

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
March 20, 2023
10:00 am -12:00 pm

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Chairperson Cameron McClure (District #5) welcomed all to the SAC meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He asked each SAC member to self-introduce themselves with their district number and area.

Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name
1	P	Royetta Ealba	2	P	Mark Kelly	3	P	Suzanne Patton
4	P	Dianne Bubnar	5	P	Jerry Sowik	6	V	
7	P	Linda Hyaduck	8	P	Carolyn Morrison	9	E	Claudia Buckley
10	P	Cameron McClure	11	P	Sylvia Whitmer	12	P	Barbara Garbutt
13	P	Norene Yuskowatz	14	V		15	P	Brenda Anderson
16	V		17	P	Barbara Seldon	18	P	Greg Keeler
19	P	Martha Schlesinger	AL	P	Rock Abboud	AL	P	Marcus Jackson
SR	P	Pat Zawadzki						

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:

Leigh-Anne Stafford – Director, Oakland County Health and Human Services

James Ellison –Chief, Oakland County Older Adult Services

Katie Wendell – AAA 1B Director, Planning and Advocacy

Genessa Doolittle – Public Health Educator, Oakland County Health Division

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Senior Advisory Council minutes for meetings held February 13, 2023, were approved with the correction that Dianne Bubnar (District #4) was present at the meeting.

COUNTY UPDATE

Leigh-Anne Stafford, Director of the Oakland County Health and Human Services, commented on a number of current health topics:

- Covid: is in low transmission, but she urged SAC members to get tested if not feeling well and be sure to get a booster vaccine. No date is published for the next booster to be released.
- Flu: seems to have peaked as there are not as many cases, but if you are not feeling well, you should stay home.
- Allergies: are ramping up, but don't ignore symptoms and take a home Covid test if you are concerned.
- The delayed polio testing of wastewater in Oakland County will begin in two weeks. The polio vaccine is available from the County. Responding to concern about Southfield's many home septic tanks, she said that testing will be looking at sample sizes in communities for indications of the virus. This testing pilot will be used as the basis for education efforts.

She also reported that in County Executive Dave Coulter's State of the County address it was announced that there will be an Integrated Urgent Care site set up in Pontiac to provide access of care for both primary and behavioral (aka mental) health needs regardless of a patient's ability to pay. It is hoped this will be the first of several such sites. The County will be partnering with Honor Community Health, Oakland Community Health Network, and Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, and the projected Pontiac site launch will be some time next year. The County is looking for partners in the south part of the County for this program's expansion.

In response to questions, Ms. Stafford said that she was unaware of the change in status for free senior eligibility for the shingles shot but will check; and she suggested SAC members check with the County Nurse On Call regarding this and a listing of what other free vaccinations may be available.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Before beginning her AAA-1B report, Katie Wendell, AAA-1B's Director of Planning and Advocacy, responded to the question about the change regarding the shingles vaccine: as part of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, there was a change to the Medicare Advantage coverage to include the shingles shot and other vaccines.

Legislative update:

AAA-1B is in 6 counties, and they have met with each of the new legislators. Ms. Wendell suggested that SAC members make a point of meeting their reps (particularly the new ones). She has found them very knowledgeable and engaged on matters regarding seniors.

Senior Action Week will be May 15-19, with May 17 being Older Michiganders Day. It will be a smaller in-person event in Lansing, with emphasis on live-streamed virtual gatherings. She hopes that there will be local watch parties hosted at many senior centers with interactions with their respective representatives. To find out who your district's representative(s) are, go to the (county or state) government website(s) and put in your address. More information on Senior Action Week will be forthcoming. A special focus will be on supporting direct care, including: an ombudsman for long term care facilities; the silver key coalition; family caregivers; and MIChoice (Medicaid).

Regarding the ongoing concern about streamlining service delivery for non-permanent Oakland County residents, she indicated that AAA covers 16 distinct areas in Michigan and the organization is updating their service standards. Nevertheless, there is a wait list for services in each area (the list in Oakland County is currently 1200 people), due to VERY limited resources, and service response priority is based on several factors including level of need and queue time. There is a County Commissioner who serves on the updating process group for each of the 16 areas, so concerns could also be directed to that individual; for Oakland County it is Commissioner Charlie Cavell.

AAA-1B is sponsoring a Dementia Friends class, open to anyone who is interested. In the 1-2 hour course, participants will learn about dementia and how to interact and help and care for those with dementia. There is a virtual option, and an in-person session will be held at Older Persons Commission on April 4. Flyers are available.

The Connect Guide of AAA-1B is currently being proofread and will be available at the end of April. She asked for SAC's help in making sure that at least one copy of the Guide gets to each senior center and will bring printed copies to the May 15 SAC meeting (which will be held in person at Waterford Oaks). The Guide will also be available online, and we can put it on the SAC website.

OLDER ADULT SERVICES ACTIVITY UPDATE

Jim Ellison, Chief of Older Adult Services, reported that he has begun visiting senior centers – he went with SAC representative Mark Kelly to Troy and has visited Wixom, Hazel Park, and Royal Oak. He will try and visit 2 centers per week. It was suggested that he contact and include the SAC representative for each center he will visit.

SENIOR CENTER MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

Ashley McBride, Oakland County Community Engagement Manager, did not attend the SAC meeting so there was no update on the questions and concerns about the use and distribution of grant funds that has been voiced at the past 3 SAC meetings.

Prior to this meeting, SAC members were asked to contact their respective senior centers to see if they had signed and returned their agreement forms and report whether any funds had been received (as per the February 6 date announced in the October 2022 County document outlining the procedures, qualifications, and timelines for the application/review/award of the grants). Each SAC member reported on their respective centers and many of them had signed and returned their agreement documents to the County - but none of the centers have yet received any of the funds they were told they were awarded. The City Manager for Pleasant Ridge (District #19) reported to SAC rep Martha Schlesinger that when he inquired about their grant's status, he was told that they would not get their grant money for months and "Oakland County hasn't even approved the grant agreement yet".

Further, despite continual requests by SAC for information on the criteria used to determine grant award recipients and a list of those centers/organizations that had applied but will not be receiving any funds, no such information has been forthcoming. Ken Dobson, who had been overseeing ARPA funds and the grant process, is no longer in that position and SAC has not been informed who will now be the point of contact for grant-related questions. SAC Chairman Cam McClure expressed the extreme concern and frustration felt by SAC members and the senior centers they represent (additional comments are in the District Updates section of the minutes.) Jim Ellison said he would discuss the concerns expressed by SAC members and officers with Deputy County Executive Walt Herzig and report back to Chair McClure.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

District #1 (Portion of the cities of Birmingham, Royal Oak, and Troy): No report.

District #2 (City of Clawson, and portions of the cities of Royal Oak and Troy): Mark Kelly reported that Clawson's signed form was submitted to the County but they haven't heard back; Troy doesn't have a separate senior center, it is part of the general community center which is run on a for-profit basis, and he hasn't seen yet how the funds will be spent; Royal Oak has a separate senior center, but no information was provided.

District #3 (Cities of Hazel Park and Madison Heights, and portions of the City of Troy): Suzie Patton is waiting to speak to Hazel Park; Madison Heights is using the grant to improve the HVAC and garden. She is not aware if they have signed their agreement.

District #4 (City of Auburn Hills, and portions of the City of Rochester Hills): Dianne Bubnar reported that the Director for Rochester Hills is out of town; OPC applied for and was approved for \$250,000 for roof replacement. No funds have yet been received.

District #5 (Addison and Oxford townships, the City of Rochester, the villages of Leonard and Oxford, and portions of Oakland Township and the City of Rochester Hills): Jerry Sowik reported that Addison has not yet received any money. It will be used for pickleball courts. Oxford has just recently registered as a senior center, so did not participate in the grant application process.

District #6 (Orion Township, the Village of Lake Orion, and portions of Oakland Township and the City of Rochester Hills): Currently without a SAC representative.

District #7 (Brandon, Groveland, Holly, Rose, and Springfield townships, the villages of Holly and Ortonville, and portions of Highland and White Lake townships, and the entire portion of the City of Fenton within Oakland County): Linda Hyaduck reported that Springfield applied for a grant but haven't reported back to her. Brandon applied and received notice they were successful. She noted that assistance for the grant application process coming from SAC was greatly appreciated.

District #8 (Independence Township, the cities of Lake Angelus and Clarkston, and portions of Waterford Township): Carolyn Morrison reported that after her district's lines were redrawn, she toured the new area and met with both Waterford centers. Independence Township successfully applied for a grant that will be used for structural improvement to the building and the grounds. No funds have yet been received. The center wants to make sure that the funds go to the senior center and not into the General Fund of the municipality - a concern that is shared by several other districts and senior centers.

District #9 (Portions of Bloomfield Township and the City of Pontiac): Claudia Buckley was excused from this SAC meeting, so Cam McClure reported for her on the Senior Center in Pontiac, that the city of Pontiac has reviewed, signed, and returned the

agreement form to the County. They have heard nothing, and with no designated point person to contact, have no idea where they/we are or how to find out.

District #10 (The cities of Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake, portions of Waterford and West Bloomfield townships, and portions of the City of Pontiac): Cam McClure reported that the Waterford Center has signed and returned the agreement form to the County. They will use their funding to replace an industrial stove and repair a major leak in the building.

