

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Monday, May 15, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and self-introductions. Chairperson Rock Abboud welcomed all to SAC meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Attendance Matrix:

Welcome to new member Dean McCullough of District #14

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Genessa Doolittle, Public Health Educator, Oakland County Health Division
Ashley McBride, Oakland County Community Engagement Manager
Jim Ellison, Chief, Oakland County Older Adult Services
Katie Wendel, Director Planning and Advocacy, AAA 1B
Renee Cortwright, OPC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting held April 17, 2023, were approved with the following corrections:

- Corrections for the spelling of names Marcus Jackson and Norene Yuskowatz.

- The following members WERE in attendance: Carolyn Morrison, Suzanne Patton, Brenda Anderson, Jerry Sowik.
- Renee Cortwright (on behalf of Diane Bubnar, District #4) had the following 3 corrections:
 - The Older Persons Commission (OPC) 5K run/walk for meals on wheels annual fundraiser is June 3rd. at 8 AM. The run/walk goes down the Clinton River Trail starting and ending at OPC.
 - The Summer Soiree Elegant Garden Affair in the OPC Stone Cottage Garden is June 23rd. This fundraiser for the Meals on Wheels Program includes a strolled dinner, live music and auction, and many other surprises.
 - The OPC Meals on Wheels Program that benefits homebound seniors in Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Auburn Hills, Addison, Brandon Lake Orion, Oxford, and Independence township provides a birthday card for each MOW client on their birthday.

COUNTY UPDATE: Pat Zawadzki and Genessa Doolittle

Pat Zawadzki informed the group that Dr. Faust and Leigh-Anne Stafford were unable to attend today's meeting due to the untimely death of Oakland County Health Officer Calandra Green. Please keep Dr. Green's family in your prayers.

Genessa Doolittle informed the group that the COVID Emergency ended last week, but the COVID vaccine will remain free of charge until changes are made based on inventory of federally purchased vaccine and individual insurance plans.

There is a second bi-valent booster available for those over the age of 65 and those at high risk. It will be the same as the one received in the fall. It is recommended that you take the 2nd booster if it has been more than 5 months, if you plan to travel, if you are at high risk, or if you plan to be around a lot of people.

Polio is not eradicated in the world. The Oakland County Health Division is working on the surveillance of Polio in wastewater. Don't know where the sites are located but the polio vaccine is free at the Oakland County Health Division.

Summer is coming and so are mosquitos. Mosquitos lay their eggs in standing water and their bites put you at risk for West Nile virus. Be sure to empty standing water, especially bird baths, or decorative pools or toys sitting outside. Purchase larvicide to place in standing water to prevent mosquito growth. Some municipalities are putting larvicide into the storm drains.

Ms. Zawadzki noted that there are numerous calls from older adults regarding an increasing issue with skunks. It is a rabies issue. Callers report that they were told it was up to the people of each community to get rid of the skunks. Jim Ellison will

investigate the issue and see if there is some kind of program that can be initiated by the County. Mr. Ellison will provide an update at the next meeting prior to the summer recess.

The link to the old Senior Advisory Council website does not work anymore. Oakgov.com/health will bring you to the Health Division's main webpage, and there is a new link for SAC. Cameron McClure (District #10) passed out a handout that has links that will take you to the website and other relevant sites.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Katie Wendel

The new Connect Resource guide is available and was distributed at the meeting. The guide has been sent to senior centers across the County. There is also an electronic version that can be accessed online at AAA1b.org/connect (you can also request more copies at this site). There is an Oakland County Section within the booklet.

AAA-1B Senior Action Week: The week of May 15th is Older Michiganian Week. Wednesday May 17 is Older Michiganian Day, which can be viewed at 11AM on Zoom and Facebook. The Governor will be attending. It is not a massive event as it has been in the past; the footprint has been reduced since COVID. There are not massive busloads of people. Each day corresponds to an issue on AAA-1B's legislative platform. The issues are:

- Support for Direct Care caregivers
 - Direct Care Workers will receive an increase in pay in recognition that it is hard work. They help to keep seniors in their homes.
 - The average rate for Direct Care Workers is approximately \$12.00 - \$15.00/hour
 - The Care giver resources proposal was included only in the Senate at 9.4 million.
 - The increase is \$2.35/hour and permanent. The Governor increased it by \$1.50 making it \$3.85 /hour. An additional \$1.00 was added by the house that was to last for just one year, making it \$4.85. (The Senate recommended an additional \$.65 increase and added a wage increase for non-direct Care nursing facilities staff).
 - AAA-1B advocates strongly for the direct Care Workforce because of the difficulties of that job and the difficulty in recruiting workers for those positions. AAA-1B also recommends that the Nursing home administrators pay their workers an adequate wage.
- Support for the long-term care ombudsman
 - The ombudsman's proposal is \$3000,000 to increase staffing for senior facilities residents and their families.
- Support for the Silver Key Advocacy

- Silver Key Coalition requesting \$9,000,000 for in-home services and \$1,000,000 for home delivered meals.
- The house recommended a one-million-dollar bundle for home delivered meals for one year.
- AAA-1B is hoping to get the legislators to recognize the need to make this a sustained budget rather than for just one year.
- Support for My Choice Medicaid programs
 - On the floor, the House added 5 million, for non-Medicaid-in-home services, the Senate included \$1.695 million.

We are asked to reach out to our state representatives to discuss the issues. Let them know that they are important to you.

SENIOR CENTER MATCHING GRANT STATUS UPDATE: Ashley McBride

Ashley McBride stated that they are stuck in a little bit of bureaucracy with the grants.

- So far, four communities are in the process of being paid and should receive their payments later this week:
 - Older Persons Commission (OPC)
 - Wixom
 - Pleasant Ridge
 - Madison Heights.
- The county legal department is working with consultants to refine just what the new Inner Local Agreement language will be.
 - The good news is that it will clarify the fact that those receiving the grants awards will not have to adhere to certain federal treasury guidelines, so it will be less requirements for them to meet as they proceed and more flexibility in the potential applications of the funds.
 - Twenty-three centers have been contacted. Each will have to sign a new Interlocal Agreement.
- Two centers must be processed separately because of the nature of their contract. They are either a non-profit entity or an entity not connected to a specific governmental body (Jewish Community Center and Birmingham Next).
- The new contracts should be completed and sent out this week. Each center should have received a new template.
 - The goal is to send the contracts out this week, and grant funds out before the beginning of June.
- The grant fund must be wrapped up by CY 2026.
- SAC recommends that any e-mails or other information that is sent to the senior centers be copied and sent to SAC for information sharing so we may be apprised of what communications are being sent to the senior centers to help minimize misunderstandings. It was also recommended that for transparency, the

Oakland County Commissioners, and Mr. Ellison, are updated regarding any changes.

OLDER SERVICES ACTIVITIES UPDATE: James Ellison

Mr. Ellison continues to visit senior centers, trying to visit 2 or 3 centers per week and talking to senior center directors and participants. He asks what is good, bad, and deficient.

- There are 37 centers in the county that are managed by the municipalities.
 - He anticipates getting to all of them before the Fall season.
 - SAC asks Mr. Ellison to contact Pat Zawadzki when visiting a senior center, and Pat will in turn let the specific SAC District Reps know who can then make plans to attend.

There are 2 Senior-Fests scheduled:

- September 13, 2023, at the Southfield Pavilion
- Wednesday October 4, 2023, at the Farmers Market.

The Fests are sponsored by Senior Fest USA, and do not cost the county. They ask that we provide promotion and distribute literature, and Senior Fest takes care of finding sponsors to support the events. The Fests are still in the planning stages, and once the contracts are signed the programs will be marketed.

Mr. Ellison will attend Old Michigania Day, meet with the Governor, and explain to her just what he is doing.

- He meets weekly with his superiors to keep them informed.

There is no solid information regarding county wide transportation implementation plans. Oakland County just hired Eli Cooper to be its Transit Manager. SMART, NOTA, WOTA and OPC are participants in the planning meetings to create a county wide transportation system.

- There will be 3 public hearings to talk about the fixed transportation routes.

SUB-COMMITTEES WORKING GROUPS:

The By-Laws committee (Barbara Garbutt, District#12) will hold its first meeting at the conclusion of our member meeting to get organized. There is nothing to report currently. There will be a presentation at the next membership meeting.

The Dashboard/Directory committee (Sylvia Whitmer, District #11) Sylvia Whitmer shared that people were unaware of SAC. People were unaware of what a Senior Center is and its responsibilities.

- Senior centers are not alike.

- They have different locations, different likes, different fundings.
- There is no real definition of a senior center.
 - According to Wikipedia, a senior center is *a type of community center where older adults 55+ congregate, to fulfill their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs. A regular part of senior centers is card and board games and some video games by generation.*
- Sylvia Whitmer researched and found this definition that she revised:
 - *“a dashboard is a designated local site/website for seniors 55+ to access programs, information, services, fellowship and assistance under the governance of the Oakland County Commission and the local Township/City government.”*
- Most senior centers have local City representative Councils, public by-laws, and a staff coordinator. There are many questions that are not answered by what information we have in place currently.
- The Dashboard committee will work on providing answers to the questions.
 - The committee needs a name.
 - Sylvia is looking for 4 or 5 members who would like to work on this sub-committee. Please let Pat Zawadzki or Sylvia know if you would be interested in joining.

ROUNDTABLE AND COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSION: Everyone

Rock Abboud suggested we save the roundtable for next month and start with District #13, Norene Yuskowatz and continue with the others.

ADJOURNMENT: Rock Abboud

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM

**NEXT MEETING
IN PERSON
MONDAY June12, 2023
Waterford Oaks Park
Look Out Lodge
1702 Scott Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**