

# Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

November 5<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

## AGENDA

### I. Call to Order

Called by Chair Munce at 8:33 AM

### II. Roll Call

*Present: Steven Stein, Gary Munce, Marie Gress, Bonny Webber, Marta Larson, Margaret Reynolds, Ellen Offen, Jason Maciejewski*

*Absent (excused): DeLois Wilson, Elizabeth Thompson, Bennett Stark*

### III. Citizen Participation

*No Public Comment.*

### IV. Commission Response to Citizen Participation

*No Public Comment.*

### V. Approval of Minutes

**Moved: Offen, seconded Larson, that the minutes of the 11.5 meeting be approved.**

*Unanimous Roll Call Vote in the Affirmative.*

**Minutes Approved.**

### VI. Subcommittee Updates

#### A. Data Organizations / Domains - holding pattern

*No Update pending release of Healthy Aging Collaborative November data report.*

#### B. Survey - holding pattern

*No Update pending release of Healthy Aging Collaborative November data report.*

#### C. Website and Communications

*Gress provided the report – the Communications subcommittee shared a script and example conversations to have with their representative on the Board of Commissioners. Munce added that if any COA member has difficulties reaching their Commissioner to let him know and he will assist in making the connection.*

#### **D. Potential Millage**

*Munce provided the report – the subcommittee has identified a few other Commissioners On Aging that have millages: Tri-County (recently passed millage), Monroe (long standing millage), Kalamazoo (relatively new millage), and Kent (similarly sized area) to reach out to. They have met with Tri-County and Monroe County to date.*

- *Stein asked about doing similar outreach outside of Michigan, Munce said he would bring that suggestion back to the subcommittee.*
- *Stein also asked the subcommittee about their timeline in relation to next summer's deadline. Munce said after meeting with other groups they will report back early next year. Larson cautioned the timeline and making sure we don't get pushed into making an early decision. Munce clarifies that we need millage language on the ballot by August.*
- *Webber supports Larson and restates the data and result driven requirements that the Board of Commissioners requires in order for them to support a senior millage. Webber stresses that it is important to take time to collect information and data to drive the decision making process. If COA decides to support a senior millage, the decision will be based on data and the end result will be a quality product for a strong millage support. Munce reported that the officers met with Commissioner Maciejewski to discuss goals, progress, and next steps. Conversation takeaways included:*
- *Commissioner Maciejewski reported that the takeaway of the conversation was that the purpose of the Commission On Aging was left specifically open ended in order for the COA to develop its own direction based on the data, needs, and input gathered by the COA. This also allows the COA to evolve as the needs of the senior citizens of Washtenaw County change.*

- *He also reported the importance of the Commission on Aging getting in planning efforts to make sure there are aging perspectives in that process.*
- *They did briefly discuss the potential millage and reported that Maciejewski said that clear and specific items would need to be explored.*
- *They also discussed a budget and funding process, and that the county is able to receive, manage, and give funding in different scenarios to support Commission on Aging work.*
- *Webber added that part of the conversation was that Commissioner Maciejewski mentioned using Monroe County as a model. She recommended everyone look into their website, mission statement, and the work they are doing as a good resource for members of the Commission on Aging members to use.*
- *Stein asked if there was a job description to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear in addition to aging experience – Lindeman specified that there will be a contract with specific language that makes all of that clear.*
- *Stein asked for an updated on whether Commissioner Maciejewski spoke to a potential planner/consultant being hired by the Commission. Munce said that he seemed open to it, but wanted more information about what the Commission had in mind. Munce also said that the conversation with the other Commissions on Aging are helpful in learning what role that sort of person could play.*
- *Munce also highlighted an upcoming opportunity from the Healthy Aging Collaborative to learn more about their work. Stein asked that it be recorded and Smith confirmed that could probably be done.*
- *Munce mentioned the confusion around the funding landscape, and how the different sources of dollars flowing to this work is hard to follow. He received confirmation from the commission that some sort of mapping of funding and work could be extremely helpful. He then talked about how we can use that information to identify the commission's role in funding decisions at different levels.*
- *Lastly, Munce talked about the progress of the commission moving through important questions as guiding points for the commission.*

## X. Report from the Board of Commissioners

*Lindeman offered brief report as Commissioner Maciejewski had to leave. Lindeman offered that the State's order that allowed for remote meeting for commissions are expiring at the end of the year, so moving into 2022, it is likely that their will be mandated inperson meetings, which is an important conversation related to the next year's calendars. Larson and Webber ask for advocacy work by the Board of Commissioners to support those on the Commission who may feel uncomfortable going to inperson meeting without a lot of safeguards.*

