

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, April 23, 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, Merianne Tappan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: B. Kaye

Unexcused: J. Mathis

Guests: John Briggs,

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kelly Robinette and Yvette Smigelski

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. Henig with support from D. Fay to approve the minutes of February 26, 2018. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Appointments/Reappointments – D. Fay reported there have been two resignations from the Council: Alcona Delegate Margaret Fox and Iosco Delegate Jeffrey Johnston. We also have one new appointment for Crawford Member-at-Large, Carol Wilder. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to accept Carol Wilder as Member-at-Large for Crawford County. Motion passed unanimously.

Vacancies – D. Fay also reported we have vacancies for a delegate position in Montmorency and Member-at-Large positions in Arenac, Cheboygan, Iosco, and Otsego.

By-Law Review Committee

Chairman E. Corpe asked for volunteers to act as our By-Law Review Committee to review and propose revisions. C. Corwin, D. Fay and D. Burdine volunteered. A motion was made by D. Huff with support from A. Lange to accept the members of the By-Law Review Committee. Motion carried. E. Corpe called for a temporary closure of the meeting to allow time for the committee to meet. A motion was made by C. Corwin with support by D. Burdine to close the meeting. Motion carried. After the committee met, a motion was made by C. Proulx with support from D. Fay to re-open the meeting. Motion carried.

Speaker – Laurie Sauer – Advocacy

Handouts were distributed. Laurie presented a PowerPoint presentation on the AAA's Platform for Legislative Action. One major way we advocate is by attending Older Michiganians Day (OMD). OMD is held annually in Lansing and is designed to highlight the contributions of older adults as well as their current and future needs. This is an opportunity for our legislators to hear from their constituents as well as AAA staff. Michigan's older adult population is growing. There has been significant growth in those aged 60 and older over the last 8 years with an increase of 50,000 in 2018 alone and 15% of Michigan adults age 18-59 have a disability. The

prevalence of disability among adults over the age of 60 increases to almost one in three with one in five adults over the age of 65 having multiple disabilities.

Long-term services and supports are expensive. The average annual cost of nursing home care in 2016 was \$82,128. In 2015, 62% of nursing home residents relied on Medicaid. The national profile of Medicaid long-term services and supports expenditures has shifted away from primary dependence on institutional care with Michigan slowly shifting to community based care.

Currently Michigan is ranked as the 5th worst state in this rebalancing effort. Michigan is focusing on four strategies: #1 – Rebalance Medicaid Long-Term Supports and Services by expanding the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver program and supporting AASA in-home services. #2 – Make Michigan a No-Wait State for senior in-home services. The Silver Key Coalition is requesting \$3 million for fiscal year 2019. #3 – Address Direct Care Workforce Issues. Home health aides are projected to be the fifth-fastest growing occupation between 2014 and 2024, with more than 348,000 new jobs. Personal care aides are projected to add more than 458,000 new jobs. A handout on the shortage of home care workers was distributed. #4 – Prevent Elder Abuse. Support adequate funding for elder abuse prevention programs and policies that aim to prevent physical, psychological, and financial abuse. Discussion followed:

M. Downs – What is Telehealth? Laurie – It’s referring to technology that provides monitoring services such as emergency response systems, blood pressure and glucose monitoring done in the home, the ability to conference with health professionals, etc.

E. Howell – Has there been any change in the income limit for the waiver? Laurie – The waiver income limit is 300% of the SSI rate and its adjusted annually. The waiver only looks at the income of the individual, not the spouse. It does count assets. The income limit for community Medicaid is different. It’s very low.

C. Proulx - If a single person is on the waiver, what happens when they need overnight care? Do you pay for 24-hour care? Laurie – It depends on the individual’s situation. They may have informal supports available they can utilize. It’s not always a situation where someone needs to be present for 24 hours.

