

## Oakland County Senior Advisory Council Meeting

May 16, 2022

### VIRTUAL MEETING

10:05 am -11:20 am

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Cameron McClure (District #5) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairperson Cameron McClure (District #5) conducted member roll call and meeting attendance.

Member Attendance:

Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name
1	P	George Hanley	2	P	Linda Hyaduck	3	P	Jerry Sowik
4	E	Carolyn Morrison	5	P	Cameron McClure	6	E	Renata Erickson
7	P	Barbara Garbutt	8	P	Norene Yuskowatz	9	V	VACANT
10	A	Carolyn Price	11	P	Howard Adams	12	V	VACANT
13	E	Sylvia Whitmer	14	V	VACANT	15	E	Dianne Bubnar
16	P	Mark Kelly	17	P	Barbara Seldon	18	E	Marsha Kamin
19	E	Royetta Ealba	20	E	Martha Schlesinger	21	A	Cheryl Cushingberry
AL	P	Rock Abboud	AL	P	Marcus Jackson			
SR	P	Pat Zawadzki	SR	P	Genessa Doolittle		E	Sandy Dorey

Key: **Dist** = District # (AL -Member-at-Large, SR – Staff Rep); **RC** = Attendance P – Present; E – Excused; A -Absent; V – Vacant); **Name** = District Council Member

Others Present:

Dr. Russell Faust – Medical Director Health Division

Ashley McBride-Braswell – Manager, Community Engagement

Carolynn Krause – Oakland County Community Development

Katie Wendel – AAA-1B Director of Planning and Advocacy

## **APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting April 11, were unanimously approved.

## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

Community Engagement Officer Carolynn Krause introduced Ashley McBride-Braswell, Manager Community Engagement Southeast Oakland County to the group. Community Engagement is divided into the Southeast Area of Oakland County under Ashley McBride-Braswell and the Central and Southwest Area under Marcus Pearson. Ashley, Marcus and Carolynn make up the Community Engagement Team whose focus is on the people who live in Oakland County. Carolynn relayed the Community Engagement Team's commitment to senior programming, outreach and support from the Executive Office. They are monitoring the County Commissioner lead Work Groups as they are able. They will be reviewing the Work Group Agendas and Meeting Minutes and will attend Work Group Meetings when they can. We have the Community Engagement Team's full commitment and reassurance that they are engaged. They keep in touch with Barbara Winter from the County Commissioners Office and Katie Wendell from AAA 1-B.

Another initiative they are working on is Summer Outreach. They are looking at outreach activities with our senior centers and to attend existing senior center events and to help support some of fun summer activities both with senior centers and in communities that do not have a senior center with pop-up events. They are working on engagement strategies.

Ms. Krause informed the group about the new Business Navigators that are located with Oakland County Communities who are helping small businesses, minority owned businesses to access needed resources.

Ms. McBride informed the group that State Senator Jeremy Moss – 11<sup>th</sup> District will be hosting a Senior Summit on June 6, 2022, at the Southfield Pavilion in Southfield Michigan from 2-4PM. Ms. McBride-Braswell also informed the group that the Community Engagement Office is planning community events throughout Oakland County. That she and County Community Development Officer Carolyn Krause are engaged in discussions that are looking at better coordinating and planning these activities. This would entail using some ARPA funds to create a specific county-wide Senior Services Coordinator position in the next fiscal year,

which would be responsible for coordinating and linking all Oakland County senior activities and plans. SAC will be kept apprised of the discussions as they proceed.

## **COUNTY UPDATE**

Genessa Doolittle informed the group that it is now mosquito season. Please let Ms. Doolittle know if you would like a supply of mosquito repellent that you could distribute to our senior centers. Take proper precautions wear repellent, wear long sleeve shirts, wear long pants, avoid being outside when mosquitos are active usually at dusk and dawn. Keep in mind it is also tick season and there is evidence that ticks are plentiful. Animals are bringing ticks into homes so make sure that you check yourself thoroughly for ticks if you have to be outside.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Dr. Faust, Medical Director Oakland County Health and Human Services informed the group that they are seeing a COVID-19 upsurge. The seven-day running average has been 600 new cases per day.

Dr. Faust said that people who are either fully vaccinated and boosted or have had COVID in the past who now have break through COVID-19 infections are not becoming severely ill. They do not have the same blood levels of the COVID virus, and this is great news. Yes, people are still dying from COVID infections. People are still ultra-vulnerable if they are unvaccinated, if they have chronic ailments, or if they are very old. These individuals have great risks of experiencing severe complications if infected with COVID. Because many people are vaccinated and boosted, our hospitals are not overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. This is also good news! Dr. Faust then gave the group an overview of the various strains of the COVID virus that are showing up in the United States.

Dr. Faust then provided an update on High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Presently that is not much to worry about if you are not exposed to birds. Several flocks of chickens across the State of Michigan who tested positive for HPAI have been culled. Transmission of HPAI to humans has been rare but it is being monitored very closely by various federal agencies including Oakland County Health.

In conclusion Dr. Faust conducted a short Q&A Session.

## **BLUEPRINT UPDATE**

Katie Wendell informed the group that all three Working Groups of the Oakland County Blueprint for Successful Aging have had their first meeting. Ms. Wendell is very pleased with group attendance for all three Work Groups. Ms. Wendell thanked those SAC members who were able to participate. Ms. Wendell is pleased with the make up of each group and the ideas that have been generated thus far. Ms. Wendell is working on the meeting minutes for the group members. Ms. Wendell also provided details regarding the work group meeting schedules.

## **LEGISLATIVE/AAA 1B UPDATE**

Last week was also Senior Action Week and Older Michiganians Day. On Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Wendell was at the State Capitol with other state Area on Aging Groups advocating on Older Adult Concerns and Issues. There was a much smaller profile verses previous years in attendance numbers. There were approximately 380 verses over 1000 attendees in past events. About 16 Michigan Area Agencies on Aging were present. The event was live screened, and the recording should be available this week. The event provided the opportunity to talk to legislators about the Five Key Advocacy Requests that make up the Older Michiganians Platform.

1. TO SUPPORT THE DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE – The current budget includes the \$2.35 per hour wage increase that was passed during the pandemic and continues to be included in the current budget proposal for the next fiscal year which begins on October 1, 2022.
2. REBALANCING MICHIGAN’S LONG TERM CARE SPENDING – Currently Michigan is tied 4<sup>th</sup> from the bottom in terms of how Michigan distributes Medicaid Long Term Supportive Service Dollars between institutional settings and home and community-based settings. Most older adults would rather receive this care at home rather than an institutional setting like a skilled nursing facility. In Michigan less than 50% of Medicaid funding goes to home-based care forcing seniors to go into institutional settings to receive the services they require.
3. REDUCING WAIT LISTS FOR NON-MEDICAID HOME SERVICES – This is what the Silver Key Coalition has been working on for several years. There are over 7,000 older adults currently on the waiting list for non-Medicaid services.

4. SUPPORTING THE MI CHOICE PROGRAM – A Medicaid in home service program to ensure that service rates are competitive. The current budget proposal calls for a 2% rate increase for fiscal year 2023. The reality is that prices and wage cost have increased more than 2%. The proposed rate increase should reflect reality.
5. SUPPORT BROAD BAND INTERNET ACCESS ACROSS THE STATE – There are areas within the State where it is difficult to connect one's home to reliable internet access.

## **DISTRICT UPDATES**

Rock Abboud (At Large) – NEXT has housed their activities in the Midvale School since 1995 without any written agreement and use about 1/3 of the school's space. The City of Birmingham has passed a resolution to get a long-term written agreement for the use of the school. The Resolution also reaches out to the three other communities that NEXT supports. NEXT has over 2,200 members (900 from Birmingham and 600 from the Village of Beverly Hills). The 4 communities are in full support of NEXT and they have entered an agreement to financial support the day-to-day activities of NEXT. Roc mentioned how impressed he was with how the Troy Parks and Recreation Community Center is operated as he is with the Older Persons Commission (OPC) in Rochester.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson McClure thanked the SAC District Reps who contacted him with senior center contact information with updates or to confirm that the present senior contact information is still correct.

Mr. McClure attended the Older Michigianians Day in Lansing, where he had an opportunity to speak with some of our elected officials.

He, also, informed the group that on May 12, 2022, during the Oakland County District Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners presented the 2022 Oakland County Outstanding Older Adult Awards. Six of the 21 recipients were members of the Oakland County Senior Advisory Council!

Those members are:

Barbara Garbutt – District #7

Carolyn Price – District #10

Howard Adams – District #11

Sylvia Whitmer – District #13

Barbara Purifoy Seldon – District #18

Cam McClure – District #5

Chairperson McClure said that it was gratifying to be recognized by our Oakland County District Commissioners for the contributions that we make as the Oakland County Senior Advisory Council.

Chairperson McClure informed the group that the West Bloomfield Connect Senior Center have ceased senior activities at the leased facility. Senior activities have been relocated to the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Building. The West Bloomfield Senior Services Team is working with West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation to identify a new temporary facility while plans for a permanent facility are being finalized.

Chairperson McClure told the group that prior to the Pandemic, the Senior Advisory Council did not hold monthly meetings from June until August or September except for the special subcommittees who are working on a specific project and those SAC Members who are working presently on a Blueprint Work Group. Due to the Pandemic, we have continued to meet monthly through June 2022. There is discussion regarding not meeting in the months of July and August due to SAC members' vacation schedules. If you look at your agenda our next SAC Meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022. Location is TBD due to the ongoing concern with the increase of COVID19 infections in Oakland County. You will be notified regarding how we will conduct the June Meeting when you received the June Meeting Agenda.

Chairperson McClure informed that group that Marsha Kamin (District #18) has submitted her Letter of Resignation. Marsha is relocating to Colorado. We thank her for her service during her time with the Council!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM

## **NEXT MEETING**

**MONDAY June 13, 2022**

**10:00am – 12:00PM**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**