

**TRI-COUNTY AGING CONSORTIUM**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

*July 20, 2020 3:30pm*

***Note: Meeting held remotely via Zoom***

**Members Present:** Ken Mitchell, Chair Matt Bowen Blake Mulder  
Dwight Washington Jeanne Pearl-Wright

**Members Absent:** Chris Swope Bryan Crenshaw Adam Hussain- Vice Chair  
Robin Naeyaert Patricia Spitzley

**Staff:** Marion Owen Kirsten Laing Joe Reeves  
Tammy Lemmer Tom Smith Carl Buonodono  
Andrea Radel Casey Cooper Robin Webb

**Guests:** Becky Payne-Field Rep, Aging and Adult Services Agency, MDHHS  
Meghan Penata- Advisory Council Member- Wind Beneath My Wings  
Home Care (owner)

**Item #1. Call to Order:**

K. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**Item #2. Introductions**

**Item #3 Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by J. Pearl-Wright supported by D. Washington to accept and approve the Agenda. **Motion carried.**

**Item #4. Minutes of June 15, 2020 Meeting:**

Motion by D. Washington, supported by B. Mulder to accept the minutes for June 2020. **Motion carried.**

**Item #5. Public Comment: N/A**

**Item #6. Directors Report:**

**I. COVID-19 UPDATE:**

- Services continue to be delivered including home delivered meals, carry-out/pick up meals, produce boxes, in-home services, MMAP, Information and Assistance, legal services/Ombudsman. The only services not available at this time are some of the in-person educational classes including elder abuse and disease prevention, adult day care, senior companion visits, exercise classes and dine-in nutrition sites. There were plans to open the senior dine/congregate meals sites but with the increase in the COVID-19 virus, plans are on hold. The grocery shopping service continues with volunteers shopping and delivery

groceries to older adults who are isolated with no means to obtain healthy groceries. The volunteers continue to provide wellness/friendly visiting calls to 2,000 seniors and many of these volunteers also deliver meals and the produce boxes. The produce boxes consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables will be available through at least the end of September and hopefully beyond. The boxes are a project through USDA and AASA (Aging and Adult Services). The U.S. Secretary of USDA actually visited the Grand Rapids AAA to view the boxes and the delivery process and was very impressed.

- As reported last month, TCOA was planning on opening to some staff but due to the increase in the COVID-19 cases, we decided to postpone this until a later date when we determine it is safe for all. Staff are still working from home and are being extremely productive. They are using ZOOM and Microsoft Teams to communicate, and this has worked out well. The supervisors are in regular contact with staff as well. The smaller group of staff has continued to work in the kitchen on a daily basis and this was totally voluntary. For their efforts, the Leadership Team decided to compensate them with a \$300 gas card in appreciation of their efforts to assemble meals/food, deliver meals and unloading over 350 boxes weekly with no complaints. TCOA is very fortunate to have such a caliber of dedicated, competent and creative staff!

## **II. DIRECT CARE WORKER INCREASE:**

- As reported last month the Michigan Senate had a bill to extend the \$2/hour increase to in-home direct care workers until the end of the FY 2020 (September 30, 2020). MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) had received a waiver to increase the hourly wage but only for the months of April, May and June and this was exclusive to the MI Choice Medicaid waiver program, not the AASA funded in-home services workers. The Senate bill passed both houses and the Governor signed it and it also includes the frontline direct care workers funded through AASA. We have already applied the increase to the payment to home care agencies as they are important to maintaining services to enable older adults to remain independent in the community.

## **III. AREA AGENCIES ON AGING MANAGEMENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION FORMATION:**

- As reported in previous months, for over a year the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) has been meeting to establish a management services organization to serve as a separate network to respond to the changing healthcare dynamics and to be in a position to thrive through these times of competition from private entities. The network, in the final planning stages, will provide services to various health providers including hospital systems, physicians groups, health plans and other providers of health related care. The name chosen is "MI Aging Options". Some AAA's around the country have established such networks. The Michigan AAA's will work together as a single network, using:
  - proven best practices,
  - uniform rates and contracts
  - consistent services and efficiencies
  - and shared data and systems

Examples of services to be offered are:

- care coordination/care management
- care transitions to assist persons moving from hospital to home or nursing facility and vice versa,
- health promotion and disease prevention classes
- home delivered meals and nutrition consultation
- options counselors and other services.

The payors such as Medicare Advantage Health plans will work with to one entity to obtain services rather than negotiate with 16 different AAA's. TCOA has been involved on the steering committee, finance and contracts, information technology, and clinical workgroups. An outside consulting firm and attorney are assisting with the development of MI Aging Options including construct of legal documents, resource materials, guiding the meetings, providing expertise and advice and generally the entire focus. The consulting firm, TBD solutions, has extensive knowledge in this area and has worked with MDHHS, Health Plans, Community Mental Health regional organizations. The attorney, Mark Kopson of the Plunkett, Cooney law firm has expertise in the formation of legal entities. A handout by TBD has been included in the Board packet.

Now, the 16 AAA's need to move towards establishing MI Aging Options and plan to begin the formation this fall, providing there are a sufficient number of AAA's are unified to move forward. All of the planning for staff, legal counsel, operational costs including I.T. It is a huge undertaking and the costs are still being developed and the AAA's will share the costs, which could be as high as \$165,000 for startup costs and it is anticipated that the first year will consist of product/service development, fostering working relations ship with health providers, establishing protocols and contracts and other various activities. The Consortium Board will need to approve of the entity formation and there will be more information on the costs and other concerns member may have at the September meeting in order for the Board to approve.

**Item #7. FY 2021 Annual Contractor Renewals-** T. Smith gave an update that the FY 2021 Annual Contract Renewals are being sent out to contractors. This is the second year of the 3-year plan. There is a review committee made up of Advisory Council members to review and approve the contract renewals. The contracts will then need to be approved by the Board.

**Item #8. Planning, Advocacy & Development:**

A. **Fundraising Update Golf Outing Safety Plan-**C. Cooper gave an update on the Health and Safety Plan for the Annual Golf Outing to be held August 25 at Forest Akers West. Also posted on the website.

**Item #9. Nutrition Program Updates:** C. Buonodono report that all in home deliveries continue to deliver 7 days of meals at a time. Client number remain higher than normal. Q-Box deliveries are still successful, as well as the produce boxes. The meals to go drop off sites are still in operation at 24 sites in the Tri-county area. There has been a lot of positive feedback. Meals on Wheels are still serving homeless individuals. The van purchased will be delivered soon. Funds for the van came from the Rotary, Auto Owners, Granger, RE Olds, National Christian Foundation and FFI funds. Shaheen Chevrolet donated the decals.

**Item #10. Finance:**

- A. Financial Report May-** J. Reeves presented the May financial reports. Motion by M. Bowen, supported by J. Pearl-Wright to accept the May reports. (see exhibit 10.A.1-10.A.17). Motion carried by role call.
- B. FY 20 Budget Revisions & Resolutions-**J. Reeves presented the Budget Revisions & Resolutions for Nutrition and Waiver Program. Motion by B. Mulder to accept the Nutrition budget revision and supported by M. Bowen. Motion carried by role call. Motion by D. Washington, supported by J. Pearl- Wright to accept the budget resolution for the Waiver program. Motion carried by a role call.

**Item #11. General Check Ledger Resolution:**

- A. June-** Motion by Jeanne Pearl-Wright, supported by M. Bowen to accept the check ledger resolution. Motion carried by a role call.

**August Meeting cancelled. A motion to cancel the August meeting was moved by B. Mulder supported by D. Washington. Motion carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:22pm**

**NEXT MEETING: September 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm**