

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council
Monday, December 11, 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	P	Royetta Ealba	2	P	Mark Kelly	3	E	Suzanne Patton
4	E	Dianne Bubnar	5	P	Jerry Sowik	6	P	Bridgette Giampa
7	V		8	V		9	P	Ruth Jordan
10	P	Cameron McClure	11	P	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

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was accomplished. There was a quorum with 19 members present (16 SAC members, 3 presenters). Rock Abboud welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting held December 11, 2023, were approved without corrections.

Chairman Abboud announced three members of SAC are retiring. They are Jerry Sowik, Carolyn Morrison, and Barbara Garbutt. Patricia Zawadzki spoke about their length of service and the contributions each made over their more than 50 years (collectively) of service to SAC. Patricia Zawadzki gave praise and thanks to each for their scope of service to SAC and to their

Districts. On a special note, Patricia asked that we keep Carolyn in our thoughts and prayers as she transitions through hospice.

The Oakland Board of Commissioners met and offered proclamations and citations for Mr. Sowik, Ms. Garbutt, and Ms. Morrison.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Katie Wendell, AAA 1-B

- The legislators adjourned for early winter break. Two of the members won their election for mayor leaving the house in a 54/54 split between the democrats and republicans. There is no democratic majority. It will remain this way until mid-April when special elections occur.
- Katie Wendell provided an update on the continuation of Guardianship Bills that would strengthen Michigan's Guardianship System. There is bi-partisan support. AAA1-B is particularly interested in elder abuse work force group, regulation of more adult foster care, updating and compromising on the language, for the LPN and social workers, (as every day availability is too expensive), and creating the office of estate guardianship coming out of the Attorney Generals office.
- AAA1-B continues to advocate for increased support of the ombudsman's program in the 2025 budget. The funding formula is outdated leaving the ombudsman's ratio for SE Michigan out of whack. It does not include our number of residents in Adult Foster Care, and Homes for the Aged. AFC and Homes for the aged are required to receive ombudsman's support. To change the formula requires changing the statute.
- AAA1-B grant will be hiring three new ombudsmen for 2024. They will require training. For interested individuals contact Human Resources.
- AAA1-B is working hard to expand the care-givers respite vouchers program. Persons can get \$575.00 to purchase respite care. It can be a friend, relative or anyone willing to help.

OLDER ADULT SERVICES: Jim Ellison, Chief

- Jim Ellison has visited all the senior centers except Pearl Wright.
- He has traveled around dropping off resource guides. If anyone needs a guide, he will send out pre-packaged bundles of 15.
- The Older Adults website has been updated. It is more user friendly. The site's address is www.oakgov.info/olderadults.
- Met with Mark Kelly, District #2, for a coffee hour at Clawson Senior Center. Will be going to South Lyon on January 16, 2024. He will be concentrating and giving attention to outer regions and centers.
- All but one center (Waterford) has received their grant fundings.
- HR is finalizing the posting for an assistant for Older Adult Services department. The job description is complete, and the position has been posted.
- All necessary corrections have been made to the resource guide.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (DASHBOARD): Sylvia Whitmer, District #11

Three meetings were convened. Committee members: Sylvia Whitmer, Rock Abboud, Patricia Zawadzki, Genessa Doolittle, Cameron McClure, Barbara Seldon, Martha Schlesinger, and Dianne Bubnar.

- The purpose was to update the directory to make it helpful when looking for information.
- The first meeting listed 17 items recommended for inclusion in the updated directory.
- The second meeting eliminated and or combined the items. The list was too long. The list was reduced (many items combined) from 17 items to 5 items.
- The third meeting reviewed the committee's findings and made corrections to the directory.
- The sub-committee recommends the directory be placed on the website of each district.
- The sub-committee is prepared to submit recommendations to the SAC board, after which will submit to Patricia Zawadzki, Senior Advisory Council Coordinator who will send them to SAC members to review prior to the January 2024 meeting.

