

AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

April 26, 2021

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Office
3215 Eaglecrest Drive NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 and Zoom

UNIT OF GOVERNMENT	MEMBERS PRESENT (VIA Zoom)	MEMBERS ABSENT
ALLEGAN COUNTY	Rick Cain Stuart Peet	
GRAND RAPIDS, CITY	Jane DeVries	Milinda Ysasi
IONIA COUNTY	Dennis Sitzer David Hodges	
KENT COUNTY	Carol Hennessy Nancy Nielsen	
LAKE COUNTY	Marilyn Burns	Betty Dermeyer
MASON COUNTY	Ron Bacon Kim Halladay	
MECOSTA COUNTY	Sharon Bongard Bill Routley	
MONTCALM COUNTY	Michael Beach Linda Weger	
NEWAYGO COUNTY	Kenneth DeLaat Cindy LaBelle	
OSCEOLA COUNTY	Richard Karns Tim Michell	

Staff Present: Emily Armstrong, Ashley Bieber-Moore, Anne Ellermets, Suzanne Filby-Clark, Staci Gerken, Bridget McGovern, Jackie O'Connor, Sarah Sobel and Dan Travis.

Guests: Becky Payne – Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA); Robert Sundholm – AAAWM Advisory Council Chairperson

I. Roll Call and Agenda Approval

Chair Bill Routley called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm. Quorum was present.

Linda Weger moved and Jane DeVries seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

II. Minutes of the March 22, 2021 Meeting

Linda Weger moved and Cindy LaBelle seconded the motion to approve the March 22, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

III. Reports

A. Advisory Council (AC) Report

Bob Sundholm, Advisory Council Chair gave a report of the April 5, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting. The Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan, Dave LaLumia, spoke about advocacy issues at the State level, budget issues, Direct Care Worker (DCW) wages and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) issues. Anne Ellermets showed a video about social isolation and Service Partners working during the pandemic.

Two Letters were sent to legislators this month. One was a permanent continuation request of the Direct Care Workers wages into FY 2022 and the other was a request of more funding and slots for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver.

B. Financial Report

Dan Travis, Finance Director, reviewed the March Financials

Report 1- Balance Sheet – Assets – Page 1, line item Investments - GRB Intrafi Network indicates a new place we hold investments. Page two under General Reserves, shows a fund balance because of an extra payment from the State concerning DCW premium pay. This is temporary and there will be a deficit for the year.

Report 5 – Summary Expense Report – This report does not reflect the revised Operating Budget approved at the March meeting. Administration or operating expenses is slightly below target at 48% midway in the fiscal year. Total Service Partners are at 46%, primarily representing the numerous Purchase of Service Partners expenses. Older Americans Act (OAA) Partners expenses are 38%. Dan answered questions for Board members.

C. Medicaid Waiver/Care Management Program

Suzanne Filby-Clark, Deputy Director reported on the AAAWM Strategic Plan accomplishments after six months into the fiscal year. We are on track for the new NCQA accreditation which is replacing the CARF accreditation.

D. Supportive and In-Home Services

Ashley Bieber-Moore, Caregiver Services Intern provided a report on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs that AAAWM has been involved in. AASA has given each AAA goals to address DEI and AAAWM has created a workgroup made up of volunteer employees. Other groups such as the Advocates for Senior Issues, Caregiver Resource Network and the Caregiver Diversity Academy have also taken up DEI issues and are having speakers on the subject. Ashley answered some questions and the diversity of the AAAWM Board was raised.

Jackie O'Connor, Executive Director reviewed the FY 2022 Annual Implementation Plan Schedule for the next 4-5 months. Lacey Charboneau, the former Advocacy Coordinator and Planner had left for a job with the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) and a new Advocacy Coordinator has been hired. Her name is Anne Domanski and she will start full time at the end of May.

The Plan development, public hearing and eventual Board approval of the FY 22 Plan will be at the June meeting.

Action Item: Approval of FY 2021 Older Americans Act (OAA) and CARES Act Funding Changes

Anne Ellermets, Director of Contract Services and Program Development indicated that additional funds came available after AAAWM received a full year FY 21 Statement of Grant Award (SGA) for the OAA funding and the carryover funds from the CARES Act – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. These are the non-nutrition funding changes. Catholic Charities ended their contract last fall so their funds will be reallocated to other Service Partners. Service Partner increases are for service and some for technology. A reminder some funding streams can only be spent on one or limited services such as in the case for Long Term Care Ombudsman and Disease Prevention/Health Promotion.

Jane DeVries moved and Linda Weger seconded the motion for the approval of the FY 2021 changes in OAA funding. Motion carried.

E. Nutrition

Action Item: Approval of FY 2021 Nutrition Older Americans Act (OAA) and CARES Act Funding Changes

Staci Gerken, Nutrition Contract Administrator reviewed the funding recommendations with the nutrition funding from a full FY 21 SGA of OAA funds and CARES nutrition

funds carried over from FY 2020. This is one of many additional changes expected in funding. The plan is that all nutrition Service Partners will get increases in nutrition service.

Nancy Nielsen moved and Linda Weger seconded the motion for the approval of the FY 2021 nutrition funding changes in OAA funding. Motion carried.

F. Public Relations and Communications

Emily Armstrong, Public Relations and Communication Specialist, presented the 2020 Annual Report with the theme of Communities of Strength. The subsections were Rising to the Challenge, Stronger Together, and Power of Connection. A video was shown representing the many different ways AAAWM staff and Service Partners helped provide services during the pandemic.

G. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jackie O'Connor reviewed the schedule of Board members to attend the Advisory Council meetings over the next 12 months. If a Board member cannot attend their scheduled meeting, they are welcome to attend another meeting. Please let Jackie know if you would like to attend an unscheduled meeting so a meeting packet can be sent to you.

IV. Other

A. Aging and Adult Services Agency:

Becky Payne reported that information on Older Michiganian's Day/Week, held May 10-14, 2021, can be found on AASA's website. AASA is adding LGBT data collection to reporting. A Direct Care Worker registry will be created to track approved workers throughout state, offer trainings and monitor performances. Over 70% of Michigan seniors have had at least first round of vaccinations.

B. Public Comments

No public comments.

C. Next Meeting Date:

Bill announced Board members scheduled to attend the May 3, 2021 Advisory Council meeting are Dennis Sitzer and David Hodges. Next meeting will be June 28, 2021. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.


Bridget McGovern, Recorder


Carol Hennessy, Secretary