E. Corpe – Why would there be a wait list? Laurie – Because funding is limited. Nursing home care is an entitlement program. For the MI Choice Waiver, we get one pot of money which will only support so many clients. There is only so much money the legislature appropriates for the program. That’s where advocacy makes a difference. We haven’t had a wait list in our region for over a year. John Briggs – The big factor is that the nursing home lobby is well entrenched and vested. Laurie – Nursing homes have a significant role in the continuum of care, but most people want to remain home. Many nursing homes are shifting their focus to rehabilitation.

Director’s Report

Older Michiganians Day (OMD) – Laurie distributed a Save-the-Date flyer. OMD will be held on May 16, 2018 at the capital in Lansing. Chuck Corwin, Ann Lange and Corky Proulx plan on attending. Please get the names of all who are going to Laurie by April 27th so she has time to set up appointments with legislators. She has 45 lunch tickets available for those attending.

C. Corwin – The Roscommon COA has a bus and a van available to transport people down to Lansing, a total of 30 seats. They will be leaving from the Houghton Lake Center around 8 am.

State Budget – Expected funding for 2019 includes an increase of \$100 in AASA Community Services raising funding to \$43,567,400, flat funding of \$42,254,200 for nutrition and an increase of \$6,965, 200 for the MI Choice Waiver for a total of \$355,062,600.

Federal Budget – A \$63 billion Omnibus bill was passed March 21st. We expect to receive final SGA's in late April or early May. Older Americans Act programs increased by \$178 million to \$2.171 billion. Title IIIB saw an increase of 10%, Title IIIC Nutrition increased by 7%, Title IIIE National Family Caregiver Support increased by 20%, Title IIID Preventative Health increased by 25%, SHIP (our MMAP) was saved along with SCSEP, RSVP, SCP, FGP, and CSBG. The Long Term Care Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention Programs will increase by \$1 million along with LIHEAP by \$250 million.

NEMCSA Newsletter – If you are interested in receiving the NEMCSA newsletter and Lisa Bolen's, Executive Director Report, sign up at www.nemcsa.org.

Section 298 Initiative – The initiative to integrate behavioral health with physical health is moving forward with three pilot sites; Muskegon CMH and WMCMH, Genesee Health System, and Saginaw CMHA. AAAs will be watching closely.

IMPART – In the past, funding provided the BTBQ direct caregiver training program. Another grant was secured and a free train the trainer will be held in June. This will still be a 77 hour program with certification for direct care workers.

Senior Corps Programs – Amy and her staff have been working hard to expand the program. A small increase is expected in state funding due to the program closure in the UP. Heidi is also working hard to recruit and recently trained seven new volunteers.

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan - Ryan Cowmeadow is the new executive director for MSAC. He coordinated the Silver Key Coalition early on.

CDCN – This collaborative effort with the health department of Northwest Michigan has a new coordinator, Kathleen Jakinovich. No meetings to move forward have been scheduled to date.

AAA Staff Update – There are several staff changes. We hired two new social workers in Alpena; Amber Kalitta and Shirley Diamond. Jenna Lindholm is now a supervisor for the Gaylord and Cheboygan offices. Becky Tousigna is the new supervisor in our West Branch office which leaves openings for both an RN and a Case Manager position in West Branch. Also, Liz Kowalski, Special Projects Coordinator will be leaving us in June. She is expecting her third baby and will be working as an at-home mom.

C. Corwin – With the addition of the new nurse in West Branch, are you fully staffed? Laurie – We still have one vacancy.

New Projects – The AAA is working to firm up our emergency preparedness efforts establishing elder abuse prevention relationships with shelters and law enforcement, etc.

Coming Events – We have our Caregiver Conference in Gaylord tomorrow. We are at capacity with 150 expected. An Active Shooter Training will be held in St. Helen on April 26th at Kirtland, this training is also free. Other scheduled events include: May 2, 2018 Pre-Bidders Conference and Region 9er meeting, May 11, 2018 Best Practices Conference, May 14, 2018 Health Policy Forum, May 15, 2018 Foster Grandparent Program Recognition, May 16, 2018 OMD, May 21, 2018 Public Hearing on the 2019 AIP followed by the Regional Council on Aging meeting. It is important that we have a quorum for support and recommendation to the NEMCSA board. May 22, 2018 will be a Day of Training on ethics in Mio.

C. Proulx – Who can change the stipend amount for the FGP and SCP? Laurie – That is set by the federal government. What we need to raise is the income level so more are eligible.

Isolation of Older Adults – A handout was distributed. Loneliness and social isolation are now believed to be as dangerous to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and surpass the mortality risks of obesity.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – No report.

Ombudsman Program Report – No report

MMAF Program Report – Yvette reported next week is the deadline to apply to be a MMAF volunteer.

Developmental Projects Coordinator Report – Yvette reported we have 20 vendors and five sponsors for the caregiver conference tomorrow. CCC classes will begin on Wednesday, May 2nd in Harrisville. These are held once a week for six weeks. Liz presented on brain health at two meal sites in Alcona. Both were very well received. Her work on communities for a lifetime continues. Cheboygan is working to finalize their application which will be submitted to a review panel in early May.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – C. Proulx reported on her meeting in March where the group discussed school safety, tax credits and the complaints regarding unclaimed taxes, MI Choice Waiver and the \$600 appropriated for roads. There is a grant to explore managed care plans for behavioral health to start in July. MSAC members also discussed the platform for OMD, the no-fault bills, Bill #5027 assault law on elder abuse and the shortage of care aides. Most have no credentials. Solutions were discussed.

State Advisory Council – Chuck reported the group continues their work on developing a report which is expected to be finished by the end of summer.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported the Commission approved Chuck Corwin for another three years on the State Advisory Council. They approved the additional \$3,588 in funds for each Senior Corps Program. RSVP has 16 programs operating in the state. More Project Fresh coupons will be available to assist seniors in affording fresh Michigan produce. The volunteerism project by the State Advisory Council continues. The Nutritional Guidelines were approved. There were only minor changes on some AAA requirements. Review of the Intra-State Funding Formula continues. Detroit will have a continual loss of funding. The Commission will work to develop a fair and equitable distribution. The Commission also supports a proposal of a state increase of \$100,000 for each of the FGP, SCP and RSVP programs.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) – No report.

Local Updates From Council Members

C. Corwin – The Roscommon COA has identified a building for an adult day care center. The plan is to open October 1st. The COA has also started a Salon-on-Wheels program providing basic hair care services for homebound seniors. This is the first service of its kind in Michigan. A lead salon professional has been hired by the COA who is experienced, licensed, insured and background checked. Appointments can be made by calling the COA where the salon professional will personally speak with the client to assess their level of comfort, hair care and salon needs. Future services will include complete hair care, manicures and pedicures. Our lunch menu will now include the amount of carbohydrates per meal.

Action Items

Approval to Revise the By-Laws to Address Change in Annual Meeting Month – C. Corwin, Chair of the By-Law Review Committee reported on proposed changes to the by-laws. Any amendments made must be approved by the NEMCSA Board of Directors by request from this Council by action at two consecutive meetings. This meeting is the first and the proposed changes will be addressed again next month. The proposed changes are as follows:

Article VIII: Officers A. #2 Take out January and change to read “Officers shall be elected during the first meeting of the calendar year”.

Article VIII: B. #1 Take out November and replace with “at the last meeting of the calendar year”.

Article VIII B #2 Add “A single candidate would be a voice vote for acclamation. In case of two or more applicants, a written ballot would be used”.

Article VIII C #1 e and f Change e. to f. and create a new e. with “Appoint the Chair of each Subcommittee”.

Article X A #1 Change to “A minimum of six (6) meetings annually is required”.

These proposed changes will be distributed at our next meeting for review and vote to submit to the NEMCSA board for approval.

Question or Comments

Just a reminder, our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21st and includes a public hearing on the 2019 Annual Implementation Plan. Your attendance is critical. It is very important we have a quorum for this meeting.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from M. Hiller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm by Chairman E. Corpe.