

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging  
Annual Meeting  
Monday, January 23, 2017 at 1:00 pm  
NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena**

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The meeting was called to order by President E. Corpe at 1:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

M. Fox, A. Lange, D. Huff, M. Newman, G. Guenther, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Drozdowski, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin  
Excused: J. Johnston,

Unexcused: D. Burdine, J. Mathis

Guests: Dan Doezema, John Briggs, Pat Corpe, Ann Marie

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kelly Robinette, Yvette Smigelski, Kara LaMarre, Susan Bowen and Sara Socia

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by D. Huff with support from C. Athan 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 September 26, 2016. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee**

Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies – Dennis Fay reported Rolland Lynch has resigned as Alcona Member-at-Large. Recommendation to send a letter of appreciation. There are several reappointments; Earl Corpe as Crawford Delegate, Jeff Johnston as Iosco Member-at-Large, Carol Athan as Montmorency Delegate, Corky Proulx as Montmorency Member-at-Large and Mitzi Downs as Presque Isle Delegate. We have three new appointments; Ann Lange as Alpena Delegate, Michael Newman as Cheboygan Delegate, and Merianne Tappan as the Region 9 Directors Representative. He also reported there are vacant positions to be filled in Alcona, Arenac, Otsego and Roscommon. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Huff to accept the appointments, reappointments and resignation as presented. Motion carried. A motion was made by K. Schreiner with support from D. Huff to close the regular meeting. Motion carried. A motion was made by C. Athan with support from D. Fay to open the meeting for election of officers. Motion carried.

Election of Officers – Vice Chair C. Corwin reported Earl Corpe is interested in continuing as Chairman. C. Corwin called for any further nominations for Chairman from the floor. As there were no other nominations from the floor a motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Huff to close the nominations. Paper ballots were distributed and the vote was unanimous for Earl Corpe to remain as Chairman. C. Athan made a motion to elect C. Corwin as Vice Chair. Mr. Corwin declined. C. Athan called for further nominations from the floor. C. Proulx volunteered. There were no further nominations and a paper ballot was distributed. The vote

was unanimous for C. Proulx as Vice Chair. A motion was made by C. Athan with support from D. Fay to close the elections. Motion carried. A motion was made by D. Huff with support from C. Athan to open the regular meeting. Motion carried.

### **Speaker – Frances Whitney – NEMCSA Website Debut**

Fran has been with NEMCSA over 7 years. Her new position is to provide communication and outreach for the agency. Fran gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the agency. NEMCSA is one of 29 Community Action Agencies in the state and will celebrate 50 years next year. Fran gave an extensive review of the NEMCSA website, [www.nemcsa.org](http://www.nemcsa.org), and the new logo. The website has several drop down boxes for information and a referral form for assistance. There are opportunities to get involved, such as becoming a volunteer for one of the volunteer programs as well as a way to donate. The agency is also set up with Amazon Smile which donates a portion of your purchases to NEMCSA. Fran is working to make the map on the home page searchable by county. A translate bar will also be added.

M. Downs – Do our services change with our need? Laurie – Yes. NEMCSA does conduct a needs assessments every 5 years. Based on the responses for client need, we try to identify programs to meet those unmet needs. The assessment was distributed to all the COAs.

C. Corwin – For the service provider like Region 9 is there a drop down box? Folks may not know where to look for particular programs they provide. Fran showed various ways to obtain information.

J. Drozdowski – Can you show how the search icon works? Fran typed the word meals in the search engine and showed the choices available. Region 9 AAA was an option.

### **Director's Report**

Conflict of Interest – 2017 forms were distributed for completion by the Council members.

New members – Laurie welcomed the new members. We will have a new member orientation one hour prior to our February meeting next month. Any current members are welcome to join us as well.

New AAA Logo – Laurie distributed a picture of our new logo. It was a long process but we feel it ties in nicely with the NEMCSA logo and represents our service area.

Federal Budget – There is no final budget to date. We are operating on a continuing resolution through April 28<sup>th</sup>. If funding is cut, it will apply to the entire year leaving a short period of time left in the fiscal year to adjust. We don't know what to expect right now. We have heard rumors of a possible 10% cut across the board. Trump reportedly wants to cut \$10.5 trillion over the next ten years, but promised not to touch Social Security or Medicare benefits. There is no threat of sequestration this year but it will return in 2018 unless a new law is passed.

