

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

The meeting was called to order by President E. Corpe at 1:02 pm.

Roll Call

M. Fox, S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, G. Guenther, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Drozdowski, M. Tappan, C. Athan, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin

Excused: M. Newman, C. Proulx

Unexcused: J. Johnston, J. Mathis

Guests: A. Weeks, J. Briggs

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Yvette Smigelski, and Sara Socia

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

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by D. Faye with support from E. Henig to approve the minutes of February 27, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Appointments – D. Fay reported on a new appointment for Arenac Delegate, Virginia Zygiel. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to accept the appointment. Motion carried.

Speaker – COA Happenings – Angela Weeks, Director of Sunrise Side Senior Services

Angela reported she has been with Sunrise Side Senior Services for 17 years and Director for 2 years. The Arenac County Commission on Aging was established in 1978. They have 26 employees and provide approximately 768 home delivered meals a week to 168 clients. They serve 185 congregate meals a week and have 15-30 attending each day. They get larger numbers, 75 or more, for their special dinners. Their next one will be for Easter. Ninety clients currently receive in-home services and they have an adult day care on site called Pleasant Days which serves 6-8 clients during the week. The center has bingo on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and chair exercises on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also on Thursdays is woodcarving. This attracts not only the wood carvers, but others come in to see what they're working on. The center is fortunate to have three MMAP counselors and the benefit of having a casino close by allows exceptions for the center when they apply for grants. Their next big project is a new parking lot. They have a 30-year lease on the building but are responsible for the upkeep. The parking lot is in bad shape and is estimated to cost between \$30,000 and \$45,000. On a negative note, they are dealing with a case of senior to senior bullying. They have a gentleman who harasses an individual at the center and also carries a concealed weapon. He has made it a point to show it and the bullets. Angela consulted the Sheriff's Department and now has a "no weapons" policy for the center and has signs posted that weapons are not allowed on the premises. They are now able to call 911 if he shows the weapon again. It could lead to him being barred from attending the center.

Laurie suggested Angela have a workplace violence training for her staff. She can call her local police department for information. Discussion followed.

G. Guenther – We had a similar situation in Cheboygan which lead to the individual being barred from the Center for two years for creating a disturbance. We had to make a complaint to the Sheriff's Department.

C. Corwin – We also had a similar situation with someone being intimidating. We called the authorities and if it continues, he can be banned from our Center.

K. Schreiner – I would encourage you to work with your local prosecuting attorney.

A. Lange – It's good to have a policy in place to address this issue.

Director's Report

Federal Level – The U.S. House was to take a vote on the Affordable Care Act repeal but the Republicans couldn't get the votes so it was not brought to the floor. It's hard to say what will happen going forward. We are concerned about the impact increased costs will have on older adults. It will be awhile before we see another replacement bill.

President's Budget – The budget proposes the elimination of CDBG which includes \$3 billion in HUD programs, LIHEAP, CNCS which includes the Senior Companion, Foster Grandparent and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, Legal Aid and CSBG. We have a lot of volunteers working in these programs and it would be a big loss for our region. Elimination of the SCSEP is also proposed. This is a senior employment training program. It's a very small amount of funding for us but it's a good program for seniors. The CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) funds a lot of the programs NEMCSA provides. Nothing is final, this is just the initial step in the process. Laurie met last week with U. S. Representative Bergman's aide about our concerns regarding these cuts. Especially the elimination of home delivered meal funds. The VA Choice Program is slated to end this August. We have received no news on the continuation budget for 2017 set to expire in April. We are hoping for a continuing resolution for the rest of this year.

State News – Annual Implementation Plan information for 2018 was received from AASA. Susan has begun work on the process. They are allowing flexibility with carryover funds due to a delay in federal decisions. Laurie also met with Representative Triston Cole's aide regarding the Silver Key Coalition Initiative to advocate for additional funds for in home services.

AAAAM – Mary Ablan officially retires next week. The executive committee conducted interviews and hired Linda Burghardt as her replacement. Linda has a lot of experience with state government and running other associations including the Mental Health Association and Social Workers' Association.

OMD – Older Michiganians Day is May 17th. If you are interested in attending we need to know as soon as possible, before our next meeting in April. We need to have a count in order to set up appointments with legislators. This is a great opportunity for you to advocate for seniors in your community. More information and the platform will be available next month.

Training – The AAA will have a training for staff on April 19th at the Forwards Conference Center in West Branch. We have a speaker on human trafficking, which is now a required training for social workers and we are working to get an Exterminator to present on protecting

yourself against bed bugs, fleas, lice, roaches, etc. as well as a speaker on dementia. This training is open to all COA directors and staff. Information will be sent out once the speakers are confirmed.

John Murphy – John is a member of the Michigan State Advisory Council and a past member of this Council. His term on MSAC is up in May and he will not be seeking reappointment. We are not sure if this will leave our region with a spot to fill. Chuck indicated John has been pivotal in working for MSAC and will be missed. A motion was made by A. Lange with support from C. Corwin to send a letter of appreciation. Motion carried.

