

ADVOCATES *for* Senior Issues

Virtual Meetings 2021!

April 16

May 21

June 18

In order to ensure the health and safety of Advocates for Senior Issues Members, Sponsors, and Presenters, AFSI will be holding its membership meetings virtually for the remainder of the program year. We are hopeful to resume in person meetings in the fall if/when it is safe to do so. Please plan to join virtually on your smartphone, tablet, computer, laptop or by calling in on the number provided below.

NEW Meeting Link!

Join Online: <https://zoom.us/j/98101218983>

Call in Option: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 981 0121 8983



ADVOCATES for Senior Issues



Virtual Membership Meeting

Friday, April 16, 2021

10:00 am

Join Online: <https://zoom.us/j/98101218983>

Call in Option: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 981 0121 8983



The Source for Seniors



Donald
Behrenwald

AGENDA

Call to Order and Announcements:

Lody Zwarenstejn, President



Legislative Presentation

Representative Tommy Brann (R - 77)



Robert Levine, MD

Rep. Brann is on the House Appropriations committee, where he is chair of the Military & Veterans Affairs & State Police subcommittee. He also serves on the Corrections, School Aid & Department of Education, and Transportation subcommittees.



Program Presentation

Fighting Cybercrime Seniors and Older Adults



Demitria Gavit

PORTER HILLS



The impact of an online scam or attack can be devastating and knowing where to go for help can be confusing. Millions of Americans are affected by cybercrime each year and struggle to find resources to respond, report and recover from an incident.

In 2020, 43% of cybercrimes reported to the IC3 were ages 50+. 1 in 4 individuals are victims of cybercrimes each year.

Chris
Becker



Next Meeting: May 21, 2021

Advocates for Senior Issues is a non-partisan organization, affiliated with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

www.aaawm.org/afsi



AFSI Executive Committee**AFSI Legislative Committee**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>
Thomas Appel	(616) 747-1290	tappel1864@aol.com	Both committees		
Lois Carey	(616) 942-9811	lois_m.carey@gmail.com			
Mary Copeland	(616) 243-3035	penbeep87@gmail.com			
Evans DeVries	(616) 240-1486	ecdevries@yahoo.com	Both committees		
Bob Dunlap	(616) 791-1267	bobd712@att.net	Both committees		
Phil France	(616) 698-6314	pfrance61@gmail.com			
Judy France	(616) 698-6314	judy_france@yahoo.com			
Lois Williams	(616) 591-3625	lois@wmmi.net			
Kathy Larson	(616) 295-0952	larsonkathlyn@gmail.com			
Gordon Pater	(616) 453-9669	go_pat740@yahoo.com			
Ginger Randall	(616) 581-5142	rginger98@yahoo.com			
Armand Robinson	(616) 949-6585	rob2736@aol.com	Both committees		
Jan Schultz	(616) 538-6008	janwyoming@comcast.net			
Lody Zwarenstejn	(616) 581-2261	lody6290@gmail.com			
Leslie Sanford	(616) 329-3141	leslie@lesliesanfordcpa.com			
			Frank Lynn	(616) 942-8067	paco3446@aol.com

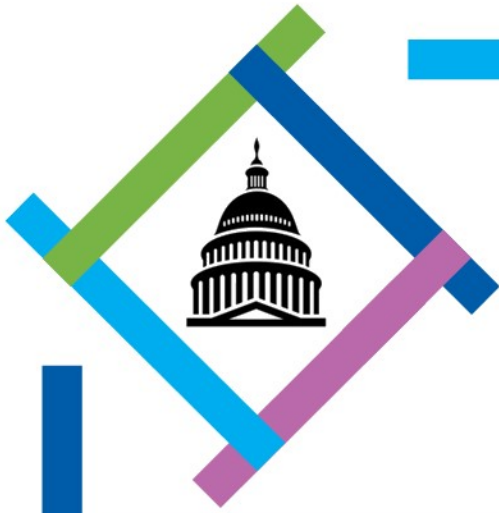
AAAWM Staff

Jackie O'Connor	(616) 222-7002	Jackie@aaawm.org
Lacey Charboneau	(616) 222-7015	laceyc@aaawm.org