Affordable Care Act – The repeal of the Act is underway. There are many sides to the story and we all have a responsibility to make our own determination on the issue. The AAA can't possibly report on each aspect and different sources push certain sides of the issue. Two handouts were distributed regarding the Affordable Care Act. One outlines what will happen if the Act is repealed. The second handout, Healthy Michigan Enrollment by County, shows the impact the repeal would have on the population age 18 to 64 in Michigan. Laurie encourages

everyone to have due diligence in forming your own opinions. The repeal will have a huge impact effecting the donut hole for Part D, preventative services under Medicare, the Elder Justice Initiative and insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions.

C. Proulx – I went on different websites and read some good information and ideas on what will be replacing the Act. I don't feel so gloom and doom about it and would encourage others to get more information.

State News – An overhaul of energy bills was passed in December. We don't expect rates to go down. The purpose is to make sure Michigan has enough energy for the state. Many old coal plants are closing and building new plants will be costly. Also, consumers will not be penalized for choosing other suppliers rather than DTE or Consumers, but if they choose to come back they must commit to six years. Utilities must increase their percentage of energy generated from renewable sources from 10% to 15% by 2021.

K. Schreiner – There was a provision to allow energy companies to raise rates if they needed money. That provision was dropped from the bills and the oversight remains.

Auto Insurance Reform – Once again it failed, but it is expected to gain traction again soon.

State of the State Address – The Governor talked again about making Michigan a No Wait State and cited the efforts of the Silver Key Coalition. The Coalition is asking for an increase of \$4.5 million in fiscal year 2018. The budget is due February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tess Canja Innovations Awards – This is the first year and two of our COAs, Alpena and Otsego, were recognized for their work. We congratulate them on their efforts.

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (M4A) - Laurie was elected as Secretary to the board. The Association's Executive Director, Mary Ablan, is retiring in March. She has been an outstanding advocate. The search is on for her replacement.

Oscoda COA - Mark Grantner has retired Merianne Tappan is the new director. She has been with the COA for 13 years and has been involved in MMAP, Evidence Based Programs, and many other.

Accreditations – We have submitted an application for a Diabetes Self-Management Training. It needs some rework. The NCQA is going in this week. Both efforts are intended to help us be more accountable with the quality of the programs and leverage the ability to work with health plans.

Projects Underway: We have several projects underway as follows: 1. We are downsizing our Cheboygan office and opening one in Gaylord. The caseload in Otsego County has exploded over the past few years. We will do some rearranging with staff. 2. The Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant extension is now based on the number of completers. The challenge is in scheduling classes and the uncertainty of payment. 3. We are reworking some job positions within the AAA. 4. The PREVNT II grant is moving forward. Sara will report more on that. 5. Developing Dementia Dexterity Grant is a collaborative approach to training, screening for dementia with a focus on those who have not been diagnosed, and 6. RSVP Expansion Grant. We currently have the program in two counties; Crawford and Roscommon. Otsego also has a

program run by another agency. We will apply for the expansion grant and possibly a new Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant opportunity.

Future Challenges – Challenges we will face include; the federal budget, MI-Choice capitation rates, MI-Choice future with the impending Mega Rule, the shortage of direct care workers and, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Next Meeting – Our next meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> and will resume our “Spotlight on Aging” segment starting with Merianne Tappan, the new Director of the Oscoda County Council on Aging.

MMAP – Congratulations to Susan Bowen and her MMAP volunteers for their phenomenal job during Part D enrollment.

### **Program Reports**

**Legal Services Board** – No report. Your handouts included their minutes from both June and October and information on Michigan Legal Help.

**Region 9 Directors Report** – Merianne only attended one meeting to date. They did discuss moving their meetings to different COAs each time.

**Ombudsman Program Report** – Sara reported she and her volunteers made over 700 contacts with nursing homes and residents. She currently has four volunteers and would like to build it to ten. She is currently working on the second part of the PREVNT grant which provides staff training on senior-to-senior bullying reduction. She has a training scheduled for February. To date, Iosco, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties have had full participation from all of their nursing homes. She sent information to all the Adult Foster Care Homes and Homes for the Aged in our region on the Ombudsman Program with an invitation to have her come to their homes to present the anti-bullying training. She also sent them the survey on bullying, which she encourages all staff to complete. Sara will also be putting the survey out for consumers. She received an invitation to present the training at the Mental Health Conference in May. In addition, she is working on the Best Practices Conference scheduled for May as well as the Annual Elder Abuse Conference held in the fall.

