

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Monday, November 6, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Rock Abboud (At-Large) welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Attendance:

Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name	Dist	RC	Name
1	E	Royetta Ealba	2	P	Mark Kelly	3	P	Suzanne Patton
4	P	Dianne Bubnar	5	P	Jerry Sowik	6	P	Bridgette Giampa
7	V		8	V		9	P	Ruth Jordan
10	P	Cameron McClure	11	A	Sylvia Whitmer	12	V	
13	P	Norene Yuskowatz	14	P	Dean McCullough	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: 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
Dr. Russell Faust, Medical Director, Oakland County Health Division
Jim Ellison, Chief of Older Adult Services, Oakland County
Katie Wendel, Director of Planning and Advocacy AAA 1-B
Emily Silver, Community Liaison, Oakland County Health Division
Deja Yeargin, Community Health Worker, Oakland County Health Division
Leigh-Anne Stafford, Director, Health & Human Services, Oakland County

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was accomplished. There was a quorum (15 members, 7 presenters).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting held October 2, 2023, were approved with corrections by Cam McClure (District #10), typographical/grammatical.

PRESENTATION: Emily Silver and Deja Yeargin, Oakland County Health Division

Emily Silver introduced SAC to the new Community Health Worker Vaccination Navigator program. The program is in both the North and South Health Division Clinics and is funded by the COVID-19 grant. The purpose of the program is to gather input on COVID-19 vaccination experiences and attitudes and answer any questions about the new monovalent COVID-19 vaccines. The Community Health Navigators, who represent various demographics, are also specially trained in all childhood vaccinations. They are available for one-on-one patient conversation, health care worker training, and outreach event planning.

Some of their questions included *“What do people in your community think about COVID-19 vaccinations?” “Which groups tend not to be vaccinated?” “What makes it easier or harder for people in your community to get vaccinated?” “How can Oakland County Health Division improve vaccination communication, messaging, and access to better address the needs of your community?”* and *“Where are you personally regarding attitudes about COVID-19?”* Ms. Silver thanked everyone for their responses.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Katie Wendell, AAA 1-B

- Provided an update on the package of Guardianship Bills that would strengthen Michigan’s Guardianship System by adding more safeguards (House Bills 4909 through 4912 and House Bill 5047). The bills passed the House, and they are on their way to the Senate. Ms. Wendell reinforced the idea that this is a good time for all SAC members to contact their senators to give their perspectives on the importance of older adults.
- AAA 1-B has been awarded a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in support of the expansion of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. It is a temporary project (lasting two years). AAA 1-B will be hiring three ombudsmen for the program and will continue to advocate for them to be permanent positions. AAA-1B is looking for candidates to fill the ombudsmen positions.
- Open enrollment is ongoing for Medicare/Medicaid assistance programs. Katie suggests that people should not wait until the December deadline; give AAA 1-B a call.
- Cam McClure and Commissioner Nelson will join Stephanie Hall and Katie Wendell and the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan Conference in Lansing to talk about “Blueprint for Successful Aging.”

3D PROGRAM UPDATE: Jim Ellison

- Introduced the new Oakland County Resource Guide. Fifty copies will be delivered to every Senior Center.
- Attended three Town-Hall Meetings and plans to do more.
 - Two senior centers have been contacted for the next set of Town-Hall Meetings (Royal Oak Twp and Southfield).

- Jim will be hosting senior center “coffee hours”. He will come with coffee and donuts, meet with directors and users of the centers for down-to-earth conversations about their needs.
- The job description for an assistant for Jim is being finalized by the County.
- Working to get the website up. It should go live this week.
- Update regarding the three remaining Senior Center Grant Awardees:
 - The Grant Award for one of the three senior centers has been approved and the two remaining senior centers are still in process.

HEALTH DIVISION UPDATE: Dr. Russell Faust

- Updates on COVID-19:
 - There is an increased immunity to some strains of the virus and a good level of community immunity across the County.
 - No uptick in COVID-19 virus infections and there is a low number of hospitalized patients testing positive for COVID-19.
 - Oakland County finally has the new COVID-19 vaccines.
 - COVID-19 PCR testing may no longer be free. You can still get free tests through <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.
 - Before you throw out old tests, check to see if the expiration date has been extended at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>.
 - Current strain(s) of COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms.
- For seniors over the age of 65, Oakland County Health Division has Quadrivalent flu vaccines.
- Oakland County Health Division does not have the RSV vaccine – check with your local pharmacies.
 - Looking to get monoclonal antibody for newborn and infants as they are at high risk.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2023-2024: Cam McClure, 1st Vice-Chairperson

- The 2022 SAC Goals and Objectives are to be a guide and resource.
 - SAC members are requested to bring ideas for 2024 Goals & Objectives to the next meeting.

SAC COORDINATOR PRESENTATION: Pat Zawadzki

- Ms. Zawadzki formally welcomed and introduced the newest member, Bridgette Giampa (District #6).
- At SAC’s next Officer’s Meeting, which follows today’s meeting, monthly meeting dates for 2024 will be determined.
 - All subsequent meetings through May will be in virtual format.
 - Please contact the SAC Coordinator regarding your ability to attend the scheduled monthly meetings.

- The New SAC Member Orientation Meeting was very successful.
 - Everyone received copies of the By-laws.
 - SAC coordinator and Chairperson presented an overview of the history, relationship with other groups, and distributed materials including the monthly SAC Activity Report, meeting calendar, website, and senior centers information.
 - A review and discussion of each of the Officer's responsibilities was accomplished.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Everyone

Recognizing there are new people present at the meeting, Chairperson Abboud asked each member to introduce themselves.

- Each member told us who they are, what they do, their district, and their relationship to the SAC.
- Each member spent one minute answering the question "*What are your goals and objectives for your district?*"

ADJOURNMENT: Rock Abboud

Time constraints required a call for adjournment. It was moved by Cam McClure and seconded by Noreen Yuskowatz (District #13) that the meeting be adjourned. (carried)
The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM

**NEXT MEETING
VIRTUAL**

**Monday, December 11, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Microsoft Teams link will be shared prior to the meeting.