

# Allegan County Commission On Aging



3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 103  
Allegan, MI 49010  
269-673-3333  
1-877-673-5333  
269-673-0569 Fax  
<http://www.allegancountycoa.org>

*Chairperson: George Smeenge  
Vice Chairperson: Don Black*

## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING – AGENDA

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.  
Nederveld Room - County Services Building  
3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

### COMMISSIONERS

Don Black  
269-792-6446  
[dblack@allegancounty.org](mailto:dblack@allegancounty.org)

Terry Burns  
616-355-2525  
[tburns@allegancounty.org](mailto:tburns@allegancounty.org)

SENIOR  
MEMBERS  
Judith Graff  
269-637-2307  
[graffj@i2k.com](mailto:graffj@i2k.com)

Doris Hawkey  
269-672-5181

Eleanor Nielsen

George Smeenge  
616-335-2106  
[ghsmeenge@egl.net](mailto:ghsmeenge@egl.net)

Naomi Whetzel  
269-793-0132

MEMBER AT  
LARGE  
Sally Brooks  
269-683-0260  
[sbrooks@allegancounty.org](mailto:sbrooks@allegancounty.org)

Susan Gawaluch  
269-561-4663  
[sue@lifehouseproperties.com](mailto:sue@lifehouseproperties.com)

Theresa Lynn  
269-686-8659  
[tlynn@accn.org](mailto:tlynn@accn.org)

Patricia Pera  
269-543-3791

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

### **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:**

### **PLANNING SESSION: 1:30-2:40 p.m.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 15, 2009

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

### **COMMUNICATIONS:** Michigan Society of Gerontology

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

### **PRESENTATION:** Susan Katt, Casco Senior Care Program

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Tammy Grigg

### **ACTION:**

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. Goals-update from focus groups
2. Satisfaction Survey Results
3. Service Provider Assessments

### **REPORTS / MISC:**

1. I & R Log – September
2. Outreach Report – September
3. Story – Eleanor Nielsen
4. Parking Lot
5. Senior Service Brochures

### **ROUND TABLE:**

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**NEXT MEETING:** November 17, 2009, 1:30 p.m.  
Spartan Room – Human Services Building

#### **Mission Statement**

“To serve seniors by developing and coordinating services that support their independence, maintain their dignity, and preserve their quality of life”

# Allegan County Commission On Aging



3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 103  
Allegan, MI 49010  
269-673-3333  
1-877-673-5333  
269-673-0569 Fax  
<http://www.allegancountycoa.org>

*Chairperson: George Smeenge  
Vice Chairperson: Don Black*

## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING – MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.  
Spartan Room-Dept. of Human Services Building  
3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

### COMMISSIONERS

Don Black  
269-792-6446  
[dblack@allegancounty.org](mailto:dblack@allegancounty.org)

Terry Burns  
616-355-2525  
[tburns@allegancounty.org](mailto:tburns@allegancounty.org)

SENIOR MEMBERS  
Judith Graff  
269-637-2307  
[graffj@i2k.com](mailto:graffj@i2k.com)

Doris Hawkey  
269-672-5181

Eleanor Nielsen

George Smeenge  
616-335-2106  
[ghsmeenge@egl.net](mailto:ghsmeenge@egl.net)

Naomi Whetzel  
269-793-0132

MEMBER AT LARGE  
Sally Brooks  
269-683-0260  
[sbrooks@allegancounty.org](mailto:sbrooks@allegancounty.org)

Susan Gawaluch  
269-561-4663  
[sue@lifehouseproperties.com](mailto:sue@lifehouseproperties.com)

Theresa Lynn  
269-686-8659  
[tlynn@acn.org](mailto:tlynn@acn.org)

Patricia Pera  
269-543-3791

**CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairperson George Smeenge.

### **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:**

Present: Eleanor Nielsen, George Smeenge, Susan Gawaluch, Naomi Whetzel, Patricia Pera, Theresa Lynn, Sally Brooks, Terry Burns. Absent: Judy Graff, Doris Hawkey.

### **PLANNING SESSION: 1:30-2:40 p.m.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 18, 2009 – Naomi Whetzel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sally Brooks seconded. All present voted yes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** ACRDC letter, application to exhibit at Wayland Expo on October 3, 2009. Theresa Lynn moved and Eleanor Nielsen seconded to not go to the Expo this year. All present voted yes.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Don Black moved and Theresa Lynn seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted yes.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** None.

**PRESENTATION:** Kimberly Donlin, Generations Adult Day Care

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Tammy Grigg

In relation to the letter from ACRDC presented under "Communications", Sally Brooks moved and Patricia Pera seconded that the COA approve the requested funding for home delivered meals (\$40,000) and volunteer transportation (\$12,000). Theresa Lynn voiced concern over the possibility of another waiting list requiring yet another increase in funding. Tammy Grigg stated that we can not anticipate the need for any service; the need will increase especially if the OSA funding cuts take place. Passed. Vote as follows:

Black	Yes	Brooks	Yes	Burns	Yes
Gawaluch	Yes	Lynn	No	Nielsen	Abstain
Pera	Yes	Smeenge	Yes	Whetzel	Yes

### **ACTION:**

1. Fund Balance Disbursements (Judy's recommendation). Moved by Terry Burns and seconded by Patricia Pera that the new director put together a strategy and a set of goals to present to the COA for approval by December 1, 2009, so that we have a game plan of how we should be spending the amount of money that we said we should not just be sitting in a corner waiting for a rainy day. All present voted yes. Passed.

### **Mission Statement**

"To serve seniors by developing and coordinating services that support their independence, maintain their dignity, and preserve their quality of life"

2. 2010 contracts. Sally Brooks moved and Theresa Lynn seconded to extend the existing contracts through 2010. Theresa Lynn amended the motion to allow for necessary modifications to be brought back to the COA for approval. All present voted yes with Eleanor Nielsen abstaining. Passed.
3. Software purchase for contracts and records management. Eleanor Nielsen moved and Terry Burns seconded to approve a RFP to be issued to seek out bids for data reporting software with a maximum limit of \$30,000. All but one present voted yes with George Smeenge voting no. Passed.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Goals-update from focus groups
2. Transportation issues – Cash match for ACT. Theresa Lynn moved and Patricia Pera seconded to recommend approval to the BOC to allow matching funds in the amount of \$25,000 to be taken from the senior millage instead of the general fund for the Specialized Services Grant. All present voted yes. Passed.

**REPORTS / MISC:**

1. I & R Log – August
2. COA calendar for October – George Smeenge will no longer require a calendar until the new director is in place.
3. Outreach Report-August. The COA in general is impressed with Rebekah Walton's report and work performance.
4. Story – George Smeenge showcased the AARP magazine as a good source of information for all seniors with a wide selection of topics.

**ROUND TABLE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 20, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

**Nederveld Room at County Services Building**

Visit [www.msginfo.org](http://www.msginfo.org) for more forum updates!

**Michigan Society of Gerontology**  
*Bridging Policy, Practice & Research for Over 50 Years*  
[www.msginfo.org](http://www.msginfo.org)  
[info@msginfo.org](mailto:info@msginfo.org)



MSG FALL FORUM

## “MAKING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES LIVABLE FOR OLDER ADULTS”

HANNAH CENTER ~ EAST LANSING

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

8:30 AM – 3:15 PM

### FORUM

The forum will highlight the Michigan Communities for a Lifetime program which supports and recognizes efforts to make communities more elder friendly and livable for residents of all ages.

A moderator and expert panelists will provide an overview of key components of livable communities and how to initiate change, describe real-life experiences with assessing need and implementing plans, address tough questions about barriers to success such as lack of cross-specialty coordination or zoning laws, and challenge participants to work together to overcome these obstacles.

An interactive discussion and small work groups will provide the opportunity for participants to engage in this growing movement. The goal is to inform as well as to build bridges and dialogue across policy, practice and research arenas. Meet colleagues and potential partners, network, problem-solve, and be part of the action.

### MSG ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Join your colleagues during the luncheon congratulating two MSG members for their outstanding work and achievements.

**Holliace Spencer - Recipient of the Harry J. Kelly Award**

This award is named for a leader in human relations and human rights, President of MGS from 1962-1963, and witness to the signing of the Older Americans Act. It is presented to a MSG member who is an outstanding practitioner in the field of gerontology, has demonstrated leadership through organizations that support activities for older persons on the local, state or national level, and who exemplifies integrity and reliability in his or her profession.

**Robert Dolsen - Recipient of the V.K. Volk Award**

This award is named for an organizer of Michigan's first county health department and President of MSG, 1964-1965. It is presented to an individual who has made a medically related contribution to the field of gerontology, outstanding contributions to health issues related to aging, or significant efforts to improve health conditions for older persons.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone interested in aging issues and working together to create livable communities including state and local officials, area agency on aging professionals, city planners, council members, commissioners, mayors, community center staff, care facility administrators, home builders, architects, social workers, researchers, academics, students, advocates, and more!

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Complete the registration and/or membership information on the next page of this e-announcement and send it back via email or as indicated on the registration form.

