

# Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

8:30 – 10:30am

Remote Via Zoom

Join by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/join>

Join by Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 954 3400 0397

Passcode: 633697

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

**Called by Chair Munce at 8:34 AM**

### II. Roll Call

*Present: Steven Stein, Gary Munce, Bennett Stark, Elizabeth Thompson, Marie Gress, Bonny Webber, Marta Larson, Margaret Reynolds, Ellen Offen*

*Absent (excused): Jason Maciejewski*

*Absent (not-excused): DeLois Wilson*

### III. Citizen Participation

*No Public Comment.*

### IV. Commission Response to Citizen Participation

*No Response Public Comment.*

### V. Approval of Minutes

**Moved: Offen, seconded Gress, that the minutes of the 8.6 meeting be approved.**

*In Favor: Steven Stein, Gary Munce, Bennett Stark, Elizabeth Thompson, Marie Gress, Bonny Webber, Marta Larson, Ellen Offen*

*Abstain: Margaret Reynolds*

## **Minutes Approved.**

### VI.Subcommittee Updates

#### A. Data Organizations / Domains

*Gress provides report - Subcommittee has had 2 meetings. The first was initial goal setting. The second included Chris Lemon and discussed the domains they used for their Glacier Hills survey and the current practices and benefits of long-term capacity building work of the senior sector.*

#### B. Survey

*Webber provides report – Subcommittee has had 2 meetings. Some members participated in a zoom meeting with AAA1B and Senior Centers to discuss a Senior Center Survey in Washtenaw County. They talked about the goals of the subcommittee, after hearing from the Healthy Aging Commission they want to bring senior centers into the process of planning and survey development.*

#### C. Website and Communications

*Chair Munce provided the report - He walked through what the website looks like currently and highlighted the following upcoming additions: comment form, adding listserv, recorded meetings.*

### VII.Special Presentation

#### A. Washtenaw County Healthy Aging Collaborative

*Chair Munce introduced the presentation from Deana Smith.*

Deana introduced the Healthy Aging Collaborative, as a cross-sector collaborative based on domain of services rather than based on organization representation. She explained the domains they have selected and how they plan to organize based on this model. She also highlighted the potential overlap and connection between the Collaborative and the Commission on Aging. She talked about their current data collection, advocacy, best practice, and communication efforts. She closed with a video discussing Master Plan in Aging and the

goal of Michigan's master plan and how we can apply the same principle to our specific community.

Question/Comments included:

- Thompson asked about resources to do this work. Smith said they have limited staff support and access to expertise around data collection and analysis, communication, and content area expertise.
- Reynolds asks about timeline for reporting out on organized and analyzed data – Smith said November.
- Reynolds asks about the interconnectedness of the domains and whether they are truly separate – Smith agreed but talked about they created them based on the application and practice
- Webber asked if they have a senior center survey in the works – Smith said the collaborative doesn't have any immediate plans for new data collection, only analysis of existing data.
- Webber asked about whether they would use data the Commission is hoping to collect through the potential surveys – Smith suggested waiting to see the existing data be analyzed to be able to draft the senior center survey to fill gaps.
- Stein asked about under reached groups like the home bound and nursing home population and whether those people are included in any domain work and suggested additional data sources to use for these populations in their review – Smith anticipates that both of these topics could come up in their review of the data but acknowledges it might be limited locally.
- Stein asked whether the collaborative is also looking at for-profit providers as part of this work for those who can afford services – Smith agreed and acknowledged that their collaborative is not limited to non-profit and that the business subdomain is part of how they are including this group.
- Stark reinforced the need for more research on homebound individuals in the time of COVID as her answer to Steve Stein focused more on nursing homes – Smith clarified that she will pull in those specific data sources, and is hopeful that the data will be able to answer some of these questions.
- Gress asked about how the collaborative work differs from similar groups who have tried to do this in the past and how the partnership between the collaborative and the commission – Smith believes the approach to domains over the individual organizations as the driver will help with the sustainability by looking at a systems level rather than a siloed organization. She also invited a member of the Commission to sit on the Collaborative to create a strong partnership.
- Thompson asked about whether they have connections to and data on services not funded through AAA1B - Smith talked about the approach of looking specifically at Washtenaw County data collection efforts.

