

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, December 4, 2017 at 1:00 pm
NEMCSA Annex Conference Room - Alpena

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

Roll Call

M. Fox, S. Wojnar, D. Huff, E. Corpe, J. Drozdowski, E. Corpe, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller
Excused: A. Lange J. Johnston, V. Zygiel, M. Newmann

Unexcused: J. Mathis

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Liz Kowalski, Susan Bowen, Kelly Robinette

Guests: John Briggs, Barbara Kay, Dave Bisgrove, Erica Damstetter

Quorum – yes

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. Fay with support from D. Henig to approve the minutes of October 24, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Dennis Fay reported on information received reappointing Margaret Fox as Alcona Delegate, Ann Lange as Alpena Delegate, and Darlene Huff as Alpena Member-at-Large. D. Fay made a motion with support from D. Henig to accept the reappointments to this Council. Motion carried.

Speaker – Dave Bisgrove, Legal Services of Northern Michigan

Dave gave a brief update on the services provided with grant funds received from the AAA to provide services for individuals age 60 and older. They handled a lot of estate planning cases and dealt with debt collectors bothering seniors. There is never enough funding to meet the demand for services. He also introduced Erica Damstetter who will be working under a grant from the Victims of Crime Act. She will be handling elder abuse cases. There have been some questions raised by this Council regarding calls to Legal Services and the inability to get through to a person. Dave said the 800 number we were given years ago that is at the bottom of our agenda is for the Escanaba office. Please do not use that number and call 989-356-9081 for Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Montmorency, Ogemaw and Presque Isle Counties. For the other counties call the Gaylord office at 989-705-1067.

This week NEMCSA will begin hosting presentations on services through a grant under Step Forward Michigan. \$38 million in funds are available statewide. The program assists people behind on their mortgage, taxes, association fees, etc. The funds can also help with property subject to reverse mortgage and property taxes. Most people don't realize when they get a reverse mortgage they are buying a financial services product that is fairly expensive to maintain on a monthly and annual basis. Very often the people entering into a reverse mortgage are doing so because of financial hardship. It's an attractive package to those in need. He has seen six foreclosures this past year against property owned by seniors with reverse mortgages.

C. Proulx – How does that process get into foreclosure? Dave - A reverse mortgage is a regulated product and sold to people based on the equity of the house and the youngest age of the borrower. They borrow against the equity in their home. The more equity and older they are, the more they can borrow. The money you receive comes with closing costs plus monthly fees for services each month. Every month the amount owed goes up. Not paying the property tax is considered an episode of default. When the borrower dies, the lender does not pursue the estate. They are limited to the recovered amount borrowed plus the fees. The lender collects the difference through FHA.

C. Corwin – I know a case where a nursing home resident had an Advance Directive and a guardian. The guardian retired and the court appointed another one. The new guardian may not determine the code status for the client. Dave – You're talking about a Patient Advocate Agreement. For the guardian in this situation, if there is a valid Patient Advocate Agreement prior to the second one, the code status would stick. A Living Will is a statement of your wishes if you become incapacitated. In Michigan, the Advance Directive is a form of a Power of Attorney which gives you the legal authority. You would have to go to court to disconnect someone from life support but you could offer the living will to a judge as evidence of what their wishes were. It does not give the guardian automatic authority. The paperwork must be in the hospital file before the decision needs to be made. The documents are only used in a hospital setting.

C. Corwin – Isn't there a new statewide clearinghouse to record these? Dave – I have heard that but I don't know it for a fact but it would make sense.

C. Proulx – If someone wants to do a new advance directive, can they print it off the internet? Dave – No. Every hospital in the state has advance directive forms for free.

C. Proulx – Do you need to have it notarized? Dave – You need the signatures of two witnesses and the person you are designating to make your decisions.

For anyone who is treated by the VA, they have their own set of forms. Do one of their medical information forms, authorization forms, and durable power of attorney forms. It's a good safeguard.

D. Fay – I noticed when filling out information for the doctor, the form now asks if you have a DNR and other paperwork in place. Dave – A DNR is different than a Patient Advocate Agreement which goes over the top of the DNR.

Erica Damstetter reported on her role at Legal Service of Northern Michigan under the Elder Justice Initiative. She will focus on victims of elder abuse and pursue claims for crimes. She will work out of the Alpena office and will cover all of northern Michigan. She defined what elder abuse is. The victim must be 55 or older and there are no income requirements. She will

focus on outreach to senior centers, nursing homes and other organizations working with seniors as well as law enforcement. Her contact number is also 989-356-9081.

C. Corwin – The new admission forms for nursing homes require mandatory arbitration. It says the nursing home is not liable and you will not be admitted unless you sign it. What can you do about that? Dave – The general mentality with the federal government is that mandatory arbitration is preferred. Unfortunately the nursing homes can do it.

Directors Report

Federal Budget - The Senate passed their version of the budget deal. Now it has to be reconciled with the House version before it goes to the president for signing. We are hoping a resolution is reached by December 8th. The main provisions of the senate version include: Seven tax brackets, It doubles the standard deduction and eliminates the personal exemption, Eliminates state and local income tax deductions and limits the deduction on property tax, Expands the child tax credit, Preserves the Alt Min tax, Preserves estate tax but exempts most people, Medical expense deduction down to 7.5% of income from 10% but only for two years, Repeals the individual mandate for ACA, and triggers major cuts to Medicare because the budget bill increases the deficit by \$1.5 trillion. Sequestration would come into play.

AAA Staff Changes - We have recently had a supervisor and a nurse in our West Branch office resign along with our Clinical Quality Specialist in the Cheboygan office. In addition, we have three case managers in the Alpena office at risk of layoff. We are working to secure an alternate contract with a health plan, but there are no guarantees.

Michigan Health Endowment Fund – Congratulations to the Otsego COA who received a \$363,320 grant for the expansion of their Innovation Technology and Aging Programs.

RSVP To Host Veterans – Honoring the service of our military veterans, all veterans are invited to enjoy coffee and donuts beginning January 4, 2018 the first Thursday of every month from 9am – 10am at the Roscommon County Airport, 5218 E. Houghton Lake Drive, Houghton Lake, MI.

MI Health Policy Forum – Laurie attended the forum held on November 13th in Lansing. Discussion centered around budgetary constraints at the state and federal level. Utilizing Managed Care Organizations is a strategy they seem to favor. 30% of Michigan Medicaid is spent on long term care. 75% of Medicaid beneficiaries are in managed care but they are not 75% of dual eligible. We are trying to find legislators that will help protect the MI Choice and what has been built. It's an uphill battle.

Diabetes PATH Accreditation – We had some problems with our application which were corrected and resubmitted. We have a phone meeting scheduled for this Wednesday and hope it all goes well.

MMAP - Kudos to Susan and her volunteers for the great work so far during open enrollment. They have done an enormous amount of work this past month.

RAC Meetings – We are required to have six meetings a year and currently average about nine. The meetings are expensive to our budget. What are your thoughts on reducing our meetings to the required six? We have certain months that we have to have a meeting; January for elections,

April for RAC appointments to the NEMCSA Policy Board, May for the AIP, July for the RFP contract recommendations, and October to set the November/December meeting. Discussion followed.

C. Proulx - I think that's a good idea.

J. Drozdowski - What happens if you don't have a quorum? Laurie - We would call another meeting for required action items.

C. Corwin – It's a much lighter burden and easier to work my schedule around.

A motion was made by C. Proulx with support from D. Huff to go to six monthly meetings (unless more are needed): January, April, May, July, October and the combined November/December. Motion carried.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Minutes of September 23, 2017 were distributed. Jim Mathis was not present, no report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan no report.

Ombudsman Program Report – Laurie distributed copies of the updated Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program brochure. Sara's program accomplishments for fiscal year 2017 are attached.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen reported open enrollment ends December 7th. She distributed advocacy information which includes your local congress person. The House is not supporting SHIP in their budget.

