

**Oakland County Senior Advisory Council  
Meeting  
Monday, November 18, 2024  
10:00 AM –12:00 PM**

**Welcome & Call to Order**

Chair Rock Abboud called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and asked each member to introduce themselves.

**Attendance Matrix:**

<b>Dist</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>P</b>	Royetta Ealba	<b>2</b>	<b>P</b>	Mark Kelly	<b>3</b>	<b>A</b>	Suzanne Patton
<b>4</b>	<b>V</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>V</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>P</b>	Bridgette Giampa
<b>7</b>	<b>V</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>A</b>	Robert Whitcomb	<b>9</b>	<b>P</b>	Ruth Jordan
<b>10</b>	<b>P</b>	Cameron McClure	<b>11</b>	<b>P</b>	Sylvia Whitmer	<b>12</b>	<b>P</b>	Christopher Peal
<b>13</b>	<b>P</b>	Norene Yuskowatz	<b>14</b>	<b>V</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>E</b>	Brenda Anderson
<b>16</b>	<b>V</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>P</b>	Barbara Seldon	<b>18</b>	<b>P</b>	Greg Keeler
<b>19</b>	<b>P</b>	Martha Schlesinger	<b>AL</b>	<b>P</b>	Rock Abboud			
<b>SR</b>	<b>P</b>	Pat Zawadzki	<b>SR</b>	<b>P</b>	Genessa Doolittle			

Key: District (AL- Member-at-Large, SR – Staff Rep); RC (P – Present; E – Excused; A – Absent; V – Vacant)

**Others Present**

Jim Ellison, Oakland County Older Adult Services  
Dr. Russell Faust, Medical Director, Oakland County Health and Human Services  
Stephanie Hall, AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services  
Jessica Kluz, Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities  
Danisha Weathersby, Oakland County Older Adult Services

**Roll Call**

There is a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

Senior Advisory Council minutes for the October meeting were approved.

**Legislative Update**

**Stephanie Hall, Director of Planning and Advocacy, AgeWays**

Updates were provided, building on what was provided from the October presentation.

#### Budget Items:

- Continuing resolution funding levels passed at the end of September for fiscal year 2024 through December of 2024 will be passed on to the members of congress, at which time they will need to pass another continuing resolution for setting the budget (which consists of a package of spending bills). There will likely be another continuing resolution that will be passed on to the new members of congress.
- There is no real movement with the 2025 budget due to election season.
- MIPPA (Medicare Improvement for Patients & Providers Act) provides grant funding; reauthorized earlier in 2024 and will last until the end of 2024. It funds the MAP program (Medicare Assistance Program). If not reauthorized, there will be no funding. The program provides for Medicare assistance to help persons decide which programs are best for them and to answer questions related to Medicare.
- AgeWays is advocating for the MAP program and helping people navigate the Medicare landscape. Anyone interested in doing some advocating by contacting your legislators and sending out emails to congress (Stephanie can provide information to you).

#### State Update:

- The state budget has been passed. There will be some sort of supplemental budget during this year, but no word yet what exactly will be included. Stephanie will keep SAC updated on the supplementals. The governor's priorities are education and the school systems.

#### Legislature Update:

- Federal:
  - There is no current update for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization.
  - The Senate: Released their markups and suggestions for the different changes of the OAA, but the house has not released theirs. Luckily the OAA reauthorization is not tied to funding so there won't be any restrictions to the funding going to the OAA.
  - With the newly elected members, there is nothing to be done until they are sworn in.
- State:
  - MDHHS has submitted for approval a bunch of different things in their package to assist with MDHHA in home services. One is to increase the asset limit for Medicaid programs from two thousand to ten thousand dollars. Still awaiting approval.
  - The Guardianship Bills: There was pushback from probate judges about the content. The governor has requested that they work with probate to get something passed on the floor before the end of the session. The

Probate Judges Committee now supports the bill, and it has been moved out of committee and will be taken to the floor for a senate vote.

**Caregivers Respite Care:**

- All 195 vouchers have been allocated to caregivers.
- At this point the program is paused.
- AgeWays is now looking at sustainability and other funding sources available to be able to offer this program outside of the grant.

There are no changes in care transitions. All vouchers are out. AgeWays is looking for ways to grow the program through other sources. Stephanie Hall will send CHORE and MAP information to SAC coordinator to send to SAC members.

**Health Division Update**

**Dr. Russell Faust, Medical Director, Oakland County Health and Human Services**

While there is not a lot of new additional information, Dr. Faust provided updated information regarding influenza this season.