## VII. Special Presentation

### A. Office of Community and Economic Development

Teresa Gillotti, Morghan Boydston, Moonson Eninsche, Aaron Kraft, Marti Popyk, Stacy Poncher, and Sandy Bowers presented on the breadth of OCED's work that serves seniors in a variety of ways from food assistance, to social support, to housing and community infrastructure. A full copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

Questions/Answers/Discussion included:

- Munce asked about the current number of Foster Grandparents and how many the program could support and where they are located throughout the county. Bowers answered 45 out of 60 spots are currently filled, and they are working to recruit to return to pre-pandemic participation levels. She also said that grandparents could be from anywhere in the county, but are concentrated in Ypsilanti, with some in Ann Arbor and Milan. This is at least partially determined by income guidelines, but also level of need for support in school districts.
- Reynolds asks about funding source, which Bowers clarifies is the a grant through the federal government's AmeriCorp program as well as the Community Services Block Grant.
- Munce asks for clarification about the 100% coverage. Eninsche specifies that means that geographically every area is covered, which means that any senior in need of service has a provider they would be able to connect with and there is no waiting list for services. Poncher adds that Jewish Family services is a new provider and has been important in filling gaps throughout the county.

- Reynolds asks if there is other related programming to food insecurity not connected to this program. Eninsche points to Food Gatherers pantry work, and some of the work that is supported by the county through coordinated funding, including for under 60 seniors. Smith does note the gap in services of medically tailored meals.
- Munce asks about the frequency of meals, and Poncher answers that there is flexibility of hot and cold lunches being delivered.
- Reynolds asks about culturally responsive meals. Poncher pointed to a few specific examples of that being taken into account such as vegetarian, halal, and kosher meals, but thinks that work could be expanded moving forward.
- Gress asks about their liquid meal program. Eninsche confirms that they are able to work with seniors who have been prescribed liquid meals to ensure they are able to receive them through their programming.
- Larson expressed concern about nutrition value of meals and asked for information on that. Eninsche noted that all meals are reviewed by a nutritionist to ensure they meet health needs. If there are opportunities to do better or concerns, they are able to facilitate that conversation with caterers.
- Stein asked about how the pandemic impacts the schedule of meal delivery. Eninsche speaks to the flexibility and limitations to provide different numbers of meals. Poncher adds that while multiple meals can be great, daily are also important even if a bit inconvenient for some seniors who must be home to receive the meals, as it allows volunteers to do daily wellness check-ins as those served are homebound and has pointed to individuals helping individuals who may have fallen or been in need of help. She also listed examples of providers offering flexible models to ensure everyone is able to receive meals in a way that works for them.
- Webber underscores the importance of daily checks in and how they address some of the longstanding questions of the Commission about reaching homebound individuals.
- Webber asked to clarify the types of transportation requests served through Barrier Busters. Eninsche mentioned that this program is more one time costs to ensure someone has a working car or up to date on registration. There are other programs, like

through the Ride, to address the more ad hoc “I need a ride today to the Doctor’s office” type of request.

- Stein asked about the role of the Continuum of Care in serving seniors who may need help to stay in their home, such as those with dementia. Boydston talks about the work of Housing Bureau for Seniors and the Permanent Supportive Housing programs that would allow these folks to stay housed indefinitely, but acknowledges the limited resources (both funding and people) for that program compared to others.
- Larson asked for more mapping of services so we can see where in the county people are served, and where individuals might not be served. Gillotti does specify that low income areas limit where seniors served are located.
- Munce asked about income requirement. Gillotti mentioned that most of these program income requirements are publicly available on their website.
- Webber asked about level of capacity to do some of the data and reporting work that Larson brought up given previous conversations about the lack of this capacity at other organization. Gillotti talks about how there are so many different reporting requirements for funders, which have to be the priority to continue receiving funds. At the next level there are many others making requests, so it is hard to address all of the request they would like to be able to accomplish like mapping out services and getting data to the Board of Commissioners, while they are already stretched thin doing the bare minimum of reporting to funders. She mentioned that the Commission can be added to their distribution list for reports that they are putting out.

## VIII. Discussion Item

### A. 2022 Calendar Discussion

This conversation is mostly held until the next meeting due to time constraints. There were some request from Munce and Webber to Lindeman about gathering more information before the next meeting, including potential meeting locations, and whether exceptions can be made.

## XII. New Business

XIII. Setting Next Meeting

A. November 19th, 2021 8:30 –10:30am

XIII. Adjournment

**Moved: Offen, seconded Reynolds. Meeting adjourned.**