35 pm

Director's Report

OMD – Laurie attended the event in Lansing along with 13 others representing 7 of our 12 counties. Senators Stamas and Schmidt stopped by along with Representative Wentworth and Sue Allor's aide. Three other representatives and one senator didn't make it down. Senator Schmidt is involved in a town hall meeting and suggested we do something similar in our region to focus on senior issues. Region 10 is having one on June 18th at 1pm at the Bellaire senior center. Perhaps one of your COA's would like to partner with us to hold an event in our region.

FGP – The program held its 43rd annual recognition event. Volunteers with 20 years of service or more received special recognition. One participant is retiring after 23 years with the program, she is 99 years old. E. Corpe – I encourage you to promote the program or take your knowledge and share it with children by becoming a volunteer. The SCP will hold their annual recognition on June 12th.

RSVP – Recruitment is going strong. Michael Blewett had 20 new volunteers sign up recently. The Veterans Coffee Hours continue in Roscommon with a barbeque planned for August 4th offering free plane rides for veterans.

Fraud and Abuse – A brochure on Medicaid Fraud: Protect Your Tax Dollars was distributed. Laurie attended a meeting with the Office of the Inspector General in April. There are three divisions within the agency dealing with Medicaid fraud and abuse; Operations, Enforcement, and Integrity. Operations include all administrative functions, data analytics, etc. Enforcement deals mostly with recipients and all assistance programs administered by the DHHS. The Integrity Division deals with providers and all things Medicaid; monitoring program integrity for Michigan Managed Care Programs including the Waiver. The AAA and COAs are expected to report any suspected Medicaid fraud or abuse. We expect to be hearing more from the Inspector General's office. The next meeting will be held in August.

Michigan Health Policy Forum – The forum - Civil Discourse; The Gateway to Sustainable Policy Changes was held on the 14th. Policy experts gave views from both the left and right. Statements and dialog were made by Senator Hertel and Representative Confield on the role of government related to health policy, insurance, and the Affordable Care Act. There are differences in views on healthcare as a right rather than just for those with the ability to afford it. Interesting perspectives given by both sides.

New staff – Brooke Mainville will be replacing Liz Kowalski. She starts on May 29th. Lisa Flinn is the new nurse in the West Branch office. We will be hiring a social worker for that office as well.

Other Events - Salli Pung from the State Long Term Care Office will be visiting us on May 30th. An assessment on the PREVNT grant is scheduled for June 29th. The Nutrition Summit is scheduled for August 7th at the MacMullen Center in Roscommon County. An Ethics Training will be held tomorrow for AAA and COA staff.

SGA – We do not have our SGA from AASA to date but they did receive their federal grant dollars. It does not include the NSIP funding.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne reported the director's met with the AAA on May 2nd following the RFP Pre-Bidders Conference. There was an IMPART presentative which was quite informative. All the COAs need to update and implement our emergency preparedness plans. We received a copy of the revised AASA Standards for Nutrition to review. Gina also reported on the requirements for waiver clients. Merianne attended OMD and really enjoyed it. Thank you to the Roscommon COA for providing transportation.

Ombudsman Program Report – Sara was not present so Laurie gave her report. A flyer was distributed for Best Practices. The date was changed to September due to low registration. Sara presented the CORE program at the Mental Health and Aging Conference in Lansing last week and also the Michigan Assisted Living Association's Annual Conference and trade show the week prior. Both sessions had good attendance levels and participant reviews thus far are very positive. She will be training all Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman on June 7th in Mackinaw; also attending this Train the Trainer session will be members of Consumer Voice, who are coming from Washington DC to hear the presentation. CORE will also be featured in an upcoming webinar on June 26th related to resident-to-resident mistreatment; this webinar is being provided by the Consumer Voice. Dr. Karl Pillemer, some of whose work was included in our CORE program, works to study resident-to-resident aggression, and will be leading the webinar. Additional PREVNT/CORE presentations planned include both a Train-the-Trainer session and standard staff training (2 days) with UPCAP and partner agencies in July, as well as a Train-the-Trainer day in Isabella County for our lower peninsula AAA's. Sara is also currently in a work group with a number of other regional ombudsmen throughout Michigan to develop a study related to resident satisfaction in nursing homes.

MMAP Program Report – Susan reported that the Office of Inspector General also oversees Medicare fraud. She has been tracking the number of recent cases in Michigan, there have been seven since the beginning of January in Michigan alone. One fraudulent billing is for over \$8 million. Cases include home healthcare fraud, fraudulent billing, etc. West Branch has been identified as having all the aspects of fraud to happen due to the number of healthcare agencies and physical therapy offices for the size of their population.

Susan has eight signed up for a new volunteer training. One is a retired public health nurse. She is very happy to have two for Iosco County. A possible second training will be held in September. Other trainings coming up this summer; Site Coordinator's Training in June and one for Medicaid Specialists.

C. Proulx – What does the Medicaid Specialists do? Susan – They counsel on Medicaid in the community. There are 33 Medicaid programs. We deal basically with clients on Medicare who qualify for Medicaid.

C. Wilder – Are these all volunteers? Susan – Some of the MMAP volunteers are paid staff at the COAs. We assist with anything Medicare. A MMAP Coordinator from Region 4 sent an article from consumer reports that says sometimes you can get a cheaper prescription if you don't use your insurance but this is something the pharmacist legally can't tell you unless you ask.

M. Tappan – At Older Michigianians Day seniors were advocating to add dental care to Medicaid. I think that's a great idea.

C. Wilder – When Epi-Pens first came out we got coupons for a free one then they raised the price to \$100 for the second one. You can get a cheaper generic brand.

C. Proulx – I don't like getting two bills for an x-ray, one for the x-ray and another bill for someone to read it.

Developmental Projects Coordinator Report – Yvette reported for Liz. She is half way through the CCC classes at the library in Harrisville. She has eight participants. She has set up her schedule for adult day center assessments, one has been completed. Liz will also be working diligently to bring Brooke up to speed.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Corky reported the group spent most of the morning preparing for OMD. They also got some background information from the new director. They will continue to advocate for and support Money-Follows-The-Person.

State Advisory Council – Chuck reported the Volunteerism Report should be out by the end of summer. A suggestion for next year's charge is to revisit and update some of the previous reports we've done over the years.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported the Commission had a light agenda. Their by-laws were reviewed and revised to allow the Vice Chair to serve two years and be reappointed for another two-year term. The Intrastate Funding Formula review was completed and recommendations are out for review and comment. The Commission recommends the retention of the current factors and weights including the geographic base. It is an equity split that has to be done. Also recommended is to update the population data at five-year intervals, and that the impact of population changes should be phased in for funding allotments over a two-year period beginning in fiscal year 2019 and 2020. We have a strong advocacy group with this Commission and we will use that role to advocate to legislature. The commission will meet again next month.

Laurie – We will get the funding formula recommendations out to the COAs as soon as possible for your input. It is very important not to have the geographic portion taken away per Detroit's request. John – We need more seniors moving to our area.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) – Dan Doezema reported it is important to retain our senior populations which is one of the intents of Communities For A Lifetime. Cheboygan had a good group. S. Bowen – You should have their application today. The state budget is unpredictable. It's hard for AASA to get the SGAs out in a timely manner. We are trying to be

flexible with carryover. The state is also looking at more performance measures for next year. It's important for us to be able to report what we do in a cost effective manner.

Local Updates From Council Members

C. Proulx – The Montmorency COA started handing out Project Fresh Coupons. We received an extra 25 coupons this year.

A. Hepburn – The senior center held a graduation for 8 students from Aces Academy who completed our Project Student Gourmet program, 22 initially started. The center received a \$200,000 grant from Michigan Health Endowment Fund, and partnered with Aces Academy. The students learned how to work in a kitchen, food preparation, cooking, and customer service. Many of these kids didn't socialize outside of school, some had been suicidal or homeless. Many of the seniors connected with the students. We will receive another \$100,000 grant for two-years. We want to build a greenhouse to grow our own herbs and have a bakery on site.

Action Items

Endorsement of the FY 2019 Annual Implementation Plan - A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to endorse the AIP. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Revise the By-Laws – Copies of the changes were available. A motion was made by V. Zygiel with support from D. Huff to approve the revisions. The motion passed unanimously. Laurie – This was the second vote by this Council approving the revisions. It will now go to the NEMCSA board in June.

Question or Comments

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 23rd.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm by Chairman E. Corpe.