Open Enrollment - Preliminary numbers are through December 1st and only includes information reported so far. There are some discrepancies in the state reporting system so the figures are low. The state is looking into it. So far we have reported 2,341 client contacts, 2,479 hours of counseling, and \$1,613,630.80 in savings but Susan knows we have saved closer to \$1.7 million.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she has been very busy. She is in the fourth session of her CCC workshops in East Tawas. That workshop is at capacity and she started a wait list for another one. She will work to recruit for leaders in Iosco County as well as the others. All CCC trainers are to send her their 2017-18 training schedule along with COA directors for their planned workshops. On April 24, 2018 the AAA will provide a Caregiver Empowerment and Wellness Conference at the Diocese of Gaylord. It will be an all-day event with speakers, lunch and respite provided. She will have more to report as the conference comes together.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – No report. Need a volunteer.

State Advisory Council – Chuck Corwin reported the SAC continues to work on the Volunteerism report through group phone conferences. His area of focus for the larger report is "Orientation of Volunteers and Volunteer Trainers/Assigned Staff". Their next meeting is scheduled conference call is January 22, 2018.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported they did not meet in November and are scheduled to meet on December 15th. He is still receiving comments from the other Commissioners appreciating the testimony offered at public hearing in Alpena. This will be an interesting year with elections for state representatives and governor.

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

Action Items:

MSAC Appointment – We continue to look for a volunteer. Please consider this position to advocate in Lansing. Hotel and mileage are paid. ***Update: Corleen Proulx has volunteered to represent us on the MSAC.**

Local Updates, Questions or Concerns

Iosco Delegate – J. Drozdowski introduced Barbara Kay, Vice Chair of the Iosco COA Board. He hopes she will replace him as delegate to this Council.

Adjourn

A motion was made by E. Henig with support from M. Hiller to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:30 pm by Chairman Corpe.

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Annual Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2017 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

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, 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 28th. 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 8th.

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 27th 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 7th. The House Chamber designated December 7th 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.

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 21st we will have a joint meeting with the State Advisory Council. Don't forget, May 17th 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 20th 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.

**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 Dzieszinski 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

MMAP 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.

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 led 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.

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, April 24, 2017 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

M. Fox, S. Wojnar, A. Lang, D. Huff, M. Newman, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Johnston, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, J. Mathis, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin

Excused: J. Drozdowski,

Unexcused: V. Zygiel

Guests: John Briggs, Dan Doezema, Denise Parrott, Christine Losinski, Lisa Bolen

Aging Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Kelly Robinette, Liz Kowalski, Susan Bowen, 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. Fay with support from D. Henig to approve the minutes of March 27, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Cheboygan Member-at-Large – D. Fay reported George Guenther has retired as the Cheboygan Member-at-Large from the Council. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from C. Athan to accept his resignation and to send a letter of appreciation for his service to the Council. Motion carried.

Roscommon Member-at-Large – D. Fay reported we received notification that Madaline Hiller has been nominated to fill the vacant position as Roscommon Member-at-Large. A motion was made by D. Fay with support from K. Schreiner to accept the appointment. Motion carried.

Speaker – COA Happenings – Denise Parrott, Director of the Presque Isle COA

Denise introduced her Assistant Director, Christine Losinski. The Presque Isle County Council on Aging was founded in 1973. They are a Council on Aging so they are not under county government but the county does play a fiduciary role with millage dollars and transportation. They have a ten member board of directors, 28 employees, and two fully operating senior centers; one in Posen and one in Onaway. Denise has been the director since 2014 and Christine was hired in February of this year. Presque Isle has a small population of 13,376, 26% of which are age 65 and older. The home delivered meal program is the biggest. Of the 49,000 meals served in 2016, 75% were home delivered meals. They have 4 delivery routes, 2 in Posen and 2 in Onaway. Meals are delivered Monday through Thursday with frozen sent for the other 3 days. Congregate meals are served Sunday through Thursday. The seniors in Rogers City tend to come to the Posen Center. They also

have one satellite site at the Presque Isle Clubhouse that provides a congregate meal once a month. The second satellite site at Huron Beach has opted out of serving meals this year. The COA also provides homemaker, personal care and respite services. They have their own transportation system supported by MDOT and local funds. Three vehicles run Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Christine is their MMAP counselor and a new counselor will be trained this summer. Commodities are provided as well as Kinship and PATH programs. The current budget for this year is \$961,000. They have concerns about the federal cuts and their local millage because although they have always had great support from the community, you never know what will happen. 67% of their funds are from the millage. They continue to have repair needs on their buses and both facilities are aging and in need of repairs and updates. In the past, the Posen site was closed for six months due to a lack of funds so the board is cautious about approving improvements. They did recently approve renovations to the Posen Center. The ceiling was raised, new lighting installed and the dining area painted. A Spring Fling Dance was held as an open house for the public to see. Ninety five came for dinner. They would now like to install air conditioning at the Onaway site. Bids have been received and they hope for board approval. They recently upgraded their one home delivered meal vehicle purchasing a 2016 car to replace it. Discussion followed.

C. Proulx - What do you use the buses for? Denise – The buses are for anyone to use. Regular trips are made for shopping, doctor appointments, hair salons, etc. We struggle to get our seniors to use it. Once a month we make a trip to Alpena and this month we only had five take advantage of it. We are always working to increase our ridership.

C. Proulx – What is the function of your Assistant Director? Denise – Although our population is small, there is plenty to do. She does payroll, disbursements, HR duties, accounts receivable and payable, PATH classes, Kinship and MMAP. The COA initially had one director then we went to co-directors then back to a sole director with an assistant director.

J. Johnston – You have a sparse population but a large area to cover, what percent of the budget is spent on transportation? I know our staff puts on an incredible amount of miles. Denise – I don't know the percentage because our transportation expenses are supported solely by MDOT and millage money so the program wouldn't be on the chopping block right away. We also have three bus drivers who work part-time.

E. Howell – Does your county have public transportation? Denise – No.

K. Schreiner – The participants' perception of the service is that it's for those who are handicapped or very old. We run into that in Crawford County also.

C. Proulx – How are your volunteer numbers? Denise – we only have one volunteer. We advertise in our newsletter, etc. but get no response. The Posen site is in farm country and the Onaway site is six or seven blocks from town. Maybe that has something to do with it.

D. Henig – How many do you get on Sunday? Denise – Sunday is actually our best day. Onaway serves at 1:00 pm and get 40-50 people and Posen serves at 4:00 pm and gets approximately 40-45. During the week they get 12-15 and Onaway a bit more. We even tried offering free transportation to the meals and got no response. It's something we constantly work on.

J. Briggs – Presque Isle has a lot of people in need but they won't tell you they need help. Part of the challenge is they are very independent people. Laurie – Presque Isle was one of the first COAs NEMCSA helped to get incorporated with a \$600 grant and help with writing the incorporation papers.

Miscellaneous Information – E. Corpe congratulated Yvette on completing a 2 ½ day intensive leadership training in Washington DC. He also welcomed new AAA staff member, Liz Kowalski.

Director's Report

AAA Staff – Laurie reported that Kara is retiring as of May 5th. She will leave a big hole in Aging when she leaves and will be missed. Laurie introduced Liz Kowalski who will be taking over for Kara. Liz moved to Michigan over the summer from Washington State where she worked in case management at an Area Agency on Aging, so she is not new to the world of aging. Last week she completed the MOB leader training and is scheduled to take the Master Training in June and the Master Training for the Creating Confident Caregivers in August.

Older Michiganians Day – Handouts distributed. We have not received a lot of response regarding attendance to date. Laurie has 45 tickets for lunch. We need to know who is going so we can utilize all of them. The event will be held in Lansing at the Capital on Wednesday, May 17th. There are a lot of important topics on the platform. The more advocates we have the bigger the impact we will have. One of the platform issues for advocacy is the lack of direct care workers. This is an issue across the state mainly due to the low wages paid. We really appreciate all the in-home workers in our region for the work they do. Other platform issues include: Protecting Medicaid, Rebalance Michigan's Long Term Care Spending, Prevent and Respond to Elder Abuse, Increase Dementia Care and Support, Approve the Home Accessibility Tax Credit and Improve Transportation Programs. The format is a little different this year. Legislators will come to us to meet so there will be a lot less walking. So far Laurie has heard from Ogemaw, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Iosco, Crawford and Roscommon Counties. Alpena is also planning to send a few. Roscommon has a 12 person bus going if Crawford would like to arrange to ride with them room permitting. Please let Laurie know as soon as possible if your county plans to send someone.

