

**Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023
Southfield Municipal Building
Parks and Recreation Room 115
26000 Evergreen Road Southfield, MI 48076
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Rock Abboud welcomed all to SAC meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Attendance Matrix:

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	V		8	E	Carolyn Morrison	9	p	Ruth Jordan
10	P	Cameron McClure	11	P	Sylvia Whitmer	12	V	
13	P	Norene Yuskowatz	14	P	Dean McCullough	15	A	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: District# (AL- Member-at-Large, SR – Staff Rep); RC=Attendance P-present; E - Excused; A – Absent; V – Vacant; Name = District Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

The Honorable Rashida Tlaib, U.S. Representative, 12th District
Melissa Richardson, Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib
Genessa Doolittle, Public Health Educator, Oakland County Division
Dr. Russell Faust, Director of Health and Human Services, Oakland County
Jim Ellison, Chief of Older Adult Services, Oakland County
Katie Wendel, Director of Planning and Advocacy AAA-1B
Terri Fields, Director, Southfield P&R
Angie Vargas, Southfield Council on Senior Adults (COSA)
2 Staff Members of Southfield P&R

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was accomplished. There was a quorum (16 members, 5 presenters, and 5 visitors, present).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting held August 28, 2023, were approved as presented with one correction. (Norene Yuskowatz was present).

PRESENTATION: The Honorable Rashida Tlaib

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib thanked the SAC for the work they are doing. She comes from the non-profit sector, did a lot with outreach programs, utilizes a service centered model. Her Southfield office, called the Neighborhood Service Center (NSC), has an open-door philosophy where you can walk in and get information on local, county, and state issues. The office is located at 26080 Berg Road Southfield, MI 48033. It is open 2 days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. Her team members are there to assist. She has been going around trying to develop a better relationship with the Oakland County Community based organizations. She met with Oakland County Community Action Agency and asked, "what are you doing with certain pots of money"? There are funds available, but people are not aware of their existence. One question asked by SAC was to give an overview of senior grants : For FY 2023, the NSC has awarded, \$850,000 in grant funds for wellness trail for seniors, and \$800,000 for Oakland County disabled veteran's student loans. There are water insecurities in Southfield and home repair issues. If you know any organization that provides home repairs let NSC know. There are funds available for facilities but not for operations.

There are earmarks for specific grants focused on continued works. Funds must be expended within a year. If you know of community funded programs that need funding, let the NSC know.

A particular question from a SAC member regarding the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). What can be done to improve compliance with the ADA requirements, especially for seniors? Congresswoman Tlaib needs specific cases and instances if she is to help. She can advocate for the issues. There are other ADA compliance needs especially in the areas of libraries, airplanes, and voting locations.

Mr. Jim Ellison, Chief of Older Adult Services asked if he could work with Congresswoman Tlaib on the area of home repair for seniors. She was able to secure \$2 million dollars for communities that were hit by winter weather/storms/floodings, and a \$5 million dollars appropriation to increase funding for VA home construction. She reinforced the thought that her doors are open, she wants you to reach out to her for your needs and issues.

Chairman Abboud thanked her for coming.
The meeting was recessed for salutations and for refreshments.

HEALTH DIVISION UPDATE: Dr. Russell Faust, Oakland County Health Dept.

The 2023-204 COVID-19 update:

- The new vaccine is not called a booster. It is a one strain vaccine.
- Do not wait, get your vaccination as soon as possible. The supplies are limited.
- It is OK to get the flu and COVID vaccines at the same time and it is OK to get it in the same arm. There is not enough data to indicate it is OK to get COVID, flu and RSV vaccines simultaneously.
- The COVID vaccine is no longer funded. There is a cost.
- If you are vaccinated and get COVID the symptoms will be milder. Be sure to wear your masks everywhere.
- The RSV and the Shingles are very expensive.
- For the severely immuno-compromised, there will be multiple COVID shots spread out over a 2-month period.
- COVID will probably be managed like the Flu vaccine, as an annual event.
- Shingles and RSV are covered by Medicare.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Katie Wendell, Director, Planning and Advocacy, AAA1-b

State Elder Abuse Task Force Recommendation:

Guardianship: Defined as people that cannot make their own decisions.

HB #4909-4912

- Establishes a state office of guardianship to address the deficiencies found in guardians, and monitors and license guardians.
- Right now, guardians do not have to be licensed. This is problematic when courts make assignments as guardians especially strangers, and they are not professional guardians. You want someone that has professional training. They know what to do.
- The bill increases the frequency of guardian visits, must check in by phone every month, restrict how a guardian can dispose of personal property (e.g., homes) and cannot just dump the contents of their homes.
- Establish rules and regulations around temporary guardianship.
- Open enrollment is coming for Medicaid plans.
- AAA1-b is partnering with Care Linx, (a caregiver respite grant program for unpaid caregivers). You can apply through AAA1-b for respite care. You will need a professional referral (e.g., adult care program director, or physician, etc..). The

gift card for \$575.00 is provided for their respite care. The grant goes through April of 2024.

- Care Linx will do a background check. It is a pilot program. You may find it on the AAA1-b website.

3D PROGRAM UPDATE: Jim Ellison, Chief of Adult Services **Senior grants update as of October 2, 2023:**

- 18 have received their monies.
- 8 invoices have been received and are being processed.
- 3 are awaiting finalization.
- To date, 28 Senior centers have been visited.
- 1 is scheduled for October 10th (Milford Senior center).
- 3 are being rescheduled. Waiting for confirmation (Pearl Wright, City of Berkeley, Huntington Woods).
- 6 require follow-up, (Gary Kulick Ferndale, Clawson Senior Center, South Lyon Center for Active Adults, Richardson Senior Center, Northville Senior Adult Services, (not in Oakland County it is below 8-mile road), Holly Hoc)..
- On October 21st there will be a Veterans Resource Fair (food giveaway) from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Southfield Library in Southfield, Michigan.
- West Bloomfield has signed a three-year agreement to occupy a storefront located within the Simsbury Plaza at Farmington and 14-mile Road. It will be the primary site for all CONNECT senior programs.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS: DASHBOARD: Sylvia Whitmer

Chair of the DASHBOARD sub-committee:

- reviewed the purpose for having a DASHBOARD. The SAC roster is outdated and difficult to navigate. The DASHBOARD will make it more user friendly.
- The first meeting was a brainstorming meeting. It is just in draft form right now. If anyone has any ideas or content that may be helpful share with the dashboard chair.
- There are 7 members of DASHBOARD.
- Two additional meetings are scheduled. They are October 27th, and November 30th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Everyone

We are sorry to report the resignations of Linda Hyaduck (who has relocated), and Barbara Garbutt (for health reasons). We thank them for their many years of dedicated volunteerism.

On October 30th there will be an in-person orientation meeting for new members and existing members that want to attend. The meeting will cover what we do, our goals and objectives, AAA1-b, and volunteer responsibilities.

All meetings will be in virtual format starting in November.

ADJOURNMENT: Rock Abboud

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM

NEXT MEETING

VIRTUAL

MONDAY November 6, 2023

Microsoft Teams link will be shared prior to the meeting.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM