

**Oakland County Senior Advisory Council**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**January 9, 2023**  
**10:00 am -12:00 pm**

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Cameron McClure (District #5) welcomed all to the SAC meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Mr. McClure asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves, as there are a number of new people attending.

PLEASE NOTE THE DISTRICTS BELOW REPRESENT THE NEWLY REDISTRICTED AREAS. NO SAC REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AS YET BEEN OFFICIALLY APPOINTED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID COULTER. THOSE WITH AN ASTERISK \* INDICATE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SERVING ON THE SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (ALTHOUGH THEIR DISTRICT NUMBER MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT THAN THE NUMBER LISTED HERE).

<b>Dist</b>	<b><u>RC</u></b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b><u>RC</u></b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b><u>RC</u></b>	<b>Name</b>
1	E	* Royetta Ealba	2	P	*Mark Kelly	3	E	Suzanne Patton
4	V		5	P	*Jerry Sowik	6	V	
7	E	*Linda Hyaduck	8	P	*Carolyn Morrison	9	V	
10	P	*Cameron McClure	11	P	*Sylvia Whitmer	12	P	*Barbara Garbutt
13	P	*Noreen Yuskowatz	14	V		15	E	Brenda Anderson
16	V		17	E	*Barbara Seldon	18	E	Greg Keeler
19	P	*Martha Schlesinger		P	*Howard Adams (see below)	AL	P	*Rock Abboud
AL	E	*Marcus Jackson						

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

**Others Present:**

Howard Adams – former SAC member representing previous District #11  
 Leigh Anne Stafford – Director Oakland County Health Department  
 Ken Dobson – Oakland County American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Director  
 Ashley McBride-Braswell – Oakland County Manager, Community Engagement Manager  
 Daniel Klein, Community Engagement  
 Stephanie Hall– AAA-1b Research and Advocacy Manager  
 Genessa Doolittle – Oakland County Health Division, Public Health Educator  
 Theresa Maylone – Michigan State Police Fraud Investigation Section

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Senior Advisory Council minutes held December 12, 2022, was deferred until the February SAC meeting so that SAC members can be officially recommended by their district commissioners and appointed by County Executive Coulter.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Stephanie Hall, AAA1-B Research and Advocacy Manager, reported that this current post-election session of the state legislature is still very quiet, as there has been a change in the majority party controlling both houses and new committee chairs and assignments are still being finalized. Announcements regarding new leadership/committee assignments will be forthcoming and that information will be shared with SAC as it becomes available. Currently a new Senate Majority Leader has been appointed, and the new Speaker of the House is from Detroit.

AAA 1-B is advocating for the Caregivers Resource Centers item in the budget. Governor Whitmer will be formally submitting her budget for consideration soon. AAA 1-B will work with home healthcare companies as well as individual families – and will develop a professional referral and vetting system. SAC may be asked for input and feedback as the program develops. The amount of compensation is capped at \$500 per calendar year per family.

A question, asked at the December SAC meeting (regarding the qualifications of eligible families – specifically those families who bring non-resident family members needing care to Oakland County for the winter months or other short-term periods) still needs clarification. AAA 1-B will let SAC know when they have an answer.

## **PRESENTATION: SENIOR FINANCIAL FRAUD**

Guest speaker Theresa Maylone, of the Michigan State Police Fraud Investigation Section, shared a PowerPoint presentation with SAC members. This information is important because of senior vulnerability – and should be shared with seniors as well as family members and senior caregivers.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- **Reasons why Senior Citizens are the targets** of Scammers: it is highly likely they are financially stable; they are often too trusting of people; they are less likely to report SCAM: they are less experienced with computers and on-line services; and they are seeking companionship and probably less discriminating.
- **How SCAMs work:** scammers push for fast decisions and threaten if answers are not prompt; scammers disguise themselves in all manners of deceit; scammers pretend to be from Government agencies like the IRS, State Police, City Police, et al; and scammers are intent to obtaining Social Security and Bank Account Numbers.
- **How/where SCAMMERS work:** on-line offers; flashy messages on Facebook; scanning obituaries to prey on widows and widowers; and information sold to other companies – ill-gotten gains.

- **Types of SCAMS:**
  - Basket Scams – Scammer delivers a lovely gift basket to a senior citizen but requires identification such as an ID and/or credit card, which then facilitates stealing significant dollars of online purchases before the senior citizen realizes.
  - Gift Card Scams – Requiring gift card purchases as quick method of payment. They are readily available, virtually untraceable, easily converted to cash or bitcoins, and make it easy to move large aggregates of cash in small parcels.
  - Ransomware – this is tricky because some requests seem so simplistic in nature. However, once a personal computer is infected, it can be virtually impossible to clean and when a ransom request/demand comes a ransom the owner feels trapped/ obligated.
  - Telemarketing and Phone Scams – scammers pretend they represent legitimate enterprises so the target must be prepared to ask intelligent queries/questions. Rule of Thumb: Never, Never, Never give information to anyone unless you know who it is. Types of Telemarketing Scams – high pressure salespersons who play on emotions, fears, urgencies – case in point – your son or daughter are incarcerated and they need legal assistance to avoid prison
  - Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams – methods including phone calls, mass mailers, social media, e-mails promising fantastically large rewards, however the potential victim must first pay taxes, duties, or fees to provide internet banking routing. Rule: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
  - Romance Scams – these are frequently off-shore operatives that promise love and companionship and then follow-up with urgent needs of monies for health services, business expenses, travel – there are also both male and female gigolos.
  - Medicare and Health Insurance Scams – normally happens by phone when caller is offering services that are either not provided and/or not needed.
- **What to do if you are a Victim:** document, record everything that happened and then report to [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

## COUNTY UPDATE

Leigh Anne Stafford, Director of Oakland County Health Department shared the following health updates:

**Radon:** January is National Radon Action Month – test kits are presently available at \$5 each.

### Polio:

- Oakland County, MI and New York City are presently monitoring sanitary waste sewers for polio. They are the only communities in USA doing so at this time.
- Vaccine is presently available free of charge to Oakland County residents.
- If traveling outside the United States, it is imperative to get a polio booster shot.

**COVID:** We are coming up on the 3 year 'anniversary' of the COVID pandemic. The new variant is very contagious. Recommendations: stay home if sick. Wear masks in mass gatherings. Take advantage of free test kits from the Federal Government.

**Flu:** Activity is very high in Michigan at the present time.

**RSV:** Seeing significant decline in number of cases in Michigan.

## **SENIOR CENTER MATCHING GRANTS**

Ken Dobson, Oakland County's American Rescue Plan Director reviewed the timeline for the announcement and allocation of funds for the county's senior centers by the County Commissioners, which began in September. Requests for proposals were announced October 31, and were due to be submitted as of December 9, 2022. Twenty nine of 43 applications were approved to receive awards based on described needs of the respective center.

Mr. Dobson read the list of centers and the grant amounts they will receive, but Chairman McClure asked that all SAC members keep this information confidential until the centers are officially notified of their grant. Those whose application was not successful will also be notified. Mr. Dobson will send to Mr. McClure a list of all those who applied, the criteria used to review and decide which applications should be approved, and the status of each grant application. The Board of Commissioners will give the list a final review before notifications are sent out.

It was requested that when Mr. Dobson prepares his report to the Commissioners, that specific recognition be given to the advice and outreach assistance the Senior Advisory Council provided to ensure the success of the process.

## **SAC APPOINTMENT UPDATES**

Pat Zawadzki, SAC staff coordinator, reported that names for current SAC representatives are still being received from elected county commissioners, and those names being processed before they are submitted to the County Executive for official appointment. For SAC members who have been serving it is necessary to contact their respective commissioner to discuss their interest in continuing their service. All Commissioners (those who are new, as well as those who have been reelected) have been contacted and reminded to please submit the name of a SAC representative for their district, so their district's senior centers will have continuing contact with and information from their SAC representative.

All new SAC members will be introduced at the February SAC meeting. A SAC member orientation session will be scheduled for a date in the near future.

**SAC OFFICER ELECTIONS** will be held once there is an officially appointed quorum of SAC members, and new members have had the chance to settle into their responsibilities.

Formal and official thanks to Howard Adams and Cam McClure for their assistance in compiling the minutes for this January SAC meeting. Technical difficulties prevented Recording Secretary Martha Schlesinger from logging on to and participating in most of the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL**

**February 13, 2023**

**10:00AM – 12:00PM**