

**Older Adult Services Advisory Council Meeting
September 12, 2018 – HCS Alcott St., Room 361
MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Don Ryan, Samantha Carlson, Tim Charron, John Hilliard, Kimberly Middleton, Kimberly Phillips, Beulah Price, Kelly Quardokus, Ros Robbert, and Commissioner John Gisler

Members Absent: David Eyke,

Staff Present: Anne Zemlick, Brien Brockway, Don Saldia, Kelly Milliman, Janice Bonita, Jim Rutherford, HCS Director & Health Officer

Guests: Kathryn Hanfland, Aetna; Lynn Perg; Joyce Ryan; Sara Wick, MSAC Delegate; Amanda Willer, Vineyards

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Don Ryan opened the meeting with welcome and introductions at 3:34 pm.

II. **Approval of July Minutes:**

Motion	Carried	To Accept the July Minutes
	Tim Charron	
	John Hilliard	

III. **Citizen Time:** Janice thanked the Council for the certificate of appreciation. Amanda Willer: Sept 27th is open house at Vineyard, 4-6 pm, 8170 Vineyard Pkwy.

Kelly Milliman introduced Lynn Perg, CFI client, who related her story.

IV. **Member Time:** Anne Z. read a very nice letter she received from a son of a centenarian who attended the luncheon in May (who has since passed away).

Chairman Ryan said on Aug 7th this community had the largest voter turn-out in 40 years and passed the senior millage. We are now working through how the money will be distributed.

Don said that in the very near future, you're going to be needing donations for Christmas Baskets, and Don contributed \$50 to get it started.

Kim Phillips said Portage Senior Center is holding their Purse Sale Saturday, and invited everyone to come.

Commissioner John Gisler said he didn't foresee the millage passing so overwhelmingly; he was humbled.

Kimberly Middleton, Life EMS has taken on Oceana County, now 10 counties in West Michigan. Reminder this month's PFA Sept. 28th at Senior Services, 8-10 am. An attorney from the MI Immigrants Rights Center will talk about challenges of undocumented parents, people who don't have access to Medicare and other services.

Ros Robbert said they had their final "Say Yes to Seniors" (senior millage) meeting yesterday, and Jared presented the numbers. Jared and Miranda did very well.

V. **Financial Report Review**: Anne reported for Beth Ridge who was unable to be present. We just got another Statement of Grant Award. There are no real concerns on the July report; some will be underspent because it came so late in the year. Choices for Independence has been very busy trying to use the funding received late.

VI. **Advocacy Report**: Sara Wick reported MSAC hasn't met since May; next meeting September 26th. The legislature will get back Sept. 25th. A lot of bills out there hanging in limbo, probably no-fault will be voted on this fall, tax bills, depends upon the election. Federal Government spending bills—they have to spend before Sept. 30th, one is the agriculture bill (SNAP bills). Stabenow meeting over the summer, and the Senate and House bills are very different. KCASI meets this coming Monday the 17th, and will have all the candidates for state legislature. Oct. 15th KCASI meeting will have update on the three ballot proposals. On Monday at 6 pm at the Fetzer Center, there will be a program on Promote the Vote. Anne said at the meeting yesterday they talked about minimum wage and raising the pay for Direct Care Workers. Jon Hoadley's bill which would establish a long-term care study was not picked up however, O'Brien reportedly will pick up this issue which also addresses the direct care worker crisis.

Ros Robbert asked if there was there any discussion of the hours. Anne: the SAC, 2 years ago, put together a study, and training was one of the things addressed. Kelly

Quardokus: added that the elderlaw section of the State Bar Assn, took an official policy position, and had put in support of it. Anne: We have to stay consistent on the messaging. Region 1B AAA, which houses Silver Key Coalition, put together "Aging in Michigan—What Michigan's Next Governor Needs to Know."

Chairman Ryan: The Commission is looking at trying to help with the funding by establishing a "seniors" license plate, and that money will go to the AASA office and be in support of the Direct Care Worker shortage. Sara Wick said that that would be great to advocate for; and, also added "Please remember to vote in November."

Commissioner John Gisler asked: Is it premature to speculate about lame-duck legislation? Sara Wick: Regarding No fault legislation, the Mayor of Detroit is really pushing no fault, and income tax.

Commissioner Gisler commented on Anne Zemlick's presentation to KCASI on the Direct Care Worker crisis was "...dynamite. Well done, good information." Kimberly Middleton added that the same presentation will be in November at Professionals Focused on Aging (PFA).

Anne Z. added that Senate Bill 1031, modifying the tax for utility companies, would eliminate some of the taxes on the utility company's property, which would impact the tax base.

Staff Reports: Brien Brockway reported that he has attended several conferences and forums. A Nutrition conference provided good data on congregate and home delivered meals (hdm): 50% increase in hdm and decrease in congregate meals, which is tied to a recognition in isolation and loneliness in older adults. The tri-county AAA in Lansing are working with Michigan State University (MSU) students to bring students into the cong. meal sites, and are seeing increase in cong. meal participation. He wants to look at working with Senior Services and Western, also get intergenerational communication. Other discussion was on Veterans in Kalamazoo County, re the office, where the office will be. The highest rate of Veteran suicide is white males 60+ There is much discussion on what we're going to do, how to connect with vets, get them services, be more of a link with the VA. Brien did assessments: Senior Services, Shepherd's Center, South County Senior Center, did fairly well. The biggest question he got was about millage dollars; wanting to know how to apply for them. Tuesday, September 25th at 10 am, he's facilitating a

Conversation on Community for a Lifetime; municipal leaders, planners, administrators, stakeholders invited. Kelly Quardokus asked if we have the breakdown of residents of the different townships who are 60 and over, because she said sometimes they aren't paying attention to that. Brien answered that if they don't break it down themselves, it's from the census track. Brien has that information and has forwarded it to cities, villages, twps. Anne Z. added that the State has been approached by AARP to designate Michigan as "States for a Lifetime."