- Chair Munce offered a goal being able to take information like the information shared by the Collaborative and taking it one step forward of being able to take the information and make it actionable for policy makers and the public.
- Stein asked how they are making sure all of the people are in the room and not just the same people all over again – Smith talked about how they created a smaller strategic group that could work outside of the group rather than trying to get everyone into the main group.
- Stein asked about competition concerns to get people to work together – Smith said by funding work rather than organizations we can reduce competition and increase collaboration
- Reynolds agrees with the domain funding being a good idea and thinks a clear message to the community about who does what is important
- Munce asks logistically about the partnership between the Commission and the Collaborative – Smith states a specific member from the commission would be invited to be a part of regular collaborative meetings, states the collaborative can be a part of the subcommittee meetings.

## VIII. Discussion Items

Thompson supports the collaboration between Collaborative and Commission. She supports the idea of an official liaison between the group to ensure communication and offered to serve in that role.

Gress agreed with Thompson, and highlights the importance of staying separate and independent. She also offered herself as a potential liaison.

Stein suggested members of the Commission look into different domain subcommittees.

Chair Munce agrees with everything has been said and suggested everyone thinking on between meetings and having an in-depth discussion at a future meeting. Webber asked Commission members to share there thoughts on this with officers via email.

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Chair Munce and Stein raised the discussion of the strategic planning of the Commission On Aging.

Thompson and Gress agree to bring in an external collaborator, perhaps checking with the Board of Commissioners first to get the go ahead to move ahead.

Webber asks for an update about the Commission Bylaws, Lindeman offers an update that they are being reviewed as part of the Board of Commissioner agenda process.

Chair Munce suggests the officers discuss external resource at their coming meeting to identify action items related to this topic.

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Stein raises the topic of starting a subcommittee to talk about a potential millage, both identifying language and potential use of a millage.

Offen suggests working through Commissioner Maciejewski as the Commission Aging liaison as much as possible before reaching out to the Board of Commissioners as a whole. She then talks about the potential political ramifications of openly pursuing conversations and collaborations related to the millage.

Thompson and Stein talk about the importance of lifting up under resourced and underrepresented resources as we move forward in this process.

Larson suggests referring to this as a “potential” millage, rather than an inevitable millage.

Chair Munce voices his support for forming a subcommittee on the topic of a potential millage. Munce, Lindeman, and others discuss the logistics of moving and approving the subcommittee.

**Moved: Stein, seconded Offen, to create a formal subcommittee about a potential millage.**

#### *Discussion*

Webber voices concern about stretching the Commission too thin. Reynolds asks if we can get information about what happened with the previous millage effort. Thompson suggests the subcommittee could look into this, and could be a smaller group who starts gathering information so that when everyone is ready to be active, the information is ready to go.

*In Favor: Steven Stein, Gary Munce, Elizabeth Thompson, Marie Gress, Bonny Webber, Marta Larson, Ellen Offen, Margaret Reynolds*

*Abstain: Bennett Stark*

#### **Motion Approved.**

Chair Munce asks individuals to reach out to him to express interest in being involved in serving on a Subcommittee to garner information on potential millage.

### **IX. Report from the Chair**

Chair Munce offered update about outreach efforts to Commissioner Maciejewski and the Board as a whole to discuss topics of operations and resources for the Commission on Aging moving forward. His other update was on expanding efforts to increase communications moving forward.

### **X. Report from the Board of Commissioners**

XI. New Business

XII. Setting Next Meeting

XIII. October 1st, 2021 8:30 –10:30am

**Moved: Stein, seconded Stark, to adjourn.**

**Meeting adjourned.**