

Older Adult Services Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2015 – 3:30 PM
HCS Dept. – Conference Rm. F

Members Present: Chair Don Ryan, Tom Danielson, Kathy Grueter, Deb Josephson, Clinton Lewis, Kimberly Middleton, Beulah Price, Kelly Quardokus, Ros Robbert, Beverly Solik.
Commissioner Larry Provancher, Liaison

Members Absent: Al Heilman

Staff Present: Judy Sivak, Anne Zemlick, Liz Brass, Janice Bonita, Beth Ridge

OSA Representative: Steve Betterly

Guests: Vicki Martin, Senior Services; Tracy Wheeler, RSVP/Senior Services; joe schmidt and Sara Wick, MSAC Delegates

Don asked for a moment of silence for Verne Robbert, former OASAC Chair, who passed away. Don announced that another former OASAC Chair, John Hilliard, is recovering at home after a mild stroke.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Judy announced that we can have 9-11 members and we have 11; Tom Canny, the County's Legal Counsel, said Larry Provancher can be a non-voting liaison; or we can amend the bylaws to 12 members.
- II. **Approval of December Minutes:**

Motion	Carried	To Approve December 2014 Minutes
		Tom D. Ros R.
- III. **Citizen Time:** None
- IV. **Member Time:** Don announced that January 20, Judy S. and he were invited to welcoming breakfast for Gillian Stoltman, PhD, new Director of HCS. Don was at a meeting where he saw John Taylor which resulted in Judy and he having lunch with him tomorrow.
- V. **Financial Report Review:** Beth Ridge, Financial Analyst, clarified "preliminary" and that it should be on this report. She reviewed the remainder of the report. Summarized that we're at about 25% spending for the 1st quarter. The "new" County funds will be separate—not official until January 15. Ros asked if Healthy Living Programs Consumable Supplies are high. Beth responded that that program is in

flux—more money will be coming, and at this point in time, we don't worry about the line items.

- VI. **Advocacy Report:** Judy reported meeting with the AAA Association that two local legislators are on key committees, Rep. Jon Hoadley—Appropriations, and Sen. Margaret O'Brien is Chairwoman of the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Homeland Security committee and Vice Chair Banking and Financial Services committee, and a member of the Health Policy and Insurance committees. Judy also reported on the Elder Abuse bill introduced by Virgil Smith, Senate Bills 49 & 50. New department of Health & Human Services will be including DHS and Community Health. "Aging and Adult Services Agency" is the newly created entity and OSA has been abolished by executive order—they took everything and put it into this new agency in the whole. Kari Sederburg will be interim director of this new agency. No one knows what other programs, services, might be in this; but guessing could be APS, PACE, Home Help, and MiChoice waiver. Clinton L. added he thinks they'll be split down the middle. Judy added that OSA has been leading a lean process improvement initiative, learning what everyone does, where there are barriers, gaps; in order to better serve customers. Clinton added that DHS started in 2011 (Jan-June, with the lean pilot). Rep. Hoadley is meeting with staff and a client next Monday; and, we're pleased he reached out to us. KCASI meeting on Monday, flyer distributed. Rep. Upton is speaking. Sara W. added: Tomorrow there's a KCASI Legislative committee meeting at CentraCare.

Liz B.: Reported on the Friends of Transit monthly meeting on Jan 26. She passed around flyer on transportation opt-in information for advocates and the general public.

Don was honored to present Tracy Wheeler, Director of RSVP-Your Invitation to Volunteer, a program of Senior Services.

Tracy talked about changes to RSVP. Distributed *The Involvement-Special Issue* newsletter.

Some questions were taken.

Beverly: Why would one go through RSVP instead of going directly to the place you want to volunteer? Tracy: Some people don't really know where they want to volunteer. Volunteers through RSVP working in the focus areas will be offered benefits.

Kimberly: Why the limit in number of volunteers; and do you have to turn people away? Tracy: Because of new criteria from funder, 70% of volunteers are to be selected from focus areas. They wouldn't turn anyone away in connecting to a place they know they want to volunteer.

Kelly: The bulk of volunteers are in Community Priorities, how will you even out the volunteers in the other focus areas? Tracy: Through attrition we'll be where we want to be.

Ros: How many total volunteers do you need? Tracy: We're funded for 200 volunteers.

Q&A continued.

In wrapping up, Judy asked Tracy how long she's been in this job, and Tracy replied it was 1995 and she's been Director since 1998. Judy thanked Tracy and said what an awesome job she's done for Kalamazoo County.

- VII. **Staff Report:** Anne Z. reported on Choices for Independence. The wait list is 200 as of today. Also opened up a few more clients. Have hired a new social worker, June Scarberry; just waiting to hear that we can hire the second one. Should be up and running with them beginning of March. Anne distributed Policy Statement for AAIIIA Cost Sharing outlining how we propose to implement the opportunity for clients to share in the cost of services. A discussion on the policy took place, with the outcome that Kelly Q. would assist Judy and Anne on some legal issues that were brought up.

Liz B. provided an update on the AAA Web site revisions– 80% complete. AIP process. Working on entering data into Harmony, new Information & Assistance resource software.

Judy S. sent members a copy of letter congratulating Kelly Jonker for her work in connection with the closing of a nursing home in Calhoun County. OASAC decided to send a letter to officials regarding the poor conditions and apparent reluctance for the state to act in a timely fashion. Kelly Q. and Beverly S. to work on the letter.

Judy reported on Healthy Living Programs. We have the 2nd smallest AAA in the State of MI, but we had the best statistics for Matter of Balance workshops in the entire state of Michigan last year; kudos to Marilyn Reed, Master Trainer, as well as Borgess who works under our Matter of Balance license. Diabetes PATH leader training started today, its dates are spread out in order to accommodate our medical student interns, and we have 8 other people registered.

Judy reported on Elder Abuse Coalition; there's a grant out with OSA for up to \$25,000 for education and training. Judy got an email from a person in Australia wanting information about our Elder Abuse Coalition. Judy doing several speaking engagements; Vicksburg Rotary and County Clerks Association coming up. The Vicksburg folks seemed interested in the Communities for a Lifetime initiative with the State and she offered our assistance.

Norma Bour, PATH Coordinator who has been an independent contractor for almost 3 years, is now being brought on as a County employee, which is needed, as she'll be doing more such as supervising the Medical students.

Judy distributed information about what's going on with our Kinship Caregiver services. We had no takers for Request for Proposal put out after Advocacy Services for Kids ended their contract with us. After Judy spoke with Deb Search Willoughby, Counseling at Home, our Contracted Provider for Caregiver Individual

Counseling, she wasn't sure exactly what we wanted them to do, but they were interested. They recently brought in two licensed masters level social workers and they will take this on. \$5,581, includes carry over from last two years. This is the amount for the first year and subsequent contract years will be about \$4,000 per. They'll hold the sessions at First United Methodist Church downtown, where they have approved child care available. Original educational session for kinship caregivers was 4 weeks long, and they took a look at this, and think each weekly session can stand alone. The monthly support group will follow. Judy would like your approval to send to the County Board to amend their contract.

Motion Carried To approve Counseling at Home as the new contractor for Caregiver Education, Support & Training–Kinship Caregiver Services in the amount of \$5,581.00.

**Kimberly M.
Deb J.**

VIII. Other Business—Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Judy explained that there is no time limit on length of terms as chair or vice chair.

Motion Made to nominate current Chair, Don Ryan, and Vice Chair, Ros Robbert, to another term.

**Kelly Q.
Kimberly M.**

Motion Carried To re-elect Don Ryan, Chair, and Ros Robbert, Vice Chair

Both officers consented to serve again.

Motion Carried To adjourn at 5:18 PM

**Deb J.
Beverly S.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Bonita