## REPORT ON THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

March 19, 2015, Meeting at the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

300 E. Michigan Avenue, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room, Lansing

**I. Commission Chair Report (Harold Mast)**

Commissioner Mast ceded the floor to Commissioner Gerry Irby, who reported on his successful effort to engage Upper Peninsula utilities in Marquette and beyond in the Gatekeeper Program. In the Lower Peninsula, The Gatekeeper Program is a partnership between Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, and Michigan's aging network. The program identifies seniors in need through the utility company's employees who have frequent and direct contact with natural gas and electric customers. If an employee identifies a senior in need, a referral is made to an Area Agencies on Aging so they can offer information, guidance and assistance.

**II. OSA Director Report** Kari Sederburg

**State Budget Update**

I presented to both the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees on March 3, and didn’t receive any questions related to our funding. The FY 2016 budget keeps OSA funding “flat” at the FY 2015 levels. But it does replace the $357,500 the Ombudsman program lost due to the change in rules from the Civil Money Penalty Funds. Of those funds, $200,000 is recommended to support the local ombudsmen, and $157,500 is for the State LTC Ombudsman’s office.

In addition, the FY 2016 executive budget keeps the Medicaid MI Choice program at flat funding (meaning no cuts) and continues the expansion of the Program for All- Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) by shifting $8.3 million in general funds from long-term care to PACE. This expansion covers programs in Jackson and Traverse City.

We will continue to keep you posted as the budget process continues. Please go to [www.michigan.gov/mibudget](http://www.michigan.gov/mibudget) for updates on the full state budget.

**Dept. of Health & Human Services Update**

On February 9, the governor signed the Executive Order (EO) that would create the new Department of Health & Human Services by merging the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services into one organization. In addition, the EO creates two new agencies – the Michigan Children’s Services Agency and the Aging and Adult Services Agency.

If the EO is not voted down by the Legislature, it will take effect on April 10. The goal is to have an integrated budget and new department by the beginning of FY 2016. \*

[\**Footnote from Commissioner Sheehan*: The new flow chart moves the former Office on Services to the Aging from an autonomous Type 1 agency, where the Director is appointed by the Governor and reports directly to him, to a Type 2 agency, where the Director is a civil service position subject to bumping who reports to the Chief Deputy Director of the new DHHS.]

**Elder Abuse Mini Grants**

The request for proposals for the elder abuse mini grants closed last week. We received 22 great applications! The goals of these grants are for organizations or collaborations to create projects that address elder abuse and/or prevention at a local level. You will receive OSA’s recommendations at tomorrow’s meeting.

**State Advisory Council – Looking For Volunteers**

We are in the process of reviewing applications for the State Advisory Council (SAC) and would like a few commissioners to volunteer to be on the Application Review Committee. The plan is to have the committee meet before the April Commission meeting. In addition, we need a couple of volunteers to sit on a SAC Bylaws Committee to update the 2012 SAC Bylaws.

**Senior Citizen of the Year – Volunteer Needed!**

It’s that time of year again – time to nominate that fabulous older adult volunteer in your life that you know for Senior Citizen of the Year! I’ve attached the nomination form, but you can also find more information on our website at [www.michigan.gov/osa](http://www.michigan.gov/osa) under “Announcements.”

**III. Business Items** (*All were approved*)

**a) Request for Approval of Creating Confident Caregiver Service Definition
 and Appointment of Three Commissioners to the Master Trainer
 Certification Panel** *Presented by Sally Steiner, OSA Staff*

 *Interested parties may request a copy of the service definition from* *steiners@michigan.gov*

 Three Commissioners volunteered to be on the Certification Panel:

Commissioners Ilardo, Newport, and Reid-Smith.

**b) Request for Approval of the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program
 (MMAP)** *Presented by Dawne Velianoff, OSA Staff*$1,577,643 for the annual grant from the Administration for Community Living to provide outreach, education, and assistance with Medicare/Medicaid related issues, long term care insurance coverage, and the prescription drug coverage program (Part D).

**c) Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect Today Mini-Grants** *Presented by Dawne Velianoff, OSA Staff*

$800,000 to approved applicants to the PREVNT initiative to support local efforts to prevent elder abuse, provide local training for interdisciplinary teams, and pilot shelters for local seniors. These are the grants:

 Elder Law of Michigan $17,419

 Disability Network (Oakland & Macomb) $18,020

 Catholic Social Services $22,968

 Senior Neighbors, Inc. $24,809

 Disability Network (Genesee & Flint) $25,000

 Matrix Health Services $25,000

 UPCAP Services $25,000

 Jewish Senior Life $25,000

**Announcements**

The next Commission on Services to the Aging/State Advisory Council on Aging joint meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2015, at 10:00 AM at the Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center, located at 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. We will be inviting someone from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to discuss veterans issues and PHI to discuss direct care workers.

**Please note: These meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend may do so.**

Submitted by Commissioner Michael J. Sheehan

Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging and

Chairman, State Advisory Council on Aging