District #11 (The cities of Bloomfield Hills and Orchard Lake, and portions of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield townships): Sylvia Whitmer reported that West Bloomfield/Bloomfield Connect will receive the full amount of the grant they applied for; there will be a meeting this week to discuss it. She was concerned that she didn't see a way to inform the general senior population about the grant and its uses. These will include professional training for its staff, a new temporary site for its senior center (before its permanent facility is built on the W. Bloomfield civic campus), and possibly the purchase of a second bus for senior transportation. There was nothing to report for Bloomfield Township.

District #12 (The Village of Wolverine Lake, and portions of Commerce, Waterford, and White Lake townships): Barb Garbutt reported that Richardson Senior Center will use the \$250,000 they will be getting for 4 pickleball courts. They also submitted a second grant request but have heard nothing from the County about it. Dublin didn't apply, as they couldn't agree with the Township on fund usage.

District #13 (Lyon and Milford townships, the City of South Lyon, the Village of Milford, and portions of Highland and White Lake townships): Norene Yuskowatz reported that neither Highland nor Milford applied for a grant; she doesn't know if South Lyon has signed their agreement.

District #14 (The cities of Walled Lake and Wixom, and portions of Commerce Township and the City of Novi): Currently without a SAC representative.

District #15 (Novi Township, the entire portion of the City of Northville within Oakland County, and portions of the cities of Farmington Hills and Novi): Brenda Anderson reported that Novi was successful in their grant application but have not yet received funds. Northville did not apply for a grant. Marcus Jackson provided additional information on Brenda's behalf as her microphone wasn't working. Novi was notified their grant application was successful, and they will be using the funds for pickleball. They have signed and returned their agreement form to the County.

District #16 (The City of Farmington, and portions of the City of Farmington Hills): Currently has no SAC representative.

District #17 (The cities of Lathrup Village and Oak Park, Royal Oak Township, and portions of the City of Southfield): Barbara Selden reported that there has been some confusion and dissention in Southfield as to how the grant funds will be used. She and Greg Keeler have been meeting with city and community center representatives to clarify the situation. There is no separate senior center facility in Southfield. She has also been in touch with Pearl Wright Senior Center Director Sandra Thomas to provide support for the grant implementation when funds are received.

District #19 (The cities of Berkley, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, and Pleasant Ridge, and portions of the cities of Birmingham and Royal Oak): Martha Schlesinger reported that she was waiting to hear back from all the centers except Pleasant Ridge, which had been notified it would receive a \$40,000 grant; although the city had signed and returned the agreement, they have not received any funds – and when the City Manager inquired he was told they would not get their grant money for months and “Oakland County hasn’t even approved the grant agreement yet”.

NEXT located in District #19, this multi-city consortium has been working with At-Large Member and Vice Chair Rock Abboud for many years before the redistricting. Since District #19 already has 4 other cities/centers in it, SAC officers agreed that he will continue that working relationship, rather than have District #19 SAC rep Martha Schlesinger do so. Rock Abboud reported that they successfully applied for a grant of \$250,000.

Summing up the frustration and concern of many of the SAC members and the senior centers they represent, SAC Coordinator Pat Zawadzki said that because the funds for Oakland County’s senior center grants are Federal government funds, their utilization must strictly adhere to the terms and conditions that ARPA put on their use. Again, Oakland County Older Adult Services Director Jim Ellison assured SAC members that he would research the whereabouts of the funds and the status and timetable for their disbursement and report back in detail at the April meeting for each District as he will have completed his Senior Center visits by the time of that meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Martha Schlesinger reviewed with SAC members the procedures and timetable for the nomination and election of SAC officers. Providing background information for new SAC members, she said that due to Covid and the interruption of in-person SAC meetings since the Spring of 2020, SAC members voted to suspend the elected term length of officer service (which is normally (2) 2-year terms for the same officer position) and the officer election process. Now that SAC is meeting regularly (although still remotely) and the County redistricting process has been completed, it is time to reinstate the

nomination and election process and timetable as outlined in the SAC Bylaws. That means that prior to this March meeting a preliminary list of those interested running for an officer position was sent to SAC members with other materials for the March meeting. The names and officer position that were on this preliminary list of nominations were: Rock Abboud, Chairman; Mark Kelly and Cam McClure, First Vice Chairman; Martha Schlesinger, Second Vice Chair; there were no names indicated for the position of Recording Secretary. Prior to the March SAC meeting, but after the preliminary nominations list had gone out, Mark Kelly contacted SAC Coordinator Pat Zawadzki and asked that his name be removed from the list as a First Vice Chairman nominee.

Members of SAC have until April 2 to nominate additional people for officer positions by sending those names to Pat Zawadzki, who will contact the potential nominees and confirm their willingness to serve if elected. A revised slate will be sent to SAC members via email on April 3. Voting online must be completed and sent to Pat by April 10, so votes can be tallied, and election results included in the materials sent out prior to the April 17 SAC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01.

**NEXT MEETING
VIRTUAL
MONDAY APRIL 17, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**