Waiver Program – Effective April 1, 2017 the Waiver Program will be handling non-emergent medical transportation services for waiver clients. This service was previously handled by DHS. We will be looking for volunteer drivers. Funding for this service falls under the capitation rate which will allow an extra \$2 per person per month.

SCP and FGP – Program flyers were distributed. The programs are recruiting additional volunteers. Please post these in your community. Volunteer numbers need to increase or we face a reduction in funding.

Anniversary – Laurie presented Earl an Anniversary card. He and his wife recently celebrated 51 years of marriage. We also just found out that George and his wife celebrated 56 years of marriage last week. Congratulations!

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis is absent today. No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne reported there was no meeting, nothing to report.

Ombudsman Program Report – Sara reported she is getting ready to deliver bullying surveys to all of the COAs. Surveys were distributed for council members to complete. She is getting feedback already from previous mailings showing a variance in responses between staff and participants. We expect some interesting data from the COAs. The information will be very helpful to us as we provide the anti-bullying trainings. The COAs will be contacted within the next few weeks to schedule their trainings which take approximately three hours. Sara will be attending a joint provider training in Grand Rapids and Thursday she will attend the quarterly Ombudsman training in Lansing. This is for all the Ombudsman in the state. She is also preparing for the Michigan Mental Health Conference where she will present elements of the bullying training. May 19th is the annual Best Practices Conference. Cost is \$35 for a full day of valuable information. New this year is a forum at the end for answering questions. Sara has recently had nursing home complaints about basic care issues such as showering. She has been working with the Resident Councils to empower them to make changes.

MMAP Program Report – Susan is off today, Laurie gave the report. Susan is accepting applications for new counselors. Areas with significant need include Alcona, Arenac, Cheboygan, Iosco, Montmorency, and Ogemaw counties. Part of the new volunteer process is to complete a mandatory orientation webinar. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th. An initial new counselor training will be held in Alpena on June 13, 14, and 15. Susan provided a MMAP training on March 22nd which was attended by 27 team members. The traveling Ostrich Award, created by Region 9 to be given to someone who perseveres in the face of adversity instead of sticking their head in the sand, was presented to Barb Whalen of

Montmorency County. Barb has been a MMAP volunteer for about 10 years and has been facing some significant health issues but continues to help clients through MMAP. Susan has a lot of respect for her team. Their work is truly phenomenal. Susan will be attending the state contract meeting in April and will continue to serve on the Communications, Quality Assurance, and Coordinators Advisory Council, of which she is the Chair.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Yvette reported that Kara has an upcoming Matter of Balance training and an update training for current leaders. She needs more leaders to sign up for the update training.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – K. Schreiner reported he attended the MMAP training last week in place of MSAC. He has no report. C. Athan is no longer able to make the drive and will no longer participate in MSAC.

State Advisory Council – C. Corwin reported the group met in Lansing and continues their work on the Creative Aging Report. The preliminary report is due for presentation to the Commission on Services to the Aging this spring but they are finding it may take a little longer to complete. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 21st and will be a combined meeting with the Commission on Services to the Aging.

State Commission on Aging – J. Briggs reported the Commission meeting included updated reports by AASA. They had an interesting discussion on AAA 1B who recently underwent a change in leadership and fiscal staff. They ended up with a number of audit issues. They couldn't document what they were spending for. If you can't document it, it doesn't exist. This is the largest AAA in the state. It's a good lesson to everyone that you have a fiscal responsibility. John hopes to be able to attend the joint meeting on April 21st. He is having knee replacement surgery in two days. He stopped in West Branch at the Ogemaw Commission on Aging for lunch on his way down to Lansing. He spent a couple of hours talking to the director, Carol Gillman. Carol is 82 and doing a good job down there. She has no desire to retire because she's having fun. He plans other stops over the next few months such as Arenac and Grayling. The Commission is also supporting the Silver Key Coalition to be sure we get additional funds.

Local Updates From Council Members

Oscoda County – D. Henig reported the Mio center has been painted and really cleaned up. Merianne requested funds to purchase round tables for the dining room but the board decided not to make the purchase. Merianne held a 2-week garage sale and is having an all you can eat pizza and root beer float fundraiser for \$5 per person so she will have enough money to purchase the round tables without using COA funds. Merianne has put her thumbprint on the COA and the seniors are happy with the changes. We have received no complaints.

G. Guenther – Thanked Angela for coming today and for all her work and the services she provides for seniors in Omer.

Presque Isle – D. Fay reported they finished the construction on new lighting, ceiling fans, and paint at the Posen Senior Center. A Spring Fling dinner was held on Sunday to reveal the results to the public. About 100 attended.

A. Lange – The Alpena Senior Center is moving forward with plans to relocate to the Sunset School building. We are beginning conversations on whether to lease or buy. The building is

26,800 square feet. We would only need half which would be 5,000 to 6,000 square feet more than we have now.

Action Items

None

Question or Comments

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the large conference room at NEMCSA.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Huff with support from M. Downs to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm by Chairman E. Corpe.