John Hilliard: with regard to suicide and veterans 60+, a friend of his is beginning to experience delayed issues related to his service experience that leads to suicide. What is being done?

Jim Rutherford answered that HCS is working with Community Mental Health, that the VSO will remain here, and they have just hired two Veteran Service Officers to work with the two staff who have been serving as interim. Mark Fletcher and Juan Gonzales, they are already working with Battle Creek VA Medical Center on suicide prevention. John Hilliard said that we should make the normal referral to BCVA? Jim said we can't speak to the VA system, but certainly we have the people here to direct people to the VA.

Don Saldia reported on Choices for Independence: Care Consultants trying to open as many new people from the waiting list as possible. He noted that as has been the case, when a client comes off the list another is waiting.

Don S. and Brien B. have been doing purchase-of-service provider assessments. Home Sweet Home is a new company, who purchased the company, ADL Home Care. Another home health agency applying to be a CFI POS provider is Option One. We are losing Bronson at Home for in-home services at the end of this month; they will continue with to provide Personal Emergency Response call buttons (PERs); but they're not doing private duty anymore. Regarding training: Six staff received Medicare/Medicaid educational training in elder law. We are partnering with Western's School of Medicine and nursing school to have interns for the fall.

Anne Z. reported that she presented on the Direct Care Worker Crisis at KCASI. There is a very good video on PBS web site with Dr. Clare Lutz (search Direct Care Worker Crises). Anne attended a meeting with Kelly Jonker and Brien Brockway, of

the State Ombudsman Directors and Ombudsmen, to talk about different long-term-care ombudsman laws and regulations. In Dec., the local state ombudsman office is coming in to meet with us to discuss elder abuse and reporting.

Sept. 21st Anne and Brien are going to State Office to present the Annual Implementation Plan for 2019. Cindy Albrecht, AASA Field Rep., has been very supportive.

Sept 14th, VA will hold a Mental Health Summit in Kalamazoo Mr. Patton will be presenting. Some of our staff are going.

Last month we were invited to meet with stakeholders with Bronson, post-acute care network, not just Kalamazoo County, how to make that community transitions. With regard to community residents who primarily access Bronson services. Bronson does not want to have to deal with completing several different forms from different AAAs, and Region IV AAA has the most robust form. Kelly Quardokus asked, how often do you have to do that—when you offer services until they are eligible for waiver? Anne replied, not often, probably a couple a year; and, they go to the top of our wait list. Kelly Q. commented that sometimes the 30-60-90 days they have to wait they would need to go into a nursing home, so, it is a nice service you offer. Anne said she is collaborating with their care managers to work out the details of their EPIC system.

Samantha Carlson, Kelly Milliman and Anne Z. went to Bronson today for the Magnet Hospital Accreditation for nursing staff, which was very interesting.

Regarding the water situation: this is being brought to our attention more and more. What is our emergency preparation and how can we do better? Anne been working with Cindy Albrecht, Emergency Preparedness officer for AASA, and along with others, will be part of a panel to present on this subject during the AAAAM conference in October.

VII. **Other Business**: Chairman Ryan announced that AASA has awarded at least \$100,000 to help us fight elder abuse. Anne amended that by saying they did ask us to reduce our award to \$70,000. This year's PREVENT grant will support the development of a care coordinator to provide wrap-around services to victims of elder abuse, as well

as continue the elder abuse coalition and hoarding task force and multi-disciplinary teams.

Chair Ryan distributed a sheet with a lesson on stress. It was announced that Tim Barnes is new director of Ecumenical Senior Center, taking the place of Lou Bilancio.

Chair saluted Jim Rutherford. He thanks him for the special panels on the conference room tables. He commends him on HCS's handling of the water situation, and the move to this new building, and the issues with Community Action Agency.

Chairman Gisler commented that it seems the PFAS situation seems to be under control, but, that there has got to be serious long-term implications for [Jim] as Health Officer.

Jim R. reported on the municipal supply in Parchment, Cooper Twp., and Richland. No matter who is the next Governor, we're going to be talking about PFAS for years to come. Unfortunately, [Kalamazoo County] the first to get hit; because we had the paper mills, shallow aquifers, now we are paying for. We'll continue to work on long-term monitoring. Kudos to Kalamazoo, as they stepped in and said "we're going to help you." Commissioner Gisler added that that seems to be the best example up close where we've got inter-governmental collaboration, and we all worked together for the citizens. Jim added that there's still frustration in Parchment—people have been giving this [the contaminated] water to their children. [All-in-all] He thinks, when push comes to shove, the community can come together. Conversation ensued among the members.

Motion	Carried	To Adjourn at 4:53 pm
	John Hilliard	
	Beulah Price	

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Bonita