- Numbers are dismal for vaccinations despite Oakland County having more than 20% vaccinated.
- Mandatory reporting of influenza is not required.
- There have been 46 flu cases reported in the State so far. Most of the cases are in Southeast Michigan. We are still early in the flu season.
- There have been two hospitalizations reported, no long-term care outbreaks, and one adult fatality.
- There have been NO pediatric fatalities.
- Seniors must be cautious around holiday time!
  - Practice good hand hygiene, stay away from people who are ill, stay home if you are ill.
  - Be sure to wear masks as needed.
- Cam McClure went online and looked up his vaccination history at the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services database site. It provides individual histories of what vaccines you have had and which vaccines you need. All you need is your social security number.

**County Update**

**Jim Ellison, Older Adult Services**

- Last Senior expo on October 27<sup>th</sup> was in Royal Oak, turnout was great.
- The Coffee and Conversations Sessions are complete. The last one was in Clawson.
- The county is working on its last newsletter. ENCORE will be mailed out in the first or second week in December.

- Jim Ellison is now preparing for the Coffee and Conversations for 2025. A lot of centers have been reaching out to him giving direct things their centers need.
- Based on all the reporting and the many comments about ARPA funds, Pat Zawadzki asked Jim Ellison to be the main presenter in December, bringing information and an updated report on the ARPA funds that funded projects at the senior centers. Mr. Ellison indicated that ARPA is not handled in his office and is handled by Community Outreach. He will reach out to Tiffany and let her know. He may be able to produce a more detailed report by contacting each center and working with Tiffany for more information.

## **Presentation**

### **Jessica Kluz, Master Health Coach, Alliance for Older Coalition for Healthy Communities**

The Alliance program is based in Troy, Michigan but presentations are made all over Oakland County. Emphasis is placed on prevention, substance abuse, health and wellness, for older adults and youth and recovery support, and opioid overdose prevention.

The programs are free for anyone in Oakland County. The Alliance program partners with schools, senior centers, and community centers. Ms. Kluz oversees the older adult program called "Drive Over 55" and provides tools and supplemental activities to promote social activities to prevent/ reduce isolation and to address issues faced by older adults.

Topics in the program include:

- Changes in the body while aging.
- Managing prescription use and misuse.
- Gambling awareness.
- Coping with stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, and social isolation.
- Behaviors associated with substance abuse.
- Aging and diversity - empowering seniors to challenge any stereotypes.
- Conversations with doctors.
- Inclusive communities.
- Dimensions of wellness.

Programs are typically three one-hour lessons, one week apart. A workbook is included as a part of each presentation with interactive activities and lots of hands-on fun stuff. Jessica Kluz covered each of the sections of the workbook. She will provide PowerPoint and her contact information to Pat Zawadzki, who will forward it to all SAC members.

## **SAC Updates**

### **Pat Zawadzki, Oakland County SAC Coordinator**

Pat Zawadzki emphasized that with political elections over it is time for SAC members to get in touch with their commissioners should they desire to re-apply for the Senior Advisory Council.

- Each SAC member term ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The application must be completed and signed by your commissioner.
- If your commissioner chooses to appoint someone else to represent your district, there are At-Large positions you can apply for if you wish to continue on the Council.

This is also the time for consideration of SAC Officer positions. Forms will be sent out to each council member describing the responsibilities of each officer's position.

- The positions are:
  - Chairperson
  - 1<sup>st</sup>.Vice Chairperson
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson
  - Recording Secretary

### **SAC COMMUNITY UPDATES:**

**Each SAC member presented information about updates in their district.**

**Mark Kelly (District #2):** The Troy Senior Center ribbon cutting event was covered in the Troy Times, and new signs for the “Troy Senior Community Center” have been installed. Grant funds were used to renovate the cafeteria and community room with painting, cleaning, new furniture, and television.

**Bridget Giampa (District #6):** The coordinator at the Lake Orion Senior Center, is still out on medical leave, so there is not much to report for this month.

**Ruth Jordan (District #9):** There are numerous activities occurring at her centers, including friendship bingo at both centers and a DIA activity on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Oakland University is conducting a research initiative using citizen researchers with students to learn how they can best get seniors to attend senior centers. The Bowens Center averages 100-120 participants (due to the Golden Opportunity Club). Participation at the Ruth Peterson Community Center has been very challenging.

**Cam McClure (District #10):** There are currently 4 vacant district representative positions, which Cam is covering (8 senior centers in addition to 2 of the 3 senior centers located within his district). The J is busy upgrading their sound system with their grant funds. The Waterford Bond Proposal was approved; the plan is to purchase a large part of the OCC campus, with Waterford potentially combining the Waterford Senior Center and Lifelong Recreation and moving them there. They are already combining administrative processes for the centers, which have very active senior

groups. The Waterford Senior Center is making building upgrades to their present location although they have yet to receive their Senior Center Grant Award.

**Sylvia Whitmer (District #11):** The West Bloomfield Connect will remain in the temporary location for the next three years until the expansion of the new community center is complete. Now they are waiting to hear from the WB Parks & Recreation commissioners about the status of the new building project. Bernadette Hudgens is the new head of the senior center; she is getting up to speed on the center's activities. The West Bloomfield Senior Services Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Christopher Peal (District #12):** Christopher gave thanks to Pat Zawadzki for logistical help and Cam McClure for his help bringing him up to speed and support as he learns his role with SAC. He met with Kathy Gordinear at the Dublin Community Senior Center and has reviewed their programs. Dublin is looking forward to a new location within White Lake on Elizabeth Road. Chris is looking forward to visiting the Richardson Center in the coming months. As a former educator he has gotten involved with the Get Setup program with AgeWays.

**Norene Yuskowatz (District #13):** Jim McGuire (from AgeWays), representing the Silver Key Coalition, spoke to the seniors in Highland about the CHORE program; however, seniors there are having issues with the program. Milford is doing fine right now. South Lyon will be losing their director as she is on medical leave right now. And with the South Lyon center located in the school system, they can't meet when the school is closed, and they will lose their tax preparation assistance program.

**Barbara Seldon (District #17):** Met with Commissioner Charles, who will be reappointing Barbara to the Oakland County SAC. Barbara posted colors for Veterans Day in Lathrup Village. Terri Fields was away from Southfield Parks and Rec, and Barbara met with Angie Varges several times. There will be a Veterans Resource Fair in Southfield, Barbara has asked Marilee Rosemond (director of Oak Park Community Center) to join Southfield to be sure veterans living in Oak Park with food insecurities may have an opportunity to receive the resources provided by the Oakland County Veterans Affairs. Each veteran living in Oakland County with a DD214 will receive a one-hundred-dollar food voucher from Meijer. The \$250k senior center grant is still in process; Southfield Administration will be matching the grant. There are some issues with how the monies will be used. There is an architectural design that is in approval process. There are intentions to have a dedicated space for the Seniors' activities in Southfield Parks and Recreation. They have plans but they are not ready for execution.

**Greg Keeler (Districts #17 & #18):** In Southfield, it's unclear how the OLSHA CHORE monies are used because Southfield only does work in front yards, yet in Royal Oak they rake lawns, clean gutters and do front and back yards. There is an upcoming

movie night (Wednesday) and a luncheon. The COSA Meeting has been canceled for November and December; Greg is not sure what the status of COSA will be in January 2025. Greg expressed these community concerns to Commissioner Taylor; one of the biggest complaints is that the seniors in Southfield want a dedicated place and not a random anywhere place for their activities.

**Martha Schlesinger (District #19):** The Headlee Override did not pass; Ferndale will now be scrambling trying to figure out how to move forward with any capital improvements as they are more than 6.5 million dollars short. It most directly affects plans for the police, fire, library, and nonexistent senior center facilities. Gerry Kulick Center has been closed for three years, but there is no money to fix it or tear it down. The JCC expansion into Berkley is on track, opening in the fall of 2025. Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge have their steady beat of holiday and community activities.

**Rock Abboud (At-Large, NEXT):** Gave thanks to Genessa Doolittle and to Pat Zawadzki for the hard work they do for SAC. It does not go un-noticed. The new tagline for NEXT is “Your Place to Stay, Active and Connected”. It is a non-profit organization enriching the lives of the 50+ population in Birmingham, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills and Franklin and the surrounding area since 1978, with approximately 622 members from the Village of Beverly Hills alone. In December, NEXT activities include a Michigan Central Station Guided Tour with lunch, a Meadowbrook Holiday House Tour with lunch, Ti Chi for your health, Inside look in the Gone with the Wind movie, Detroit Lions NFL Early History, a Kirkland in the Hills Tour with lunch, an Inside Look at the Gone with the Wind Movie, Make Food Not Waste, (through Rock’s connection to Oakland County Food Commission), and a program titled “Those who left and those who were left behind, a Civil War Connection”. The Birmingham YMCA has been purchased by NEXT; they are looking at three years out for rebuilding. Birmingham School District will allow NEXT to stay in their current facility/lease until the new building is ready. Rock shared that he is a potential candidate for Level 4 Ambassadors for the Michigan Municipal League - a prestigious award.

### **Adjournment**

Rock Abboud called for adjournment and announced the next meeting date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM.

**NEXT MEETING  
VIRTUAL  
Monday, December 16, 2024  
10 AM – 12 PM**