

AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

February 28, 2022

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

UNIT OF GOVERNMENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT
ALLEGAN COUNTY	Stuart Peet	Rick Cain
GRAND RAPIDS, CITY	Milinda Ysasi Jane DeVries	
IONIA COUNTY	Dennis Sitzer Ally Cook - Zoom	
KENT COUNTY	Carol Hennessy	Nancy Nielsen
LAKE COUNTY	Marilyn Burns Betty Dermyer	
MASON COUNTY	Ron Bacon Kim Halladay	
MECOSTA COUNTY	Sharon Bongard Bill Routley	
MONTCALM COUNTY	Chuck Havekamp - Zoom	Kathy Bresnahan
NEWAYGO COUNTY	Cindy LaBelle	Kenneth DeLaat
OSCEOLA COUNTY	Tim Michell	

Staff Present: Jackie O'Connor, Vince Lambert, Suzanne Filby-Clark (Zoom), Sarah Sobel, Robin Walters (Zoom), Bob Callery, Emily Armstrong, Kendrick Heinlein, Bridget McGovern, Jessica Torpey

Guests: Ashley Ellsworth – Health & Aging Services Agency (Zoom); Robert Sundholm – AAAWM Advisory Council Chairperson

I. Roll Call and Agenda Approval

Chair Bill Routley called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Bill Routley added an additional agenda item under “Other”: Executive Director Search Update. Betty Dermeyer moved and Ron Bacon seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried

II. Minutes of the November 22, 2021 Meeting

Stuart Peet moved and Ron Bacon seconded the motion to approve the November 22, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

III. Reports

A. Advisory Council Report

Bob Sundholm, Advisory Council Chair gave a report of the February 7, 2022 Advisory Council Meeting. Michigan State Representative Bryan Posthumus spoke to the group. He is working on funding shortages and working with Representative Phil Green on the auto no-fault funding for in-home services. During the Advocacy discussion, these State Issues were touched on: Direct Care Workers, No-fault insurance changes, Elder Abuse bills, and Guardianship Draft Bills. Sarah Sobel, Contract Administrator, spoke about the various caregiver support services and Supports Coordinator Robin Walters discussed services in Allegan County. Barb Nelson reported on the virtual Healthy Aging classes. A suggested new discussion topic for March will be Death with Dignity.

B. Financial Reports

Vince Lambert was introduced as the new Finance Director. He reviewed the FY 2022 January Financial reports.

Report 5 – Summary Expense Report – Administration or operating expenses are at 35%. All Service Partners are at 33%, primarily representing the Purchase of Service Partner expenses. Kent County Senior Millage expenses are 27% for the fiscal year, though this program runs on a calendar year.

Vince reviewed the Conflict of Interest Agreement that must be completed by all Board members annually. If a Board member is associated with any Service Partner, they must declare this as a conflict. Forms are due back to Vince by the March Board meeting. They can be emailed to VinceL@aaawm.org or faxed to 616.957.0581.

C. Care Management Department

Suzanne Filby-Clark, Deputy Director and Director of the Care Management Department announced the award of Long Term Care Supports and Services accreditation with NCQA. Hannah Huggett, Quality Assurance Manager, and her team

are credited with coordinating this accreditation process. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation is a three year award replacing the former CARF accreditation.

D. Supportive and In-Home Services

Sarah Sobel, Caregiver Services Contract Administrator Services discussed the variety of programs (Caregiver Resource Network, Diversity Academy and Family Caregiver University) available that support caregivers – both personal and professional. Programs continue to be provided virtually which easily allows for participation across the nine county Region, but attendance has declined a bit because they are virtual. Sarah stated there is a real benefit to in person meetings and will record as many meetings as possible. Many of the past programs can be accessed on our website.

In Allegan County, Atrio has a special homemaker grant that takes care of services well. Sarah will be assessing the adult day care program at Evergreen Commons in Allegan County. They have a new director after long time director Jo VerBeek retired in December.

Sarah announced that the Side by Side Adult Day program in Kent County has decided to close. They have not been able to cover all expenses during the pandemic. SarahCare, another Kent County Adult Day program, will be able to absorb most of the clients.

Robin Walters, Social Work Supports Coordinator spoke about the programs available in Allegan County. She has been with the Care Management program from the start which has been 25 years. She described some of the clients she has worked with including someone since 1999.

Jackie indicated that during the 2022 Board reports, we will be highlighting a county and speak directly about the services funded through AAAWM that are provided in the county of the month.

E. Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)

Bob Callery, MMAP Regional Coordinator discussed the activities across West Michigan during the Open Enrollment period for Part D and Medicare Advantage programs this past fall. Though contacts with the public were similar to 2020, actual reported savings to individuals was down. Most of the past year assistance had to be provided virtually though in-person events and appointments did begin in August. Staff and volunteers met with a lot of people during the enrollment period but not many changed their plans. This could explain the lower savings amount for 2021.

In 2021, it was estimated that 25% of MI residents are on Medicaid during the pandemic. During 2022, all of the Medicaid covered individuals will have to receive a re-determination in order to continue Medicaid. This will take up a lot of the MMAP volunteer's time.

Bob shared that MMAP is back to some in-person outreach events and volunteers are back meeting in-person most of the time.

Recruitment efforts are underway for MMAP volunteers. The best candidates are retired, non-working people who can offer some consistency in a volunteer schedule.

F. Public Relations and Communication

Emily Armstrong, Public Relations and Communication Specialist, shared that during the holidays, most marketing efforts were focused on caregivers. She has started assigning a theme each month. December centered around caregivers during the holiday meetings and January was healthy aging in the new year. March's theme will be on nutrition since it is National Nutrition Month.

AAAWM participates with WGUV radio station for a monthly program centered on senior issues. Emily sends a monthly article to a number of publications including Commissions on Aging newsletters and the Pioneer Group. Facebook continues to grow in number. Emily also sends a monthly e-newsletter to almost 1,000 people.

G. Executive Director's Report

Jackie O'Connor, Executive Director, announced the new Board members that started in 2022. From Montcalm County there was Commissioner Kathy Bresnahan and consumer Chuck Havekamp. Ionia County appointed Commissioner Ally Cook and Allegan just reappointed Stuart Peet. Osceola County needs to appoint a consumer representative.

Jackie encouraged the Board members to complete their Conflict of Interest forms at the Board meeting and turn them in before they leave.

Federal funding is still operating on a continuing resolution. This means that funding levels are the same as 2021 though there were planned increases in the Older Americans Act programs for 2022. The Michigan legislature just approved the match for the American Rescue Plan funds and AAWM has been notified of the funding. There will be an additional \$4 million for FY 22-24. Guidance on its use is still forthcoming so funds cannot be allocated to Service Partners yet. Hopefully there will be recommended allocations at the March meeting.

Jackie then explained the changes that must be considered in the Board Bylaws. This is based on a revision to the Open Meetings Act. Attorney General Dana Nessel released an opinion on the Open Meetings Act last week. According to one of the AAWM attorneys, if there is no challenge to the opinion, that could allow us to keep some virtual access to the Board meeting. There could also be some adjustments to Opens Meeting Act by the Michigan legislature.

April will be the Annual Meeting. AAWM is planning an in-person event this year to include up to 100 attendees-comprised of volunteers, committees and a few other groups. We are planning 4-5 people per table to spread people out for precautionary reasons.

IV. Other

A. Executive Director Search Committee

Members of the Executive Director Search Committee include: Ron Bacon, Ken DeLaat, Priscilla Kimboko, Cindy LaBelle, Carol Hennessy, Bill Routley, and Suzanne Filby-Clark. Holly Williams is a resource to the committee. Six companies have applied to coordinate the search for the Executive Director. Three will be selected to proceed to the interview stage in March. It is hoped that the selected firm will be announced at the March Board meeting and a search timeline at the April Board meeting.

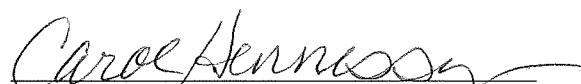
B. Committee Comments:

Tim Michell asked for an update on the mask mandate in regards to changes the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has recently made. Jackie informed the Board that the Leadership Team would be meeting on 3/1/22 to discuss.

C. **Next Meeting Date:** Chair Bill Routley stated the next Board of Directors meeting will be on March 28, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



Jessica Torpey, Recorder



Carol Hennessy, Secretary