

Oakland County Senior Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Rock Abboud called the meeting to order at 10:06 am, welcomed everyone and began with self-introductions for new members.

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		V	6	E	Bridgette Giampa
7	V		8	P	Robert Whitcomb	9	E	Ruth Jordan
10	P	Cameron McClure	11	A	Sylvia Whitmer	12	P	Rusty Rosman
13	E	Norene Yuskowatz	14	P	Dean McCullough	15	P	Brenda Anderson
16	V		17	P	Barbara Seldon	18	P	Greg Keeler
19	E	Martha Schlesinger	AL	P	Rock Abboud	AL	E	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, Director of Health and Human Services, Oakland County
Jim Ellison, Chief of Older Adult Services, Oakland County
Katie Wendel, Director of Planning and Advocacy, AgeWays
Sarah Rye, Coordinator, Michigan Gaming Control Board
Kristin Nelson, Oakland County Commissioner, District #10
BriOna Taylor, Michigan Gaming Control Board
Sandra Johnson, Michigan Gaming Control Board
Madeline Johnston, Michigan Gaming Control Board
Hurlstein Lyles, Michigan Gaming Control Board

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was completed and there was a quorum (12 members, six presenters).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the meeting held January 22nd were approved.

HEALTH DIVISION UPDATE: Dr. Russell Faust, Medical Director, Oakland County Health Division

- A case of measles was confirmed in Oakland County.
- There are some adults that have not been adequately vaccinated with MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccine.
- Adults vaccinated between 1963 – 1967, those that have not had measles, and those with unknown vaccination status should be re-vaccinated.
- Those not vaccinated prior to 1957 should be vaccinated.
- It is a two series vaccine: first vaccine then one month later the second vaccine.
- Those going back to college campuses and those working in hospitals are at increased risk.
- All adults with children and grandchildren are encouraged to be vaccinated.
- Measles can be fatal for those under five and those sixty-five and above, with risk for pneumonia, nerve deafness, encephalitis, rashes, and brain damage.

PRESENTATION: Sarah Rye, Coordinator, Responsible Gaming Section, Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB)

PowerPoint Presentation at the end of meeting minutes.

- MGCB Mission: Honest and fair gaming, and protecting the interest of the citizens of Michigan
- Five-member board appointed by the governor, licensing and regulating of all gaming including horse racing, Detroit casinos, internet gaming, charity gaming, millionaire parties,
- The State of Michigan does have oversight authority over compliance with the Tribal Gaming Compacts. The compacts are written agreements between the tribal communities and the State and signed by the Governor. The Governor assigned the MGCB staff responsibility for auditing compliance with compact provisions. The five-member Board is not involved with tribal casinos.
- MGCB also provide investigations for patron disputes, violations, and other various activities such as:
- Responsible Gaming (RG): A new board only about 2 years in existence. The board was formed as a neutral entity to manage problem gambling. Problems such as persons with mental/behavioral disorders, substance use disorders, gambling addiction (which has the highest suicide rate of all addictions). It is important to understand and recognize the signs of problem gambling. It was introduced in 1980 as a mental disorder and subsequently in 2013 as an addiction / behavioral addiction.
- **Vulnerable Populations:**

- **Older adults**, retired with limited finances may neglect paying bills, use savings, insurance, large credit card debt, and borrow to gamble.
- **Veterans**, at greater risk because of the stigma of being stronger and being able to manage anything.
- **Minorities**, low income will gamble hoping to win for the need to make quick money.
- **Adolescents**, social media makes online gambling for adolescents accessible. Parents must regulate.
- Disassociated Persons List:
 - Pursuant to Michigan law from 1996, the MGCB developed the Disassociated Persons List.
 - More males than females on the list. The numbers are growing.
- Disassociated On-line Gambling, banning yourself from online gaming using the online database option.
 - Voluntary program. The form is online. You must apply.
 - Confidential, not public information
- Self-Exclusion Laws:
 - By law, online and physical casinos must provide a mechanism so consumers can exclude themselves from being able to place bets. Self-exclusion allows anyone to place their name on a list for a fixed time or permanently.
 - Michigan offers a Responsible Gambling Hotline at 1-888-223-3044.
- “Don’t regret the Bet.” An outreach program.
 - March 6, 2023, MGCB collaborating with King Media introduced a state-wide multi-media responsible gaming campaign, Don’t Regret the Bet, to encourage Michigan residents to wager responsibly when placing bets using the state’s legal, regulated forms of gaming.
 - March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Katie Wendell, Director, Planning and Advocacy, AgeWays

- The governor introduced the budget for fiscal year 2025. It begins October 1, 2024. The house and senate then release their own proposals that are reconciled. This is the start of a process that will wrap up in June.
- There is a lot less one-time spending this budget that has not been seen in years. ARPA funds (rescue plan funds) have been allocated to communities so there are fewer federal funds to be portioned out for one-time initiatives.
- For the fiscal year 2024 budget there is a one-time \$1 million increase for home delivered meals.
- For My Choice Program, the governor supports an 11% budget increase for those on Medicaid. Actuary sets the rates.
- There is a surprise \$5 million investment for My Choice Care Givers support to create a structured family care givers program. AgeWays is waiting for the full legislative language to come out for this project.

