

**Older Adult Services Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2016 – 4:00 PM  
HCS Conference Room B**

**Members Present:** Chair Don Ryan, Kathy Grueter, John Hilliard, Deb Josephson, Kimberly Middleton, Beulah Price, Ros Robbert, Bev Solik

**Members Absent:** Tom Danielson, Clinton Lewis, Kelly Quardokus

**Staff:** Judy Sivak, Anne Zemlick, Brien Brockway, Kelly Jonker, Janice Bonita

**AASA Rep.:** Cindy Albrecht

**Guests:** Charlotte Smith, Deputy Director, HCS; Sara Wick, MSAC Delegate; Danna Downing, South County Community Services

I. **Welcome & Introductions:** Don R. opened with welcome and introductions.

II. **Approval of October Minutes:**

**Motion**                      **Carried**                      **To Approve the October 2016 Minutes**

**Deb J.  
John H.**

III. **Citizen Time:** Cindy A. reported that last Thursday AASA moved to the state police building on 333 Grand Ave. in Grand Rapids. AASA director's position has been posted. Don asked when they would get a building with a nice conference room. Cindy said they have a really nice conference room but they don't have much parking—8 or 9 spaces.

IV. **Member Time:** Beulah P. contacted Sisters of St. Joseph regarding identifying 100+ year olds to honor for Celebrate Elderhood, and Sr. Angela Labranch, retired principal from St. Monica, is 101 years old. Sr. Kathleen O'Donnell will help Beulah to help research the 99+ year olds.

Don distributed the new list of County Commissioners along with the sheet with the district map. Don presented Advisory Council members who are not renewing, Kathy and Bev, certificates for their participation on the Council.

V. **Financial Report Review:** None

**VI. Advocacy Report:** Judy S. said that post-election, the fear is we could see a lot of cuts coming. From an advocacy point of view, that's what we'll be keeping our eye on, along with Medicare and Social Security. Judy did meet with AAAAM yesterday, and they discussed the energy bill in the senate. Judy read the schedule for the rest of the year and legislators are not in session much. Sara W. expanded a bit on the energy legislation. She reported that the senate is moving into new offices sometime in December. Next MSAC meeting is Wed., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Judy continued that the KCASI Legislative Committee for November was cancelled as it was thought there wasn't enough substance to discuss at this time. Judy sent you all an email today regarding the MMAP budget and its potential to be eliminated. Judy is presenting on Celebrate Elderhood at the KCASI meeting, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, and all were encouraged to attend.

**VII. Staff Report:**

- Kelly Jonker, LTC Ombudsman  
Kelly presented Long-Term Care Ombudsman report. State Ombudsman program has moved out of the State of Michigan government; will be part of the Elder Justice Initiative, which is connected with the poverty law program. Kelly said having Ombudsman as part of state government is a conflict of interest, since the state regulating agency for nursing homes, LARA, is part of state government. Sally Pung is going to be the new State Ombudsman. Kelly distributed her written report. Discussion ensued about the poor state of nursing home regulation. Kelly cited some non-specific examples of poor treatment of residents. Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services released a revision of federal nursing facility regulations. The biggest problem is the staff ratios – the worst since the '70s. Bev S. asked if the Creating Confident Caregivers classes are given the spotsportal.gov for their training. Anne Z. doesn't think they do. They do give them Kelly's number.

Brien B.: Brien reported on the Friends of Transit meeting he attended this month. He said they were down 14 drivers and 1 mechanic right now, and to put the word out.

Quality Improvement: Brien is working on written procedures for the quarterly reporting process.

Judy has assigned him to the Hunger Free Coalition and Health Equity group. Celebrate Elderhood is now on the Web in a separate tab.

Anne Z. distributed the dashboard report and reviewed Choices for Independence program. As of last week, it was 132 on the wait list. The numbers on the dashboard are over the course of the year. Anne was approached to present at a national conference on the hoarding issue. Laura Loker, LMSW, from Washtenaw County is presenting in Kalamazoo on hoarding tomorrow. A meeting on PTSD is next week, and is for professionals and private individuals sponsored by the Veteran Community Partnership.

Regarding staffing: June Scarberry took another position in HCS, and CFI is in the process of hiring another social worker to fill her position.

Anne reported on what she's working on for Celebrate Elderhood.

Holiday Baskets: Anne handed out list of items we'd like to have for our clients. These are individuals who basically have no one. We will put together the gift baskets Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Kimberly asked if she can send the list (for donations) to the PFA list, and Anne agreed. The items are needed by Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. Other Business:** Judy reported about the panel she recently participated on regarding the direct care worker shortage in response to a screening of the documentary, "CARE" John H. and Larry P. were also there. Rep. Hoadley was on the panel with Judy, as well as a direct care worker.

Judy reported that some staff went to the Age of Disruption Tour in South Bend featuring Dr. Bill Thomas, founder of the Eden Alternative. Ros R. went and said it was refreshing; there was music, poetry, and stories that broadened one's perspective.

Judy mentioned that Joyce Ryan is helping to coordinate the Aging Mastery Program at Portage Senior Center, which now will have funding through a MI Health Endowment grant to expand it out into Kalamazoo County. Joyce said that Marilyn Reed did an excellent falls prevention class as part of the program.

Judy said the dashboard reports can sometimes be misleading, so don't be too concerned about the zeros on PATH and Matter of Balance, as several classes just started in Sept.

- **Celebrate Elderhood:**

Anne reported that the date for the Centenarian luncheon is April 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Kalamazoo Country Club. They're looking at getting sponsors for tables (\$200) or for individual centenarians (\$25). There will be a pianist and dignitaries invited.

Judy and Brien are working on getting out information to community stakeholders by November 15th. Judy said the Writings on the Wall, book by Kareem Abdul Jabaar, is the Kalamazoo Reading Together program book selection, and we will be a community discussion site for the chapter on aging. It will be held on March

9<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM, here at HCS in the Georgian Room, and there will be a panel. Judy met with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and they're excited to get something on the calendar. Gilmore Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant. Judy met with Bronson Hospital and it appears that they are on board. A written request was sent to Borgess, but nothing has been heard from them. Celebrate Elderhood will partner with the OLLI Brain Health Conference May 3 and contacts are continuing to be made with the KIA and other libraries. Joyce: Reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing contest. The superintendents now have the requested information but we do not know which schools will participate.

Don added that now is the time to get active with the new County Commissioners in advocating to put the senior millage on the ballot; we have been pushed off for many years. As a county employee Judy can provide information and educate people as to the need only. John H. said what we need is one sheet of information. Sara said it could be presented to KCASI to consider.

**Motion          Carried          To adjourn at 5:27 PM**

**John H.**

**Deb J.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Bonita