HEALTH DIVISION UPDATE: Genessa Doolittle, Public Health Educator

Updates on COVID-19:

- COVID 19 and flu shots are available at Oakland County Health Centers. It is encouraged that everyone gets vaccinated as soon as possible. It is OK to get COVID-19 and Flu vaccine at the same time. Oakland County does not have RSV vaccine. It is recommended you contact your pharmacy.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2023-2024: Martha Schlesinger, District #19

Martha Schlesinger provided an overview of the current Goals & Objectives. She stated the SAC exists at the request of the executive of Oakland County with goals and objectives each year. She provided an explanation of the three major categories of goals and objectives. The categories have not changed. What has changed is how to go about affecting the implementation of the goals and objectives. She spoke about the need for:

- Increased communication between SAC members, the County, and the Senior Centers. She reviewed education and outreach to senior centers and advocates between directors of senior centers, friends, family, and neighbors who need this kind of help.
- Training and meetings that strengthen our relationship with other organizations such as AAA-1B because of how we can help them.
- Improving public awareness through coordinated visits to our centers people get a full picture of the SAC operations.
- Sylvia Whitmer suggests adding three words under (technology use strategies), "including Centers websites."

She suggested everyone go back and read the areas under each category. If you have any suggestions or questions on additions let us know. It keeps confusion down as to what we should be doing. The SAC members suggested to include in our next steps, to identify the gaps, issues such as ADA, role of VA, ALS, Parkinsons, etc....

The Goals and Objectives will be voted on at the January meeting.

District Updates:

- Sylvia Whitmer, District #11, Marsha Gershenson. looking to find a permanent building. 14 mile and Farmington. The center is growing Next year is millage.
- Ruth Gordan, Angel Powell, District #9, Pontiac. Ruth Peterson was closed for repairs. Bowen center will get floors repaired bathrooms look spectacular. Staying busy at both.
- Martha Schlesinger, District #19, Charlie Cavell, Berkeley, Huntington Woods, and Ferndale. The Kulick center has been closed for 2 years. Use of the building has circled back to ground "0".
- Mark Kelly, District #2, Penny Luebs, Troy, Royal Oak and Clawson. Being acclimated to the new Jim Ellison resource booklet. Plans to coordinate with other directors and Jim Ellison. Asks for help with ideas. Suggested to include the directors.
- Greg Keeler District #18, Janet Jackson, Southfield, and Royal Oak Township. Royal Oak is interesting, it is small, industrial, with small splashes of houses. Small tax base, \$25,000 grant, 4 days of operation, off on Fridays. For Southfield, waiting to see who the new commissioner will be.
- Jerry Sowik, Mike Spisz District #5, Addison is popular for Tai Chi, Oxford Senior Center popular for corn hole event, toss the bean bag in a hole. Next door is Oxford's TV center called Senior Break, asked Jerry to be interviewed.
- Cam McClure, District #10, Kristen Nelson, the "J", Waterford, Bowen Center shared with Ruth Gordon. The last awardee for the \$250,000.00 grant is Waterford. The "J" is a non-profit and anyone can attend. They are moving to a new site in Berkley in 2024.
- Bridget Giampa District #6, Mike Gingell Commissioner, Lake Orion, just getting acquainted with responsibilities.
- Brenda Anderson District #15, Gwen Markham, NOVI is in 14th temporarily covering Kostic Center, Farmington Hills.
- Noreen Yuskowatz, District #13, Phil Weipert, Milford and South Lyon, (unable to hear her due to laryngitis).
- Barbara Seldon District #17, Yolanda Smith-Charles, will relinquish Royal Oak Township to Greg Keeler, Southfield is concerned about why they can't have a dedicated center for their activities.
- Royetta Ealba, District #1, unable to connect to call.
- Dean McCollough District #14, Dr. Raman, Wixom will not return calls, Novi center has no concerns at this time.
- Marcus Jackson, Member At -Large, nothing to report currently.
- Rock Abboud member At- Large, represents NEXT, Village of Beverly Hills.

SAC COORDINATOR PRESENTATION: Pat Zawadzki

"In closing this calendar year, I want to thank you for all your hard work. You bring so much to the County. You are the foot soldiers and I commend you for how well you work together, I feel grateful to work with you and look forward to 2024 with all of you. Thank you so much.

ADJOURNMENT: Rock Abboud

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. (carried)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.

NEXT MEETING - VIRTUAL
Monday January 22, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Microsoft Teams link will be shared prior to the meeting