

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, February 27, 2017 at 1:00 pm
NEMCSA Large Conference Room – Alpena**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President E. Corpe at 1:03 pm

Roll Call

M. Fox, S. Wojnar, D. Huff, M. Newman, G. Guenther, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Drozdowski, M. Tappan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, D. Henig, E. Henig, J. Mathis, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin
Excused: A. Lange, C. Athan, E. Howell, J. Johnston
Unexcused: None
Guests: J. Briggs, D. Doezema
Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kelly Robinette, Kara LaMarre, Susan Bowen and Sara Socia

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by K. Schreiner with support from D. Henig to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by D. Huff with support from D. Fay to approve the minutes of January 23, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Appointments – D. Fay reported on a new appointment for Alcona Member-at-Large, Stanley Wojnar. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to accept the appointment. Motion carried.

Speaker – COA Happenings – Merianne Tappan, Director of the Oscoda County Council on Aging

Merianne reported the Oscoda COA was established in 1963 and started as a Meals on Wheels site. They had a second site located in Comins. In 2005 both sites were combined into one central location in Mio. They are a private, non-profit and utilize state and federal dollars as well as millage funds and donations. Most of their services are for persons age 60 and older. They do provide meals for those under 60 at \$6.50 per meal. The under 60 cost is higher because it reflects the total cost of the meal. Meals are served Monday – Friday at noon. They currently serve approximately 320 home delivered meals a day and use three meal drivers. Frozen meals are provided for the weekends. The COA also provides homemaker, personal care, and respite services. There is a health resource center on site that provides seniors with three computers, a printer, copier, fax machine and shredder to use. They also have a loan closet and small food pantry. The COA recently purchased a new sign which will allow them to advertise meals and activities. Rich, a Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participant has recently taken on the position to provide resources and organize activities at the center so that is expected to grow as it gets off the ground.

Director's Report

New Board Member Orientation – Thank you to those who attended this morning.

AAA Staff – We have a new Housing Coordinator, Jeni Hoppe who was a Case Manager for the Care Management and Waiver programs. We have hired Jessica Dziesinski to replace her. Both will start their new positions on March 6th. Michael Blewett has been hired as a Field Support Specialist for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. Finally, sad for us but exciting for her, Kara LaMarre is retiring on May 5th. Her position has been posted and we hope to interview soon.

State Funding – The Governor's budget recommendations for 2018 include increases as follows: \$1.5 million for Home Delivered Meals, \$2.1 million for In-Home Services, \$6 million for MI Choice Waiver, and \$20 million for PACE. The Senate accepted testimony on Friday and the House is today. The Alzheimer's Association is asking for \$2 million to take their demonstration project statewide. Both Heidi and Amy testified requesting \$1 million for Volunteer Programs. The Governor still wants Michigan a No Wait State. Michigan's population of 60 and older is now at 2.2 million. That is 22% of the total population. The fastest growing segment are those age 85 and older. That segment is expected to double by the year 2030. The Governor is also working in improving internet availability in rural areas.

Opioid Taskforce – The Governor started this new taskforce to address the increase and prevalent use of Opioids. If you have any input on how to tackle this issue, let Laurie know.

Income Tax Bill – The proposed bill to cut income tax from 4.25% to 3.9% over four years failed in the House. K. Schreiner reported it failed by only 3 votes. This is an important topic. If it had passed the over \$40 million in general funds we receive for aging services would have been cut. This would be devastating to the availability of funds for the growing population of seniors.

Auto Insurance – Also on task is another look at auto insurance. A Quick Guide to the Michigan Auto No-Fault Law was distributed. This gives a perspective on what may be coming.

Medical Transportation – There are also funds available in the state budget for medical transportation, and changes are expected in April. The Waiver Program will be able to provide non-emergency medical transportation for clients if they have no other means. We are not sure how this will work but we are hoping to continue to access volunteers through DHS.

Federal Budget – The continuing resolution expires April 28th. The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) released an RFP for RSVP expansion funds. NEMCSA will be applying to expand the program in the nine counties currently not covered. An article in the New York Times a week ago referenced an internal OMB memo targeting the elimination of CNCS in 2018. The CNCS has not been notified to that effect. Also, the Senior Companion Program is recruiting volunteers. If you know of anyone age 55 or older who may be interested, please let us know.

Assessments – The assessment process has begun for COA's. AAA staff have started to schedule visits.

NCQA – Our application for NCQA accreditation was accepted and we are currently operating as an agency that meets the qualifications. We will have onsite visits beginning September 24, 2017. A Community Based Care staff meeting is scheduled for March 21st to review policies.

Human Trafficking Training – A staff training has been scheduled for April 19th in West Branch. This training will be open to the COAs and other partners. Trooper Devine will provide the training and incorporate information related to seniors as well. This training is now required for social workers. Sara will check if CEU's are required.

Intern – We will have an intern from Madonna University from May through December. She will be working with Sara for the Ombudsman Program and Susan for MMAP.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – The Iosco Poverty Reduction Workgroup is sponsoring a day of information on March 30, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the United Methodist Church in Hale. Topics include; Internet Safety, Drug Awareness and Grandparent's Rights. Free lunch and childcare provided.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis had no report. He was unable to attend the last meeting.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne had no report. The group has not met.

Ombudsman Program Report – Sara reported the Best Practices Conference will be held on May 19th at the Ralph MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon. Speakers will report on the new nursing home regulations, dementia care basics, and holistic healing. There will also be a forum of professionals to answer questions from the audience. The target audience for the conference has been the certified nursing assistants (CNAs). A new regulation starting next year requires nursing homes to include a CNA on the resident's care team. Sara has also been working with the resident councils in nursing homes on the new regulations and is getting good feedback. She also continues to work on this year's Elder Abuse Conference. Surveys for the Anti-Bullying Campaign have been mailed to the COA's, adult foster care homes, and homes for the aged in our region. The consumer survey will go out soon. A definition and examples of bullying are noted on the survey materials. Sara is also in need of ombudsman volunteers.

MMAP Program Report – Susan reported on the SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) performance measures. The SHIP assists seniors and the disabled with their insurance options. In Michigan it is called MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program). A handout was distributed showing the percent completed of the eight performance measures from April 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. We should be at least at 75% for each category. There are only two categories that we have not met 75% of the goal; Outreach and Enrollment Contacts. Susan is still happy with the numbers because we have increased the numbers from last year in both categories. Overall, Region 9 is at an average of 85% which puts us second in the state behind Region 10. There are some changes in the performance measures for this year with a shift toward five measures instead of eight. They are now looking at the percent of the Medicare population that we're reaching. This allows the Regional MMAP Coordinators to set their goal levels. Susan can project where our growth will be. Susan has ten people signed up for the new

MMAAP volunteer training in June. Two are from Iosco, two from Montmorency, one from Crawford and Oscoda and Cheboygan and Presque Isle are each sending two new staff to be trained.

Special Developmental Projects Coordinator Report – Kara reported we have a new Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC) trainer in West Branch. Kara will co-lead a master trainer session with her on April 10th. A Diabetes PATH leader update training will be held tomorrow in Alpena. All 16 leaders in our region will be attending. A Matter of Balance (MOB) refresher class for current leaders will be held on April 21st and a coaches training on April 20th. Alpena and Gaylord have support groups for the Kinship Program – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. The Alzheimer’s Association is looking for a support group leader in Atlanta. Kara spoke with Tyler at the Alzheimer’s Association in Traverse City as we have been without a coordinator in our area for some time.

C. Proulx - What kind of training is involved to be a group leader? Kara – Ideally the person should have some background with Alzheimer’s. They can do a training through the Alzheimer’s Association. If interested you can either call Kara or the Alzheimer’s Association at 800-272-3900.

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund has carryover money at the state level. Our MOB and Diabetes PATH programs receive Title IIID funds so we can’t utilize the carryover for them but it will help with trainings and programs we provide that do not use IIID funds. The Alcona Health Center and Thunder Bay Community Health have both been very supportive of the programs.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Karl reported he attended the February meeting. Medicaid expansion was discussed. No idea what will happen at the federal level. Michigan spends about \$3 billion as Medicaid match. The Governor’s proposed increases for next year still doesn’t bring us up to 2008 levels. It is still not enough. So when the income tax proposal came out, MSAC took the position to wait until we know what the feds are going to do. There is no replacement plan if the state lost money from the bill passing. Older Michiganians Day (OMD) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th. This is a great chance to meet your legislators. There will be no tent this year. Tables will be on the lawn and legislators are encouraged to eat lunch with participants. To give you an idea of how much money our programs save, on average, delivering meals to one person for one year is equal to one week of long term care or a one day stay in the hospital. Many of the legislators are new, please do not hesitate to contact them and educate them on what you believe in and share your opinions on some of these issues.

J. Drozdowski – How did our legislator Sue Allor vote on the income tax bill? Susan looked it up, she voted yes.

State Advisory Council – Chuck reported they will have an in person meeting in Lansing on March 16th. Shortly after that, the full “Creative Aging” report will go to the State Commission on Aging.

State Commission on Aging – J. Briggs reported there wasn’t much business at their February meeting. They looked at the three year plan process for fiscal years 2018-2020. He also spoke

with Sally Steiner at AASA and she told him that Kara was the first certified CCC trainer in the state. John stopped in Mio for lunch on his way down to Lansing. He said the food was very good and the center looked nice. He plans to stop at other senior centers as time allows.

AASA - Dan Doezema reported our Associate AAA Director, Gina Bey, is involved in updating the performance criteria for the Care Management Program along with Region 10, Region 11 and the AAA in Grand Rapids. They are making progress and he appreciates Gina's participation.

Local Updates From Council Members

D. Fay reported the Posen Senior Center has new lighting and paint.

G. Guenther reported that the Cheboygan COA was able to get two new Toyota cars donated for their meal program. It takes some time but you need to contact your local car dealership who has to work with their local corporation. In return, they got free advertising on the vehicle and the Cheboygan Center gives them a full page ad in the newsletter. It is well worth the effort and he encourages everyone to try.

C. Proulx reported the Atlanta Senior Center is providing a free oral care clinic on March 8th.

Action Items

None

Question or Comments

Our next meeting will be held on March 27th.

Adjourn

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