Federal Budget Update – Laurie reported we have no news to date. We are funded until this Friday. We'll keep on doing what we're doing. We have our state funds. NEMCSA could potentially lose more than \$6 million overall and the AAA could lose CNCS Volunteer Programs, MMAP, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program along with cuts to other programs. We hope the cuts won't be so extensive. If they block grant Medicaid, it is not clear what would happen to the Waiver Program. Laurie called Senator Stabenow's office this morning but she was unavailable. Senator Bergman was in Gaylord and Escanaba last week. It sounds like the meetings were pretty interesting. For those who are interested, Senator Stabenow will give a presentation on the floor today at 4:30 pm, not sure what the topic is, followed by a vote at 5:30 pm. You can watch both on C-SPAN. E. Corpe distributed a handout of the proposed cuts to NEMCSA and urged everyone to take the information back to their COAs and make people aware of these cuts. There are 100% cuts proposed in several of NEMCSA programs. We need to send letters to our representatives in Washington. This will impact NEMCSA big time.

State budget – The Silver Key Coalition continues to advocate for the \$3.6 million for in home services. The House has voted for lower amounts and the Senate hasn't released their position yet. Other items the legislature is considering are income taxes, the outcome and potential impact of Section 298 report and auto insurance reform.

AIP – Susan is working on this year's Annual Implementation Plan. A public hearing on the plan will be held as part of our meeting next month. Please be sure to attend.

Pre-Bidders Conference – The Pre-Bidders Conference for the 2018 one-year contracts is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th at 10:00 am here in the large conference room at NEMCSA. It will be followed by an AAA/COA Directors meeting in the afternoon.

Alpena Senior Center – Congratulations to the Alpena Senior Center for receiving a \$200,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) to fund a Student Gourmet Project. This is normally not something they fund. A. Lange reported the project is labor intensive and they are moving very slowly in implementing it. The center will work with high school students through Aces Academy to provide them with everything they need to know to work in a professional kitchen, including a mobile garden. There will be an article in the newspaper soon.

MiCafe – The AAA has a MiCafe event planned for May 16th at the Lincoln Senior Center. Seniors interested in applying for food benefits can contact Kelly Robinette to be screened for eligibility and appointments will be scheduled. The screening process will also screen for State Emergency Relief, Healthcare, Medicare Part D Extra Help, the Home Heating Credit and the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Best Practices Conference – Will be held on May 19th at the McMullen Conference Center in Roscommon.

A Day of Training – The AAA held a training for AAA staff, COA staff, and other AAA partners on Wednesday, April 19th at the Forwards Conference Center in West Branch. Topics included Human Trafficking by Trooper Devine, Protect Yourself from Bugs and Other Pests by Kathy Armbruster of Rose Pest Control Services and Meaningful Interactions: Communications in Dementia by Sara Socia. Approximately 80 attended with 37 being AAA staff. Very good information was shared. Thank you to all the COAs that sent staff. C. Corwin – The staff we sent are very enthusiastic about the information they received. They're still talking about it.

MASC – The Michigan Association of Senior Centers is advocating for \$2 million in funding to reinstate senior center funding. It is getting some legislative support. We need your help in advocating for these funds.

Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging – The Commission will be in Alpena on October 20th for a public hearing and monthly meeting. More details will follow once arrangements are finalized.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis reported they haven't met but emails have been exchanged discussing the federal budget cuts.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne reported the directors are scheduled to meet next month.

Ombudsman Program Report – Sara reported the Best Practices Conference is scheduled for May 19th and includes a mental health forum. Sara attended the state quarterly Ombudsman training last month. Involuntary discharges were discussed. A nursing home can give 30-day notice to a resident for non-payment, if another resident is at risk by that person or if the nursing home can no longer provide the care that is needed. Many homes are not giving the 30 days. There are processes we can go through to stop the discharge. It can be a complicated process involving contract review,

resident for non-payment, if another resident is at risk by that person or if the nursing home can no longer provide the care that is needed. Many homes are not giving the 30 days. There are processes we can go through to stop the discharge. It can be a complicated process involving contract review, hearings, level of care issues, etc. Sara is also working on the Elder Abuse Conference planned for August in Otsego County. The PREVNT surveys are coming in and we finished filming our training video which we plan to show you at a future meeting. Also, Sara will present on senior bullying at the Mental Health and Aging Conference in Lansing next month.

MMAP Program Report – Susan reported the fiscal year for the program ended March 31st. program had a total of 5,676 client contacts, an increase of 945 from last year, 861 with disabilities, an increase of 173, 3,814 were low income, an increase of 935 and 6,154 total counseling which is an increase of 1,173 from last year. 99% were white, non-Hispanic. The majority of contacts made were by people between the ages of 65-74 followed by those age 75-84. 72 people identified a language other than English as their primary. These are all unofficial numbers. A new MMAP counselor training will be held in Alpena June 13-15. May 2nd is the deadline to enroll so they have time to complete the required online portion of the training prior to the classroom training in June. Susan thanked Dan Doezema for doing a fantastic job with the AIP document updates. We only have to collect any new information. It makes the process much easier and we really appreciate it. Currently the 54 SHIPs in the nation are funded at \$52 million, the proposed cut is \$49 million. That would be the end of the MMAP. Susan is working with Region 10 AAA staff, Joe Murphy, State MMAP Director and some AASA staff to formulate a game plan to increase funding for the program. Perhaps use state funds to supplement the federal funds. We did receive a 12 month contract but the funding only goes through July. Susan will also attend the national conference in July. She applied to present on volunteer and team building along with the state trainer. Discussion followed:

D. Henig – We're getting more MMAP clients but they want to cut the funds. Susan – Yes, the amount of funds they want to cut would pretty much eliminate the program. Part of the problem is that MMAP used to be under the CMS and then it was moved to ACL which has a very small budget compared to CMS.

K. Schreiner – One of the benefits of MMAP is that we as counselors are impartial as to which insurance program you choose. If you talk to an agent from a specific company, they will try to sell their product which may or may not be the best choice for the client. I don't think people at the federal level understand that. Our counselors explain the various programs. We make sure they understand their options.

C. Proulx – Can you send this material to be printed in a senior magazine or newspaper where local people can be made aware of this issue. Susan – Yes we can. Sometimes we don't do enough of that type of outreach. Laurie – It's a fine line between educating and lobbying. We can't lobby.

Special Developmental Projects Coordinator Report – Liz Kowalski will report next month.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – K. Schreiner has no report this month. Their next meeting is this Wednesday.

State Commission on Aging – J. Briggs missed the last meeting due to knee surgery. The Commission is looking at a new meeting format to better incorporate both the Commission and Advisory Council meetings.

NEMCSA – Lisa reported that NEMCSA is not allowed to lobby but would appreciate if you could advocate for us regarding the proposed federal cuts. The handout is a good tool to educate yourself on NEMCSA programs.

Local Updates from Council Members

C. Proulx – MCCOA will have a community garden this year. Seeds were donated and we will try straw bale gardening. The process was explained and the end results will be like having raised gardens with no weeds. There will be 12 bales at the Atlanta Senior Center.

Action Items

None

Question or Comments

Our next meeting will be May 22nd in conjunction with a public hearing on the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan. We encourage your attendance to keep the process moving forward.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm by Chairman E. Corpe.

**Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging and
Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 AIP
Monday, May 22, 2017
NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena**

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

Roll Call

S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, M. Newman, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Johnston, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: M. Fox, J. Mathis and J. Drozdowski

Unexcused:

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Susan Bowen, Connie McQuarrie, Yvette Smigelski, Becky Hawks and Liz Kowalski

Guests: Dan Doezema, John Briggs,

Quorum – Yes

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by C. Athan with support from K. Schreiner 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 April 24, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Roscommon Member-at-Large – C. Athan introduced Madaline Hill who was nominated by the Roscommon County Commission on Aging to fill the vacant position. A motion was made by D. Huff with support from D. Henig to accept the nomination. Motion carried.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to close the meeting and open the public hearing. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan

Susan Bowen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). A copy of the draft plan and her presentation were distributed. This is the second year of the Multi-Year Plan. She reviewed the following: What is the AIP? What is in it? The Older Americans Act (OAA) and its purpose, OAA Titles, The Core Functions of the Area Agency on Aging, The Planning and Service Area and Focal Points, Services Leveraged by our COA Partners, State and Regional Goals, AAA Direct Services, Regional Priorities, Funding Considerations, Purchase of Service, Planned Services and Area Plan Budget, Advocacy Strategy and Older Michigianians Day. The following are comments made and questions that were addressed.

M. Downs – I have a friend in Ohio, would these services be available in Ohio? Susan – Maybe not the exact services we have but certainly the ones through the Older Americans Act. Susan gave her a contact number for services in Ohio.

C. Proulx – Does Probate Court get invited to your Elder Abuse Conference? Susan – Yes, Probate Judges have participated in past conferences. Local law enforcement is also invited. Public Guardians have been invited in the past but we never had a good response from that group.

C. Corwin – People seemed more prepared to talk with legislators at this year's Older Michiganians Day.

K. Schreiner – It also helped that the legislators came to us. It made people feel more comfortable rather than sitting in their office.

C. Proulx – Are we still doing the assistive devices alert button? Laurie – Yes. It's a very small pot of money that is mostly used to provide PERS units for Care Management clients.

C. Proulx – Is a unit for adult day care fifteen minutes or an hour? Susan – A unit is one hour. Laurie – Waiver is the only program that deals with fifteen minute increments.

The deadline for written and/or electronic testimony is June 5, 2017. Send any written comments to the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging Attn: Laurie Sauer, Director, 2375 Gordon Road, Alpena, MI 49707 or email sauerl@nemcsa.org.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by C. Athan with support from D. Fay to close the public hearing and re-open the meeting of the Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 1:30 p.m.

Directors Report

AAA Staff – Laurie introduced Becky Hawks. Her revised job description as the AAA Financial Services Assistant puts her into the administrative side of the AAA rather than in Care Management and Waiver programs where she was previously. As part of her duties, she will be visiting the COAs helping Yvette with assessments and attending board meetings.

Older Michiganians Day – Laurie reported the day went really well. We had a good group with a total of 18 people representing 6 of our 12 counties including 5 COA Directors and 3 Regional Council members. We would love even more next year. We were able to speak with all but one of our legislators, Representative Chatfield was not available. Representative Jason Wentworth expressed interest in visiting with some of our clients to get a better understanding of our programs. Senator Stamas and Representative Sue Allor are also interested in speaking at one of our Regional Council on Aging meetings. Karl will follow-up with legislators on our invitation to speak at one of our meetings when he goes down to Lansing on Wednesday for his next MSAC meeting.

State Revenue Estimating Conference – The Revenue Consensus Panel met on May 17th. The General Fund is down due to personal and corporate tax collections being down and school aid being up. We need to keep up our advocacy efforts. The House proposes an increase of

\$750,000 for Home Delivered Meals and \$1.5 million for In-Home Services. The Senate and Governor's version is twice that amount.

AASA – We were notified by the state office that they will have PREVNT grant funds available next year. This is the CORE (Campaign of Respect and Empathy) program that Sara worked to develop the anti-bullying campaign and presentations. The anti-bullying trainings will start in June. Kate Schulz, who has been working with Sara on this project, resigned effective June 13th. This is a very part-time position, one day a week.

American Health Care Act (AHCA) – In Washington the House passed their version which will allow for the elimination of community ratings for premiums. Currently, the community ratings spread the costs across all insured making it more affordable for the sick. If the AHCA eliminates that pricing strategy, older, sicker adults will pay more (up to five times more) for their premiums than the young and healthy. This also includes an \$880 billion cut to Medicaid by changing the way it's funded jeopardizing optional programs like the MI-Choice Waiver. There is no guarantee this program will survive. The Senate is set to make their decision by early June.

Aging Achievement Award – The AAA recently received notice from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging that we will receive an Aging Achievement Award for our work in the Elder Abuse Prevention category for the CORE (Campaign of Respect and Empathy) program. This is a result of all the work done by Sara, Kate and Susan on the anti-bullying project. We are very proud of their work.

Best Practices Conference – Laurie attended the conference on Friday. It was a great turnout with approximately 80 in attendance. The speakers were all very good. The Best Practices Committee did an outstanding job.

MiCafe – Elder Law of Michigan will conduct a MiCafe Application Assistant Training in Grayling at The Nature Center on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. More details to follow. The trained MiCafe Assistants screen applicants for the Bridge Card and other services they may be eligible for such as the Medicare Savings Program, Medicaid, and utility assistance. We just sponsored an event at the Lincoln Senior Center last week and helped five seniors sign up for food assistance. This is a nice service for the COAs to offer to seniors.

State Advisory Council – The MSAC has been working to complete their Creative Aging Report and is looking to highlight programs in our region and across the state. If you have any enrichment activities with crafts, writing, or the arts going on at your centers, please let Laurie know by June 16th and she will pass them along to Chuck for MSAC.

Senate Bill 135 – Senate Bill 135 contains a threat to the MI-Choice program, Section 1852. This Section contains language directing the DHHS to implement a pilot program that would require individuals receiving home and community based services through the Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program to transition to a long-term service and support program administered by an integrated care organization. This is concerning. J. Briggs – This is being added to the bill late in the process so it may not make it. This was done by one managed care company. We need to try to stop it at this point. This is a good topic of conversation if you are out advocating. A copy of a Comparison of Home and Community Based Long Term Care Programs was distributed.

C. Corwin – The last payment to the counties was held back. Was it ever sent out? Laurie – No not yet because the state didn't receive their allocation of federal dollars.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis was not here. No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan reported the COA Directors are scheduled to meet on June 1st.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Report – Sara is off today, no report.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen distributed a handout to help protect funding for supporting Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries. This document contains a lot of good information for advocating and educating your elected officials. Senators Chris Murphy, Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow are signing in support. Susan will be training six new MMAP volunteers next month. Another training is planned for September.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she will attend a Master Training for PATH on June 6th through June 9th. She had to submit an application and go through an interview process prior to the training. This will certify her to train new leaders. She will also cross train for the Diabetes and Pain PATH. In August she will take the two-day training for Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC). Assessments are underway on the Adult Day Care Centers in our region. One has been completed and three are scheduled. She hopes to have them completed by August. These are conducted annually and includes a general review of their criteria, needs assessments, service plans, staff training records, emergency procedures and fire safety compliance. She does a physical walk through of the facility and talks to staff and participants. Any compliance issues must be addresses within 30 days. Liz is also working on quality assurance for all the trained PATH leaders and is reviewing their files as well as the information in the data base. All leaders need an updated background check every five years.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – K. Schreiner reported he attended Older Michiganians Day. If you look through the platform for the day, it contains a lot of what we advocate for with MSAC. One issue we need to continue to address is the need for standards for home based workers. Many of the people caring for older adults in their homes have no training. Elder abuse is another topic. A series of laws were passed years ago sighting the need for more protections for aging adults. Maybe the laws need to be redefined. Karl will draw up a list of key points that he can hand out to our legislators when he does his visits for MSAC. If there is anything you want him to advocate for, let him know. He would be happy to include it in his advocacy efforts.

J. Johnson – An elderly lady in our town recently advertised for an in home caregiver. I know the person she hired and I'm not sure it was a wise choice. Is there any state licensing for home care providers? Laurie – Unfortunately no. That's a big issue right now. Persons working for a private individual in their home don't even need a background check.

C. Proulx – You need to report to Adult Protective Services if you suspect any type of abuse.

State Advisory Council – C. Corwin reported the group continues to make improvements to their report. One of the problems they are having is it includes pages and pages of references. The group will meet again in Lansing on June 16th. Regarding the home care worker issue, last year the State Advisory Council produced the Direct Care Worker Report that went to all the AAAs, COAs, legislators, and the Governor. We had a path of mandated training and education.

We are hearing that people have not heard about it. Our workgroups worked on this for a year. I don't want to reinvent the wheel. Laurie – We can get that report back out to our legislators.

John Briggs – There are several issues with home based workers including; finding one, what they are paid, and trainings. Laurie – We did provide training through the BTBQ training series. But it's not required. That program is being revamped this year.

C. Proulx – If home care workers go through the COAs, they get trained. It's the private sector workers we have no control over. Laurie – Right, there are varied trainings being provided by the aging network.

C. Corwin – Reports show that in the next five years we will need 25,000 more in home care workers. We want them to be better trained. Maybe we need to have the State Commission revisit this issue as well. J. Briggs – I will have a talk with Dona Wishart about this.

Local Updates From Council Members

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported May is Older American's Month and he has been doing his part by visiting a few of the senior centers in our region. He had dinner in Posen on Mother's Day and complimented them on their building improvement project. He attended the Foster Grandparent Program recognition on Friday and stopped at the Crawford COA on his way down to his last Commission meeting. Yesterday he was at the Alpena Senior Center. The NAPIS report was given to the Commission. It doesn't appear that much has changed from last year. The Commission was updated on AAA 1-B. They are currently on probation and making progress on the accountability of their funding. Eric Burke was also there to give an update on the AIP process. John recounted his attendance at the MSU Commencement in Ann Arbor when President Lyndon Johnson gave his speech on the Great Society reforms establishing the Older Americans Act.

AASA – Dan Doezema reported he went out on the financial assessment we conducted at the Presque Isle Council on Aging. He reported the AAA did a really good job. John's right, the senior center did look great. The Section 1852 pilot program put in to the legislature that will affect the Waiver program is a concern. These companies are there to make money. It's a concern as to what the future is going to look like. There's a perception that it will quickly save money which isn't the case.

Action Items:

Endorsement of the 2018 Annual Implementation Plan. A motion was made by C. Corwin with support from D. Henig to endorse the 2018 AIP and submit it to the NEMCSA Policy Board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Questions or Concerns

E. Corpe reminded the group the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26. Also, please remember our fallen veterans this Memorial Day.

Adjourn

A motion was made by K. Schreiner with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:27 p.m. by Chairman Corpe.

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, June 26, 2017 at 1:00 pm
ESD Building - Alpena

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 by Chairman E. Corpe.

Roll Call

M. Fox, S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, M. Newman, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Johnston, M. Tappan, C. Athan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: J. Drozdowski, J. Mathis

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Liz Kowalski, Yvette Smigelski, Becky Hawks, Susan Bowen, Heidi Powers, Lisa Bolen

Guests: Rep. Sue Allor, John Briggs, John Murphy, Suzan Krey, Annie Hepburn

Quorum – yes

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to approve the minutes of May 22, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

No report.

SCP and FGP Update - Heidi Powers, Project Director

Heidi passed around a booklet about the three Senior Corps programs in the state. A handout was distributed and reviewed on volunteer programs updates. The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs are two of the three Senior Corps Programs. The third is the RSVP directed by Amy Fuller. Senior Corps is the federal funding source. Our volunteer programs also receive state funds through AASA along with local support. In program year 2016-2017, 57 Foster Grandparents served with an average enrollment of 49 and an average age of 72. They serve in 23 schools throughout the area. The program is back up to healthy enrollment numbers. In 2015-2016 the Foster Grandparent Program served 184 students who demonstrated gains in reading, math, behavior management and individual special needs as a result of the program. The Senior Companion Program had 37 serving in program year 2016-2017 with an average enrollment of 36 and an average age of 76. Companions served at 24 stations throughout the area. In 2015-2016, 146 individuals received companionship and/or respite services. Of that number, 135 experienced decreased isolation, 75 increased access to services, and 117 made additional social contacts. The program is currently under-enrolled due to attrition. We can go

up to 45 volunteers. Our recruiting efforts are paying off as we have several pending. So please refer anyone you think may be interested and eligible.

Both programs benefit the participants and seniors. It reduces isolation and increases access to other resources leading to better health and independence. Participants remain physically and mentally engaged. Both programs benefit the community at large by increasing the academic success of children and reducing the need for long term care for seniors. Participants receive a stipend of \$2.65 per hour for a minimum of 20 hours per week. They also receive mileage reimbursement as well as excess liability insurance and auto insurance for those that drive. Heidi relayed two stories of how these programs benefit and change participant's lives for the better. Discussion followed.

M. Downs – The 40 or so is for what? Heidi – A given year total enrollment for SCP is 45.

E. Corp – Keep this handout and use it as a tool for talking points when advocating to your legislators because these are two of the programs slated to be eliminated in the federal budget.

Representative Sue Allor

Sue reported she typically travels down to Lansing on Mondays for work on Tuesday through Thursday. Last Tuesday was their last day in session so she is back home holding coffee hours to meet with constituents and attending other meetings throughout her district. She is on the Appropriations Committee and reported both the House and Senate passed the state budget. It is just waiting for the Governor's signature. The passed budget included \$4 million for adult services staffing, \$10 million for nutrition education, \$6.8 million to maintain the funding for the Heat and Eat programs at the federal level. \$2.1 million for in home services, and \$2.1 million for meals on wheels with \$1.5 million of that to focus on the wait lists. Also being proposed is an increase of .25 cents an hour for direct care workers. After a year, those making under \$10.90 will get another .25 cent an hour increase. Sue will clarify with Laurie exactly which workers have been identified for these increases. Sue also shared that her mother passed away a month ago at the age of 88. Her care exposed her to what the elderly deal with on a daily basis for medical care, transportation, isolation, medication costs, services needed in home and what is available. She is very much aware of the needs of the elderly. Our median age is 76 in our region. We have a shortage of medical workers. To address this shortage, she is aware of large medical facilities who are looking at seniors in high school that are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field to focus on paying college tuition for becoming a registered nurse, etc. Discussion followed:

C. Corwin – The additional .25cents for care workers, is that coming out of state funds? Is it a mandated amount? If that applies to the COAs and their staff, where will the funding come from? Laurie – I believe this refers to Adult Home Help workers. The \$3 million is coming from the general funds.

C. Corwin – I recently spoke with Daire Rendon about our concern with the lack of qualified direct care workers. The State Advisory Council developed a report on direct care workers. Have you seen it or heard of it? Daire went on to say as far as she knew nobody was doing anything about addressing this issue. Our intent was to get the report into the hands of all the legislators. Sue – I am aware of the report and will touch base with Daire on this issue. I know in dealing with my parents' health issues the caregiver turnover was pretty rapid which can greatly affect a person's quality of care.

S. Krey – This increase for home healthcare workers does affect our COAs because now we need to compete with the increased wage and we don't have the funding to cover it. We will be fighting even harder to maintain the staff we have.

C. Proulx – We as seniors really have to worry about the funding for Medicare and Medicaid.

Sue – The concern is the unknown. We don't know all of what will happen with the health insurance at the federal level. At the state level we are trying to create different options but a lot is unknown. Everyone wants the cost of car insurance to come down but what happens when the per-vehicle fee goes away? Do the individuals currently receiving benefits get placed on Medicaid?

C. Proulx – Would it be beneficial to have the block grant?

D. Fay – The Michigan Education Association (MEA) has a surplus of money. What is the state going to do with the extra funds? Sue – The focus is to educate the kids. There are counties that have the ability to put millage dollars towards education and others that don't. This leaves a gap. The state is looking at the Two Times Formula. For example, if one school district is getting \$100 per student, the formula will allow the other school districts to receive two times that amount per student. This will close the gap in funding between school districts. This year there was a push to give \$100 to every student but that isn't going to close the gap. In Lansing we are stressing the two times formula to close the gap with a goal to educate the kids and put a focus on the shortage in technical and skills trades such as plumbing and electrical.

E. Corpe – I met with Daire in May and we talked about the cuts in the federal budget. If they do make these cuts what can we get from the state to make up for these cuts? The Senior Corps Programs and MMAP are scheduled to be cut. Will the state offset the cuts? Sue – Those decisions go through the Appropriations Committee which is a total process starting in January and ending in June. I would anticipate any issues on the horizon for cuts, the time to make legislators aware of the issues is now so come January, those on the Appropriations Committee will be aware of the issues. Keep the information flow going.

S. Krey – We are having trouble with DHS payments. Our DHS is requiring our board president to give his social security number in order to provide payment. He is refusing. We may be in a situation where we will not receive funds from DHS. Sue – I'm familiar with what's happening. We're getting different bits of information. I was told that is a requirement but if you are a non-profit, you can use your Federal ID number. It's posing a lot of questions and conversation. Laurie – This is a newer requirement designed to aid in fraud detection and conflicts of interest. It's a federal issue. This will be a requirement for the MI Choice Program as well.

S. Krey – Is this a problem others are having? This is a particular problem with our board. Lisa – Yes, we have that problem at NEMCSA. Sue – This is the time to call your federal legislators; Moolenaar, Bergman, Kildee, and Stabenow.

E. Howell – Could you clarify, are the checks being issued to the COA? Laurie – Yes, they receive payment if providing to Medicaid recipients. They want the board chair's social security number when authorizing for payment.

E. Howell – The yearly NAPIS form asks for your social security number also. Sue – Yes, it's ironic we tell people not to give their social security number out because of fraud and now they require it.

Directors Report

Senate Budget Bill 135 – Section 1852 of the bill contained language directing the DHHS to implement a pilot program that would require individuals receiving home and community based services through the Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program to transition to a long-term service and support program administered by an integrated care organization. We provided a lot of information to legislators in opposition. The decision was reversed and the section was removed.

LTC Arbitration Agreements – We received news from the Justice in Aging about CMS who regulates nursing home residents on a federal level. CMS is proposing to roll back on a critical protection for nursing home residents. It would reverse the recent rule that banned nursing homes from using pre-dispute arbitration agreements. Now nursing home residents would sign an arbitration agreement that says they will not seek legal action if something negative happens. This is very concerning because people generally enter a nursing home during stressful times and in stressful situations, people are likely to sign away their legal rights. This creates a danger to older adults' safety and well-being. A handout was distributed with more information and directions on how to comment on this proposal.

American Health Care Act (AHCA) – The Senate votes this week on the new AHCA. This Act includes a 25% cut to Medicaid over ten years. A handout from Bridges Magazine was distributed on the impact of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act in Region 9's service area. The results are pretty impactful for Michigan. Currently Medicaid pays for 65% of nursing home residents. The Senate Bill repeals payroll tax on wealthy Americans hastening insolvency of Medicare by two years. It contains less subsidy options for those in their 50s and 60s, higher premiums due to age and pre-existing conditions, and it allows states to deny coverage for some services such as ambulance or prescriptions.

Senior Empowerment Day – Region 10 is hosting a Senior Empower Day on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Little River Casino Resort Event Center. Copies of the brochure were distributed.

Aging Assessment – On Monday, July 24, 2017 at 9:00 am Dan Doezema will be at our annex office to conduct an assessment of our programs. All Council members are invited to attend.

State Commission on Aging – Reminder, the Commission will hold their meeting and public hearing in Alpena on October 20, 2017. Tentative location is the Marine Sanctuary. All Council members, COA Directors and staff are encouraged to attend.

MI Choice Waiver Program – The program currently has no wait list for services. We need referrals to fill 13 slots this month. Please refer anyone you feel could benefit from this program.

Volunteer Recognition – The FGP and SCP held their recognition events. They both went very well. Good food and inspiring stories. RSVP had an ice cream social this year with about 50 people. It was a very nice social event. Both Heidi and Amy are doing a great job of infusing new ideas into the volunteer programs.

RFP – Approval will be needed on the recommendations for funding at our July meeting. It is very important that we have a quorum and keep the process moving.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis is not here today. His mother passed away last night. No report.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan reported the directors met in Roscommon in June and reviewed HR issues including hiring, training, HIPAA, and staff evaluations. They will meet next at the Ogemaw COA.

Ombudsman Program Report – No report. Sara is out addressing nursing home complaints today.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen reported she provided a new counselor training two weeks ago for six volunteers for our region and one for the west side of the state. Another training is scheduled for September 12-14 tentatively in Alpena. Applications for anyone interested in the fall training are needed by August 4 to allow time for background checks and processing. It also gives them time to do the online portion of the training. A handout was distributed regarding SHIP/MMAP services. The program is funded through March of 2018. There are currently no funds allotted as of April 1, 2018. This year the program took a \$3 million cut, 15% of which was for Michigan. To make up for the cut, MMAP Central has reduced some staff and has applied for a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for \$150,000 to keep the current year at last year's funding level. Susan reviewed the handout and discussed what MMAP does. Be sure when advocating to legislators to refer to it as SHIP or SHIP/MMAP. In Michigan, SHIP/MMAP helps Medicare beneficiaries make choices among a vast array of options that include an average of more than 25 prescription drug plans, 29 Medicare Advantage plans, and 142 Medigap supplemental insurance policies. The program also provides assistance with Medicare fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeal rights, and enrollment in low-income assistance programs. In 2016, MMAP had 125,524 contacts with Medicare beneficiaries, hosted 239 enrollment events and 2,499 outreach events. Region 9 has 70,454 Medicare beneficiaries with 15,559 being persons with disabilities. 17,670 beneficiaries are considered low-income with income levels at 150% of poverty or less. During the grant year from 4-1-2016 – 3-31-2017, Region 9 served 5,696 beneficiaries, 856 with disabilities, 2,994 low-income beneficiaries and assisted 3,680 people with enrollment in subsidy programs and/or Part D and healthcare plans. MMAP counselors provided 6,081 hours of free healthcare benefits counseling and participated in 830 hours of training saving beneficiaries \$2,640,538.

C. Proulx – Do you have enough funding through March 2018? Susan – We do for this fiscal year. We just started a new fiscal year in March. Cuts were already made to the fiscal year we just started. MMAP Central applied for a \$150,000 grant that will balance the amount that has been cut. We are fully funded at the state level.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she recently completed a 4-day PATH Chronic Disease Self-Management Master Trainer Training. She now must complete two workshops within 12 months of the training and conduct a leaders training within 18 months. There are extended opportunities for two COAs who have not had a PATH workshop offered in our region; the Iosco COA and Cheboygan COA. Iosco has agreed to host a PATH workshop at the Oscoda Center one day a week for six weeks from July 21 – August 25th. She is waiting to hear back from the Cheboygan COA. There is an outreach effort by Pastor Kathleen Rowe and the Tawas Area Presbyterian Church in Iosco County. They have developed a community

engagement task force to address goals for community engagement. They recognize that their county has one of the worst health rankings in the state. Liz looked up the county health rankings and the four worst counties identified were Genesee, Iosco, Arenac and Lake. The taskforce is interested in hearing the communities' needs and determining how they can help meet those needs. They want to be a resource for the community and work with organizations such as ours. This is a great opportunity to build a strong community relationship and utilize programs that are community directed such as the Evidence-Based Disease Prevention Programs (EBDP). Liz reached out to the Iosco COA to inform Dale of the church's effort. The COA has offered their support in the church's efforts. Liz will attend a dementia presentation hosted by the church this Thursday and offer AAA and EBDP information and resources.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Karl Schreiner reported MSAC is done meeting for the summer. Laurie covered a lot of the topics they discuss. He stressed that he is our advocate to the legislators in Lansing and encouraged the Council to follow the senior issues and let him know if there is anything you need him to address. The problem is that most of the time he talks with staff members, sometimes the information doesn't get passed on well to the legislator.

State Advisory Council – Everyone received a copy of the 2016 Annual Report on Direct Care Workers: Training, Certification, Accountability and Retention. Chuck Corwin reported they are in the final editing process for this year's assignment, the Creative Aging Report.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported their last meeting was in Flint on June 16th at McFarland Home which is for women only. The Commission did approve the state plan which is the framework of our regional plans. The group is very active in their advocacy efforts, writing letters and speaking to appropriate programs. SCSEP funding was approved. Hopefully by October we'll know what the federal budget will look like. The Commission will meet next on July 21st in Iron Mountain. One topic of discussion has been emergency preparedness. Phil Lewis, Director of Emergency Preparedness at the state level reported they held a drill dealing with a major power outage. Are we able to deal with emergencies at a regional and county level and are we doing enough to be prepared? We need to pay attention to this issue and be sure we can take care of the seniors in our region. Laurie – The COAs have emergency plans in place and agreements with the community entities to be warming centers and the ability to use their kitchens in emergencies.

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

Action Items:

None

Local Updates, Questions or Concerns

V. Zygiel – The Sunrise Side Senior Services received the 2% grant from the Native Americans Council to complete the paving of the parking lot.

C. Proulx – A cucumber plant in our new hay bale garden has a blossom on it.

C. Corwin – Save the Date for an Elder Abuse In-Service scheduled for August 21, 2017 at the Houghton Lake Center. We have Susan Bowen and Sara Socia presenting along with myself. I will be speaking on the abuse people get from the elders they care for.

D. Fay – The Presque Isle COA has a Facebook page. There is a picture where we used walkers for tomato cages in the garden.

A. Hepburn – The Alpena Senior Center kicked off a 6-month Alzheimer’s series called “You Are Not Alone”. Eleven attended the first one. They are held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to noon. Various topics will be covered such as wandering, driving, etc. We hope attendance will increase. We also received a \$200,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. We are working with students from Aces Academy to make raised vegetable gardens. In the fall, they will learn how to pick, prepare and serve the produce. We have also scheduled an elder abuse event to be held on September 14th at Alpena Community College.

E. Corpe – Our next meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the NEMCSA large conference room.

Adjourn

A motion was made by V. Zygiel with support from D. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:45 pm by Chairman Corpe.

Reminder . . . Please remember to attend July’s meeting. A quorum is needed to approve funding proposals for the one year grants.

Northeast Michigan Regional Council on Aging
Monday, July 24, 2017 at 1:00 pm
NEMCSA Large Conference Room - Alpena

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

Roll Call

S. Wojnar, A. Lange, D. Huff, V. Zygiel, M. Newman, E. Corpe, K. Schreiner, J. Johnston, M. Tappan, C. Proulx, D. Burdine, E. Howell, D. Henig, E. Henig, J. Mathis M. Downs, D. Fay, C. Corwin, M. Hiller

Excused: M. Fox, C. Athan, J. Drozdowski

AAA Staff: Laurie Sauer, Connie McQuarrie, Liz Kowalski, Yvette Smigelski, Becky Hawks, Susan Bowen, Kelly Robinette, Amy Fuller

Guests: John Briggs, Suzan Krey

Quorum – yes

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from M. Hiller to approve the minutes of June 26, 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

No report.

RSVP Update – Amy Fuller, Project Director

Handouts distributed. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) along with the FGP and SCP make up the Senior Corps through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Nationwide Senior Corps has 245,000 volunteers providing 74.6 million hours of service to 840,000 elderly in need, 267,000 children in need, and 332,100 veterans. RSVP volunteers can volunteer any way they want based on their individual skills and interests. There is no stipend for this program and no income eligibility requirement. Volunteers must be age 55 and older and pass a criminal background check. Each RSVP is different because they are designed to meet the needs of local communities. An example of some of the placements Amy has volunteer positions are; for home delivered meal drivers, medical transporter, food pantries, thrift stores, blood drives, hospice, nursing homes, schools, hospitals, telephone reassurance and senior centers. We currently have the RSVP in Crawford and Roscommon Counties.

M. Downs – How do you get the volunteers? Amy – Usually it's word of mouth. I do get referrals from our volunteers and volunteer stations. I also advertise the program in local newspapers and on the radio.

A copy of the July RSVP newsletter was reviewed. Benefits to joining RSVP include; the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people, free supplemental excess accident medical, volunteer liability and automobile liability insurance, limited mileage reimbursement, placements tailored to your interests and skills, quarterly newsletter, recognition for service, volunteer luncheon, and research shows that those who actively volunteer experience better health and live longer. The mileage reimbursement is capped at 50 miles per month. Mileage reimbursement is from home to the location and back. For the fiscal year that just ended June 30, 2017, Amy had 133 volunteers providing 13,655 hours of service at a value set by the national office of \$321,712 (based on \$23.56 per hour).

Program Expansion News – RSVP is expanding. The AAA was recently awarded a grant to expand the program into nine more counties to support 300 new RSVP volunteers in Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Presque Isle. Otsego has their own program. All of our region will now be covered beginning in September. The grant is for three years with half of the volunteer focus on providing transportation, telephone reassurance, mentor school children, and serve at food pantries. The other half we have free range on where to place volunteers. We will be working to find both work stations and volunteers. Only non-profits can be volunteer stations and include; COA's, government entities, churches, and schools. Volunteers cannot conduct religious services or be involved in politics.

C. Proulx – Can you explain how a group who needs help gets volunteers? Amy – Your COA can be a volunteer station. You would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with RSVP. We ask volunteer stations for support in getting volunteer timesheets turned in.

S. Krey – Are there any benefits to the volunteer when providing transportation? Amy – Yes, they get mileage to and from their home to the volunteer station and the supplemental insurance.

S. Krey – What if there is only PL/PD on the vehicle, will the insurance cover any costs? Amy – I'm not sure, I don't know all of the legalities of the policy. I can check into it.

M. Downs – We would call you and you would provide the volunteers? Amy – Yes, if you have a Memorandum of Understanding with us.

C. Proulx – Can the non-emergency medical transportation be combined with the RSVP? Amy – possibly. Laurie – It is possible, we specifically chose to write that service into the grant.

V. Zygiel – Arenac needs volunteers, we have a hard time finding them.

C. Corwin – I'm not seeing new volunteers, we need more. Amy – We did recently place a few at the Houghton Lake Center.

E. Corpe – I encourage you all to take this information back to your COA's and help Amy get the program established in your county.

Directors Report

RSVP – Laurie thanked Earl, Chuck, and Madeline, who are RSVP volunteers, for their volunteer service to their communities. The expansion grant is for \$122,000 for 3 years. It was a very competitive grant process across the country and is a great accomplishment for Amy and all her hard work. Amy will hire two staff people to cover the northern and southern counties in the region. One will be housed in our Alpena office and the other with Amy. Our commitment to Roscommon and Crawford County will not waiver. RSVP has a bright future in Region 9.

AAA Staff – We have a new RN for our Gaylord office starting today. Her name is Amy Travis. She comes to us from District Health Department #4 where she was a Public Health Nurse. This brings us one step closer to having our Gaylord office ready.

AASA Aging Assessment – On Monday, July 17th, Dan Doezema our AASA Field Rep. conducted an assessment of Aging programs. It went well, no compliance issues mentioned. We expect a report soon.

MMAP Assessment – We just received the results of our MMAP Assessment done in January. All is good, no compliance issues.

AAA Director Assessment distributed. All Council members received a copy of the Region 9 AAA Director Evaluation. This is an annual process. Please complete and place in the box before you leave today.

NCQA Assessment – This assessment will be conducted the last week of September. A lot of work has gone into preparing for this visit. Gina, Jenna, Jen and Cindy have been working furiously to pull things together. This assessment is for accreditation so they will be looking at our records and policies and procedures for the Care Management and Waiver Programs. We would be one of the first AAAs to be certified. The goal of accreditation is to better position ourselves for the future. It's becoming much more competitive with other entities applying to be waiver agents. Accreditation will help us prove we do an outstanding job providing these programs.

Waiver Assessment – Staff from the Inspector General's Office will be coming in September to discuss the Waiver Program. We believe this is their check on the MDHHS staff end of the program.

PREVNT Assessment – Dawn Jacobs is coming August 1st to assess the PREVNT Grant. Flyers were distributed for the Elder Abuse Prevention conference scheduled for August 25, 2017. Anyone can attend, we encourage you to spread the word and encourage participation. Sara has been conducting anti-bullying trainings with the COAs. Feedback has been positive. The trainings for adult foster care homes and homes for the aged have been met with very limited to almost no participation. It was not well received. Some have limited staff and other didn't feel it was valuable. We will apply for a continuation grant next year.

American Academy of Diabetes Educators Accreditation – This refers to the D-PATH Plus. The process is going slowly and experiencing some bumps. Information was submitted in October. More questions followed and additional documentation was resubmitted. We were chosen for a random audit conducted in June which raised more questions and issues with a few of our policies. We are in the process of resolving those issues one of which is we can't use Thunder Bay Community Health Clinics to do the billing for us. We are also required to have an advisory group. We were using this Council for that but they feel it's not enough. Liz will need to develop a new advisory group. We were hoping to start with Dale and Ed Henig because you took the classes and Chuck because he is a trainer. We would like to meet prior to the RAC meetings to save you a trip. We anticipate meeting on a quarterly basis. Merianne volunteered to join the group as well.

PAST Handout - MSU College of Human Medicine and MSU Extension are conducting a project called Partners in Aging Strategies and Training (PAST). The goal of PAST is to promote patient health care provider partnerships that improve their communication and patient health. PAST works with local groups that offer classes that teach patients and caregivers how to: manage their own health conditions well, improve balance to prevent falls, diabetes prevention and management, improve fitness and increase caregiving skills. They are looking for input through an online questionnaire at:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cC4VrAgDuMCjD0x. They want your opinions on participating in community classes. C. Corwin – I completed the questionnaire and it only has six questions. It's very quick and easy. It's very worthwhile to give the feedback.

Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC) – A leader training is scheduled for August 25th. We need names of anyone interested in attending as soon as possible. CCC is very important to the communities we serve.

Region 9er's – The next Region 9 AAA/COA Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at 10:00 am at the Nature Center in Grayling.

ServSafe - There is a ServSafe class being offered in Alpena on August 11th.

AAAAM Annual Conference – The annual conference will be held in Lansing on October 5th and 6th. Part of the conference will include a panel discussion on the direct care worker shortage. The panel will be made up of AAA managers, service providers, direct care workers and Laurie suggested COA director involvement.

Program Reports

Legal Services Board – Jim Mathis reported they met in June. They discussed concerns due to cuts in funding and feel they may have to cut programs. Jim feels they need to look at other areas to reduce costs rather than cut programs.

Region 9 Directors Report – Merianne Tappan reported their next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

Ombudsman Program Report – No report.

MMAP Program Report – Susan Bowen reported there were no findings or compliance issues on the MMAP assessment. This year we will have an on-site visit. Susan attended the MMAP recognition in Lansing last week. She did not submit for the team award this year to give others a chance to win however, our region did receive the following awards:

- Kitty Glomski, Alpena County, Site Coordinator of the Year
- Barb Whalen, Montmorency County, Team Member of the Year
- Jan Williamson, Roscommon County, Most Volunteer Hours, Most Counseling Hours (volunteer), and Most Outreach Hours (volunteer)
- Danielle Kleinhuizen, Otsego County,, Most Counseling Hours (non-volunteer)
- Sara Skowronski, Otsego County, Most Outreach Hours (non-volunteer)
- Region 9, Outstanding Achievement on Performance Measures

Non-volunteers are paid employees. Kitty Glomski works for the Alpena Senior Center. Along with MMAP, she also does the Project Fresh and she wrote the grant from the Michigan Health

Endowment Fund (MHEF) to fund the Student Gourmet Project. Barb Whalen put in 71 counseling hours which doesn't seem like much, but she has been battling cancer for the last four years and continues to provide MMAP counseling between treatments.

We are a full quarter into the grant year and are still on track even though some of our numbers are less than 25% of the goal. Susan also attended the SHIP Conference in Texas two weeks ago. The major topic of discussion was funding. We are funded through March 31, 2018. They discussed how we need to educate Washington on what SHIPs are and what we do. She was also a speaker for a breakout session. A new MMAP counselor training is scheduled for September.

Special Projects Coordinator Report – Liz reported she was in East Tawas for a dementia presentation to approximately 20 people from the community. This was part of the taskforce developed by the Area Presbyterian Church to increase community engagement. They have requested on-going Evidence Based Programs. Liz started her first series of PATH classes in Iosco last week. Kelly is her co-leader. She will also attend a 2-day CCC training in Lansing and will co-lead a workshop in Alpena. The Adult Day Care assessments are almost finished. She has one more scheduled.

Advocacy Reports

MSAC – Karl Schreiner reported his next meeting will be in September.

State Advisory Council – Chuck Corwin reported the group continues to finalize work on the Creative Aging Report. It will be coming out reasonably soon.

State Updates

State Commission on Aging – John Briggs reported their meeting was held last Friday at the Pine Mountain Resort in Iron Mountain. Eight commissioners attended and approved the Creative Aging Report submitted by MSAC. A lot of work went into the report which is full of good information and ideas. The Commission established MSAC's assignment for next year which is "Volunteerism, what they do to help seniors and what seniors do to help the community". They also discussed how volunteers should not be used to supplement paid positions. Dan Doezema was there and went over the plan process. A public hearing was held in the afternoon with discussions by RSVP volunteers on their experience with the program and their concerns about the need for medical transportation. It was a very good session.

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

Action Items:

Recommendations for Funding for Fiscal Year 2018 - Handouts were distributed and the information reviewed by Yvette.

Merit Award #1 and #2 and State Caregiver Support Adult Day Services – We have \$122,207 to allocate and received 8 applications requesting a total of \$198,953. C. Corwin - Were there problems with the grant requests again this year? Yvette – Yes, some. The recommended funding is based on the proposal scores.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from D. Huff to approve the recommended funding. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title IIID Evidence Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion – We have a total of \$27,549 to allocate based on this year’s funding level. There were some scoring issues. There were reductions to funding requests for programs where we don’t have qualified leaders.

A motion was made by D. Fay with support from D. Henig to approve the recommendations for Title IIID Evidence Based Disease Prevention Health Promotion. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title VII Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP) – Yvette reported there were some scoring issues. We received 6 applications requesting \$7,356. Funding is expected to be \$6,833. Recommended funding left a total of \$2,277 unallocated. That amount will be reallocated in a second bid process.

A motion was made by E. Henig with support from J. Mathis to approve the recommended funding for EAP. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Title IIIE National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). NFCSP provides funding for Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC), Health Resource Centers, Kinship, and Support Groups. Funding is expected to be \$99,114. 28 applications were received requesting \$89,653. \$78,887 in funding is recommended leaving unallocated funding of \$6,563 in Respite, \$6,064 in Kinship POS and \$7,600 in CCC. There may possibly be a second bid process for Respite and CCC. Kinship will go into a purchase of service pool with requests to be made to Liz.

A motion was made by D. Henig with support from V. Zygiel to approve the recommendations for NFCSP funding. Motion carried. C. Corwin abstained from the vote.

The recommendations will now go to the NEMCSA Board next week.

Local Updates, Questions or Concerns

D. Fay – A lot of things are rolling in Presque Isle. We got a new ice machine donated in Posen, two new defibrillators, one donated and one from a grant match, a new air conditioner in Onaway, and a new bus has been ordered.

C. Corwin – Save the date of August 21, 2017 for the Elder Abuse Conference at the Roscommon COA from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. We have five star presenters and food.

C. Proulx – Update on the straw garden. We picked 2 cucumbers and 1 summer squash.

L. Sauer – AAA 2016 Annual Report and Consumer Handbooks were distributed.

E. Corpe – The August 28th meeting may be cancelled. If so, our next meeting will be September 25th. Enjoy the summer.

Adjourn

A motion was made by D. Huff with support from E. Henig to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was ended at 2:30 pm by Chairman Corpe.