- Caring for my Family Tax Credit Proposal is a credit for family caregivers for expenses they incur caring for older adults and the disabled. It is a \$5 thousand dollar maximum and a nonrefundable tax credit. You must have an income tax burden. It is targeted for working adult children that bear that burden.
- AgeWays has created an Advocacy Landing Page for their ombudsman which includes all the research and resources and advocacy tools that AgeWays has accomplished.

COMMISSIONER UPDATE: Commissioner Kristen Nelson:

- Volunteerism grant for Non-Profits: A grant application program to increase volunteer assistance for non-profits that serve older adults in Oakland County.
- The deadline is February 28, 2024.
- There were three top non-profits that the fifty-thousand-dollar grant was geared toward.
- The Healthy Aging Ad hoc Committee for the past six months has been working with the OLSHA Pilot Senior Chore Program.
- The COVID 19 Snail Mail pieces have been going out to senior homes across Oakland County. What are some of the things SAC would like to see in these educational pieces?

COUNTY UPDATE: Jim Ellison, Chief of Adult Services

- The planned coffee and conversation event in South Lyon had thirty people in attendance.
- There will be a senior expo at San Marino Club in Troy on March 13, 2024.
- The application for an assistant is proceeding. They are down to four applicants. The assistant should be on board by the middle of March.
- Jim expects to have his newsletter out in a few weeks. The newsletter will be distributed by the voter rolls. No centers will be excluded.
- Jim apologized to Greg Keeler for not attending or calling the scheduled meeting at Pearl Wright Senior Center in Royal Oak. He will be setting up another meeting.
- Select Senior Center directors gathered at a meeting planned by Mark Kelly and attended by Jim Ellison on 2/26/24 to share ideas.
- Diane Bubnar shared that there is a group of about 30 senior center programmers that meet.

ROUND TABLE DISTRICT ACTIVITIES: Everyone

District #2, Mark Kelly:

Working with Jim Ellison on meeting directors within his area. All are 5 to 15 minutes from his front door.

District #4 SAC member Dianne Bubnar:

Each March there is a swing into action wellness program with complimentary classes. This year there is a twist (you can go online and find programs).

District #8, SAC member Robert Whitcomb:

Self-introduction.

District #10 SAC member Cam McClure:

The last center to receive their award (\$250,000) is Waterford. In March there will be a school board meeting to approve the senior center grant. The “J” Jewish Community Center is alive and doing all kinds of programs.

District #11 SAC member Sylvia Whitmer:

West Bloomfield is trying to get their building. Architects are ready First need approval of the commissioners and then there will need to be a 25-million-dollar bond.

District #12 SAC member Rusty Rosman:

Self-introduction. The Commerce Senior Center does a wonderful job sharing their newsletter and their programs are well attended. Rusty Rosman felt there is a problem because there are no local newspapers and it is difficult to get information out.

District #14 SAC member Dean McCollough:

The city council has approved the contract and funding to build a pickleball court this summer.

District # 15, SAC member Brenda Anderson:

The Costick center in Farmington Hills will be having a veteran’s resource fair on May 23, 2024, from 9AM until 12PM. Northville had an open house which she attended.

District #17, SAC member Barbara Seldon:

Barbara Seldon attended the Director’s Forum prepared by Mark Kelly and Jim Ellison on February 21 Barbara met with Angie Varges (Southfield Parks and Recreation). On March 8, 2024, there will be the annual Senior Vendor Fair where seniors can meet local senior resource vendors and get information on services and goods. The Beechwood Center is very active, and the wellness fitness center is growing. There remain concerns about how the \$250,000-dollar matching grant will be utilized.

District#18, SAC member Greg Keeler:

Attended Black History Month event at Royal Oak. Talked about how the funds from the recovery act will be used.

Member at Large, Rock Abboud, NEXT Senior Center

November 7, 2023, voters voted for a milage for funding a new center for Birmingham. Instead of continuing to rent, Birmingham decided to buy the YMCA. On April 4, 2024, there will be an event to raise funds for the new center. Mark Rancini, a Frank Sinatra singer, will entertain.

SAC Coordinator, Patricia Zawadzki:

Norene Yuskowatz who is excused for today, wanted to let SAC know that the South Lyons Senior Center has been closed for the last two weeks because of COVID.

Save the Date for the State of the County Address on April 4, 2024.

County name tags will be issued again as in the past. You will have to apply for it every year. Forms will be sent, and a background check will be performed on everyone.

Finally, as a point of courtesy. Anyone that has been on this call today can see when you get up from your virtual call. **Please close out your camera.** It is a bit disrespectful to the presenters to get up to get coffee or make breakfast.

Chairperson Rock Abboud thanked Commissioner Nelson and Sarah Rye for today's presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: Rock Abboud

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM

**NEXT MEETING
VIRTUAL
MONDAY March 18, 2024
Microsoft Teams link will be shared prior to the meeting.
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**