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>800Number</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Governor's Office				
Whitmer, Gretchen	(517) 373-3400		Gretchen.Whitmer@MIEOG.ORG	(517) 335-7858 - Constituent Services
Michigan Representatives				
Johnson, Steve-72	(517) 373-0840		SteveJohnson@house.mi.gov	
Posthumus, Bryan-73	(517) 373-0218		BryanPosthumus@house.mi.gov	
Huizenga, Mark-74	(517) 373-8900		MarkHuizenga@house.mi.gov	
David LaGrand - 75	(517)-373-2668		DavidLaGrand@house.mi.gov	
Hood, Rachel-76	(517) 373-0822		RachelHood@house.mi.gov	
Brann, Tommy-77	(517) 373-2277		TommyBrann@house.mi.gov	
Albert, Thomas-86	(517) 373-0846		ThomasAlbert@house.mi.gov	
Michigan Senators				
Nesbitt, Aric-26	(517) 373-0793		SenANesbitt@senate.michigan.gov	
Brinks, Winnie-29	(517) 373-1801		SenWBrinks@senate.michigan.gov	
MacGregor, Peter-28	(517) 373-0797		SenPMacGregor@senate.michigan.gov	
U.S. Representatives				
Meijer, Peter-3	(202) 225-3831		Through Website: https://meijer.house.gov/contact	
Huizenga, Bill-2	(202) 225-4401		Through Website: https://huizenga.house.gov/contact-me/email-me	
U.S. Senators				
Peters, Gary	(313) 226-6020		Peter_Dickow@peters.senate.gov	
Stabenow, Debbie	(616) 975-0052		senator@stabenow.senate.gov	

Kent County Officials

www.accesskent.com/Departments



JOIN US



SENIOR ACTION WEEK • MAY 10-14, 2021

Join the Area Agencies on Aging Association and community partners in a week of advocacy!

Learn about our top five advocacy priorities and why they are so important to older adults in Michigan. Help us rally to protect these vital services that allow seniors to age with dignity and independence in their own homes.

Monday	Rebalancing Long-Term Services & Supports
Tuesday	Increase Access to Non-Medicaid Home & Community Based Services
Wednesday	Bridging the Digital Divide for Older Adults
Thursday	Support & Strengthen the Direct Care Workforce
Friday	Establishment of Kinship Caregiver Program

LIVESTREAM EVENT • WEDNESDAY MAY 12 • 10:00-11:30AM

Hear from legislators on important issues that impact Michigan's most vulnerable population.

Join the Livestream Event: <https://zoom.us/j/96885691099?pwd=TS9JS2JoRjRjQlE4MnpIR2syMXk3QT09>

Meeting ID: 968 8569 1099

Passcode: 616294

Join via phone: 1-646-558-8656



OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

MAY 12, 2021

PLATFORM FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION



REBALANCE COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (LTSS) FUNDING

Michigan continues to rank below many other states in terms of the large proportion of taxpayer dollars we spend on institutional care in nursing homes compared to the smaller share of resources that go to provide long term care for older adults in home and community-based settings (HCBS). In fiscal year 2016, 57% of Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS) care delivered in the U.S. was through HCBS. In Michigan, only 40% went to HCBS that year, while 60% went to care in institutional settings. Michigan can strengthen the HCBS model of service delivery for individuals receiving Medicaid LTSS by building upon the successes of Michigan's Medicaid HCBS program, known as MI Choice. Furthermore, MI Choice has demonstrated that care delivered in the home is more than 55% less expensive than having the same person moved into a nursing facility or institutional setting.

ACTION: Appropriate funds to rebalance Medicaid LTSS funding in Michigan to achieve a goal of at least 50% going to HCBS.



INCREASE ACCESS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

In Michigan, 6,104 seniors are on waiting lists for essential non-Medicaid in-home services. Research shows older adults who receive in-home services are five times less likely to have been in a nursing home than those who remained on a wait list. Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) funded in-home services include home delivered meals, personal care, homemaking and respite care that delay or prevent the need for more costly long-term care interventions.

ACTION: Support the Silver Key Coalition's request for a \$6.375 million increase for AASA in-home services and a \$1 million increase for home delivered meals in AASA's FY 2022 budget.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Broadband access can reduce isolation, improve health outcomes and help lower health care costs. Stark disparities currently exist regarding access, with rural and low-income Michiganders impacted negatively. Part of the digital divide for the 60 and older population stems from a lack of broadband infrastructure where they live, and part is due to a lack of know-how when it comes to using the Internet, computers, and smart devices. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the negative effects, as older adults without Internet access faced added difficulties signing up for vaccines, participating in contact tracing, and had fewer outlets to combat isolation during quarantine.

ACTION: Ensure the infrastructure is in place. We urge policymakers to expand access to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet for all Michigan residents, regardless of where they live in the state.

ACTION: Digital education for older adults. We urge policymakers to provide funding for educational programs targeted at older adults making use of collaborative models that provide training and pre-loaded technology for program participants.



SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE CAREGIVER WORKFORCE

Direct care workers (DCW) provide essential care that enables people to continue living in their own homes and communities. The population of individuals over age 75 is expected to grow by over 500,000 in the next 20 years. It is currently estimated that Michigan has a shortage of 34,000 DCW. AARP reports that nearly 90% of those over age 65 want to stay in their own homes, but to do so that may need help. Many DCW workers report they are not adequately compensated or trained for the work they perform. Thirty-five percent (35%) of Michigan DCW report receiving food stamps, 34% report they lack affordable housing, and 22% live below the poverty line.

ACTION: Support the Governor's request to make the \$2 per hour wage increase for DCW permanent in FY 2022.

ACTION: Support policies that provide quality training, increased career opportunities, and higher quality of life for caregivers.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A KINSHIP CARE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Kinship Care is the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of a child by relatives or other adults who have a family relationship to a minor child. Grandparents often serve this role. In Michigan, approximately 52,000 children live in kinship families and the need continues to rise. Research suggests that kinship care offers greater stability for children who are living with their relatives. Support is needed to assist kinship caregivers in addressing barriers to accessing crucial resources.

ACTION: Ask the Legislature to revisit the establishment of a Kinship Care Navigator Program at the state level to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining resources and training to help the kinship family thrive while the child(ren) successfully grow into adulthood in a family environment.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH

Presented by Area Agencies on Aging and Aging Network Partners



TAKE ACTION AGAINST COVID-19 SCAMS



CHARITY SCAMS

You may see charities that you don't recognize asking for donations in the wake of COVID-19.

TAKE ACTION

If you donated to a fraudulent charity, visit FraudSupport.org for recovery help.

Verify all charities before donating on the [IRS tax exemption site](https://www.irs.gov/charities).



ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS

Cybercriminals may try to sell you bogus COVID-19 vaccinations and home test kits.

TAKE ACTION

If you have purchased a fake vaccine or home test kit, visit FraudSupport.org for recovery help.

Visit the [FTC website](https://www.ftc.gov) to learn more about companies selling fake coronavirus treatments.



PHISHING SCAMS

Emails impersonating the World Health Organization, the CDC, and other reputable sources may hit your inbox. These emails may ask you to click a link or share your sensitive information.

TAKE ACTION

If you've clicked on a phishing link or shared personal information, visit FraudSupport.org for recovery help.



ROBOCALLS

Calls from cybercriminals pretending to be government organizations, family members in distress, or banks/credit card companies are on the rise. These calls will often ask for gift cards as payment.

TAKE ACTION

If you have provided personal information to a robocaller, visit FraudSupport.org for recovery help.



ROMANCE SCAMS

Cybercriminals will try to capitalize on the heightened internet traffic to lure people into romance scams.

TAKE ACTION

If you find yourself involved in a romance scam, visit FraudSupport.org for recovery help.

They will often ask for gift cards for medical expenses or bills.



SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

Social media is a tool that cybercriminals use to distribute false information and capitalize on panic.

TAKE ACTION

If you're looking for information on social media, visit trusted profiles like the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int), [Federal Trade Commission](https://www.ftc.gov), and the [Better Business Bureau](https://www.bbb.org).

Cybercrime & Online Fraud Can Happen to Anyone

FraudSupport.org is here to help.

WHAT IS CYBERCRIME?

Cybercrime is any activity that uses the internet to access, transmit, or manipulate data for illegal purposes. This includes the fraudulent representation of oneself for financial gain, personal gain, or with malicious intent.



EVERY 2 SECONDS
someone in the United States
becomes a victim of cybercrime.



\$2.71 BILLION
of financial losses were
reported to the FBI/IC3 in 2018.



351,936
victims reported an incident
to the FBI/IC3 in 2018.

Report. Recover. Reinforce. Giving Victims of Cybercrime a Voice

As a public-private nonprofit, Cybercrime Support Network (CSN) built FraudSupport.org as the first nationwide initiative developed specifically to help cybercrime and online fraud victims through a process of "report, recover and reinforce" after an incident occurs.

At FraudSupport.org, CSN provides guidance on where to call and how to reach the appropriate resource to report the crime, recover from and reinforce their own cybersecurity.

ADVOCATES *for* Senior Issues

Thank you to all of our 2020-2021 sponsors:

Gold:

AARP

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Beacon Hill at Eastgate

Consumers Energy

Donald Behrenwald

DTE Energy Foundation

Elders Helpers

Priority Health

Silver:

Amigo Mobility

Beth A. Swagman PLLC

Charles Schwab & Co.

Dr. Robert Levine

Health Care Associates & Community Caregivers

Life EMS

Pine Rest

Reliance Community Care Partners

Samaritas

West Michigan Credit Union

Bronze:

Care Resources - PACE

Chris Becker

Lois Carey

Heather Hills Retirement Village

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Porter Hills

The Village of Heather Hills

Friend:

Alternatives in Motion

Beth Mans Greenridge Realty

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National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Kent County

Senior Neighbors