C. Proulx – Do you have examples of bullying for senior center participants? Sara – The survey includes a definition of bullying as well as examples.

**MMAP Program Report** – Susan distributed a report on the Medicare Annual Election Period 2016 for Open Enrollment for 2017. We lost the savings challenge to Region 10 this year but as a group the two regions accomplished even more than last year, an increase of 68%. Region 9 recorded savings of \$2,151,898 and Region 10 reported \$2,466,458. Forty one counselors in our region reported 3,106 client contacts, 2,722 unduplicated contacts and 3,280 counseling hours. Merianne Tappan had the most client contacts, Jan Williamson had the most counseling hours and Kitty Glomski the most money savings. As you can see, all of your MMAP volunteers are extremely busy. Our focus this month is dealing with problems resulting with changing plans, subsidies, etc. A large focus this year was on the Health Endowment Fund that Blue Cross used to subsidize Medigap. The entire list of those getting the subsidy was not sent until January. They are looking at raising the income guideline to 200% or 250% of poverty. If you feel

someone should have received the subsidy and didn't, contact MMAP and we can re-apply for them. Also this year, for the first time ever, we received honorable mention for the Navigator Award. Susan will be scheduling a new MMAP volunteer training in June. She needs volunteers in Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon. Let her know if you have someone in mind.

G. Guenther – Did you run into any problems with BCBS billing? Susan – Is it a Medigap policy? G. Guenther – My wife and I were both on and because the cost doubled, I dropped mine. They keep billing my wife \$500 a month but it should only be \$170. Susan – There were some instances with joint membership where a spouse could have saved money going to another plan but it wasn't allowed because it was a joint membership. A MMAP volunteer filed a complaint and she won. Now, through 2017, couples are allowed to split their coverage providers. Check with Earlene in Cheboygan about your bill.

D. Fay – I just want to thank you and all of your counselors for all of their work.

**Special Developmental Projects Coordinator Report** – Kara reported she is working on training additional trainers with the carryover of the Michigan Health Endowment Funds. She has programs and trainers in all but one of our counties. She will have another Matter of Balance leader training this year. Funds are available through a purchase of service pool for grandparents raising grandchildren.

### **Advocacy Reports**

**MSAC** – Karl reported his last meeting was December 7<sup>th</sup>. The House Chamber designated December 7<sup>th</sup> as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and honored a Pearl Harbor veteran. They also designated Pearl Harbor Remembrance Week. MSAC members also met with the DHS Director who is a very strong advocate for seniors and Betsy Weil, who discussed the lame duck session. The Energy Bill Laurie covered was also discussed. Karl received an email on House and Senate bills that will take away the limitations and restrictions on taxing pensions. He doesn't feel the impact will be good for seniors because they will be able to tax the entire pension amount. This will be a point of discussion when MSAC meets this Wednesday. If you have any issues or topics you want MSAC to discuss, email Karl at: [schreinerka@charter.net](mailto:schreinerka@charter.net).

**State Advisory Council** – Chuck reported the groups continue to work by phone. They will meet again in March to draw everything together.

**AASA** – Dan Doezema reported he is trying to consolidate and streamline the AIP process and hopes to have the draft out soon.

**State Commission on Aging** - John Briggs reported they last met in December and will next meet in February. They approved all the AIPs in the state and reviewed the funding formula which all the Commissioners seem to be comfortable with keeping it as is. Richard Kline has been appointed Senior Director of AASA. On April 21<sup>st</sup> we will have a joint meeting with the State Advisory Council. Don't forget, May 17<sup>th</sup> is Older Michigianians Day this year. John also reported that he volunteered Laurie to hold the Commission's October meeting in Alpena. It will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> followed by a public hearing. John reminded the group that all of their volunteer efforts and service provision is what makes the aging services work. Call or email him with any questions or concerns.

### **Local Updates from Council Members**

D. Fay reported the Presque Isle COA has a new assistant director in Posen as well as two new administrative assistants. The COA has applied for grants to purchase two defibrillators for the centers and construction is starting in Posen for new lighting.

### **Action Items**

Approval of the 2017 Meeting Schedule – A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to approve the meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Appoint Nominating Committee for 2017 – Dennis Fay and Carol Athan have agreed to continue as committee members. Corky Proulx also volunteered. A motion was made by K. Schreiner with support from D. Huff to accept the appointment of the 2017 Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

### **Question or Comments**

None

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from C. Corwin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm by Chairman E. Corpe.