#### **Forum Agenda**

8:30	Check in/Continental Breakfast/Exhibits
9:00	Welcome, Bob Schlueter, MSG President
9:10	Community Collaborations Joan Ilardo, MSU/CHM
9:25	Livable Communities in MI Dan Doezema, OSA Field Rep
9:45	Interactive Expert Panel Discussion
Noon:	<b>MSG Awards and Lunch</b>
1:15	Small Work Group Sessions to Plan Next Steps
2:30	Reports/Wrap up
3:15	Adjourn

**Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available by contacting [info@msginfo.org](mailto:info@msginfo.org).**

**FORUM REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**\$75 Special Individual Fee**

**Includes forum fee and MSG Membership (Individual Professional) New or Renewal Membership!**

**Forum Fees Only:** Includes registration fee, forum materials, continental breakfast and lunch

Fee	Forum Registration Options	
\$60	Individual	
\$45	Existing MSG Member	
\$20	Full time student or Retiree	
<i>Vegetarian Lunch Entrée Requested</i>		

**MSG Membership Fees Only:** Join your colleagues and become an MSG member! Member benefits include reduced forum fees, scholarship & award opportunities, listserv membership & more.

Fee	Membership Options	
\$40	Individual Professional	
\$100	Non-profit Organizational Membership (3 members permitted)	
\$250	Corporate Organizational Membership (3 members permitted)	
\$18	Full – time student or Retiree	

Name(s)	
Position(s)	
Organization	
Address/ Phone	
E-Mail(s)	
MSG Listserv	Yes____ No____ Please include me/us as a MSG Listserv subscriber(s)?

Fees: Please indicate all applicable fees below		AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>\$75 Special Individual Fee</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Forum Fee</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MSG Membership</b>	
<b>Total Fee(s)</b>		

- Fee(s) will be forthcoming via US Mail
- Please send me an e-mail invoice
- Will bring fee(s) to the forum

**Make check payable to: "MSG"**  
 Return form via email to [info@msginfo.org](mailto:info@msginfo.org) with note about payment, or mail this form and check to MSG.  
 MSG, P.O. Box 4055, East Lansing, MI 48826-4055

**MSG tax Id #: 38-2645908**

Alleghen County Department of Senior Services  
Director's Report  
October 20, 2009

Discussion:

1. Goals-update from focus groups. The focus groups will be reporting on the progress that has been made since our last meeting.
2. Satisfaction Survey Results. Sue Nelson has tabulated the results from the surveys and has provided a chart with the mean scores for scoring the providers and the questions. The complete results including the comments will be turned over to the focus group for their interpretation of the data and trends. The focus group will report back their findings at a future date. We had a 35% return rate on our Satisfaction Surveys; this is an excellent survey sample as returns are usually less than 10%.
3. Service Provider Assessments. There is a chart included for quick reference in regards to how our providers performed and the areas of the assessment. Overall, our providers are doing an excellent job with the only concerns being budget issues with the increase demand for services.

What's happening in Senior Services?

1. Rebekah Walton completed her Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program training and is now an accredited MMAP Counselor. She will be able to assist people with Medicare, and their families and caregivers, with the knowledge to make informed health care coverage decisions. Rebekah will be able to assist during the open enrollment coming up next month with prescription plan D. I imagine our office will really be busy next month and Rebekah has scheduled a couple of outreach clinics to assist in the rural areas of our County.
2. We are working on contract modifications for next year. I'll be finishing up the meetings by the end of the month with the providers and will bring the recommendations for contract changes to the COA next month for approval.
3. I've been appointed Chairperson of the Single Adults/Veterans/Seniors subcommittee of the Continuum of Care. We are addressing the needs, barriers and goals of the populations that were identified at the Homeless Summit in April 2009. If you're interested in participating in my group, let Sue Nelson know and she'll send the information packet to you. The group is meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Spartan Room.
4. The Department of Senior Services will be participating at Golden Orchards Assisted Living Facility's "Health-O-Ween" on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-6:00 p.m.
5. There is a Project Helpful Connect event scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fennville United Methodist Church from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This department will be participating with Rebekah offering assistance to seniors with Plan D, Medicare/Medicaid questions, paperwork, and accessing senior services provided with the senior millage. We will be distributing the Senior Service brochures, Wellness Directories, magnets and bags.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy J. Grigg  
Interim Director

## SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

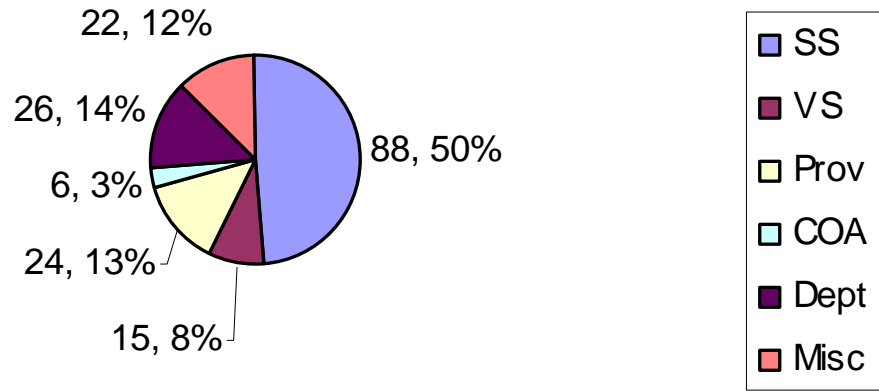
provider	rating						no	total	mean
question #	0	1	2	3	4	5	ans	surveys	score
ACRDC	79	2	1	8	17	75		182	4.57
Alliance	122	4	1	4	14	37		182	4.32
Casco	168	0	1	2	3	8		182	4.29
Evergreen Commons	104	0	1	5	14	58		182	4.65
Generations	173	0	0	2	1	6		182	4.44
1	76	2	0	5	22	56	21	182	4.53
2	65	2	3	26	22	26	38	182	3.85
3	20	5	10	23	28	58	38	182	4.00
4	30	2	1	13	21	83	32	182	4.52
5	16	1	2	17	25	88	33	182	4.48
6	59	5	8	10	17	40	43	182	3.99

SERVICE PROVIDER ASSESSMENTS

COMPONENT	ALLIANCE	ACRDC	GENERATIONS	CASCO	EVERGREEN
informal site visit	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
formal site visit	7/24/2009, 7/28/2009	8/28/2009	9/2/2009	7/28/2009	8/17/2009, 9/3/09
written questions	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
employee files <sup>1</sup>	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
client files <sup>2</sup>	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
financial statements (May, 2009) <sup>3</sup>	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
donation handling <sup>4</sup>	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
licensure requirements, laws & regulations	pass	pass	pass	pass	pass
AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY	continue with Quality Assurance Plan;service plans	additional funding for programs; over budget	other funding sources; over budget	need to serve more seniors and acquire more drivers	over budget;service plans
<sup>1</sup> criminal background check, orientation, TB testing, reference check, quarterly training, annual performance appraisal, home visit evaluation <sup>2</sup> assessment, referral, communications, service plan, activities that have been assigned, scheduling, case notes <sup>3</sup> client lists, compare assigned, provided and billed units <sup>4</sup> donation request, receiving method, counting and recording, anonymity					



### I & R September, 2009



## Outreach and Assessment Coordinator Report for Month of September 2009

Prepared by Rebekah Walton

I have some exciting news that I would like to share right away. At the end of September, I became a certified MMAP (Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) Counselor. What this means is, seniors who are requesting assistance with their Medicare/Medicaid can contact me to assist with his/her case. I am an objective individual who can assist with Medicare or Medicaid related issues/questions. Please feel free to ask me more about this; I am very excited. ☺ Currently there are 4 MMAP counselors located within Allegan County.

The Department of Seniors Services is currently working on a fall COA Newsletter. We hope to have it completed in the next week or so. Some features include the following: Flu shot locations, food pantry locations, how to obtain a free cell phone (for those who qualify), and help with weatherizing your home.

As we roll into the last quarter of the year, we currently have wait lists for homemaking, personal care, in home respite, and our adult day care. We had a temporary hold on volunteer transportation and home delivered meal referrals, however are slowly forwarding the referrals to ACRDC. The service providers and I have been working creatively to keep our wait lists at a minimal. Throughout the month, 28 individuals requested services through the millage. Eleven of the referrals had multiple requests for assistance. More than half of these referrals led to beginning new wait lists.

While working on a project related to budget cuts for our seniors, I stumbled across a few statistics. We are currently actively serving 441 seniors. Of the 441, 346 would qualify for specialized care, which equates to 78% (e.g.: Assisted living, nursing home care, etc.) due to being severely disabled or frail. It was astonishing to see such a high percentage that I recalculated the numbers several times before accepting the fact that we are assisting many seniors who would qualify for nursing home care but are remaining in the comfort of their own home because of our services. That number is large enough to make anyone smile.

Lastly, I enjoyed my first Senior Day (of many more to come) at the Allegan County Fair. Next year, I might even snag a plate of pancakes. They smelled so good.



PARKING LOT

Guardian Medical presentation

Kevin Berry – Sawmill – pilot program

David D. Barber – Bankers Life and Casualty Co – 269-343-8541

Beth Nelson, Gilda's Club Grand Rapids – 800-326-1419 – [www.gildasclubgr.org](http://www.gildasclubgr.org)

Second Harvest Gleaners

Disability Networks

Jim English, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations of Wayland –

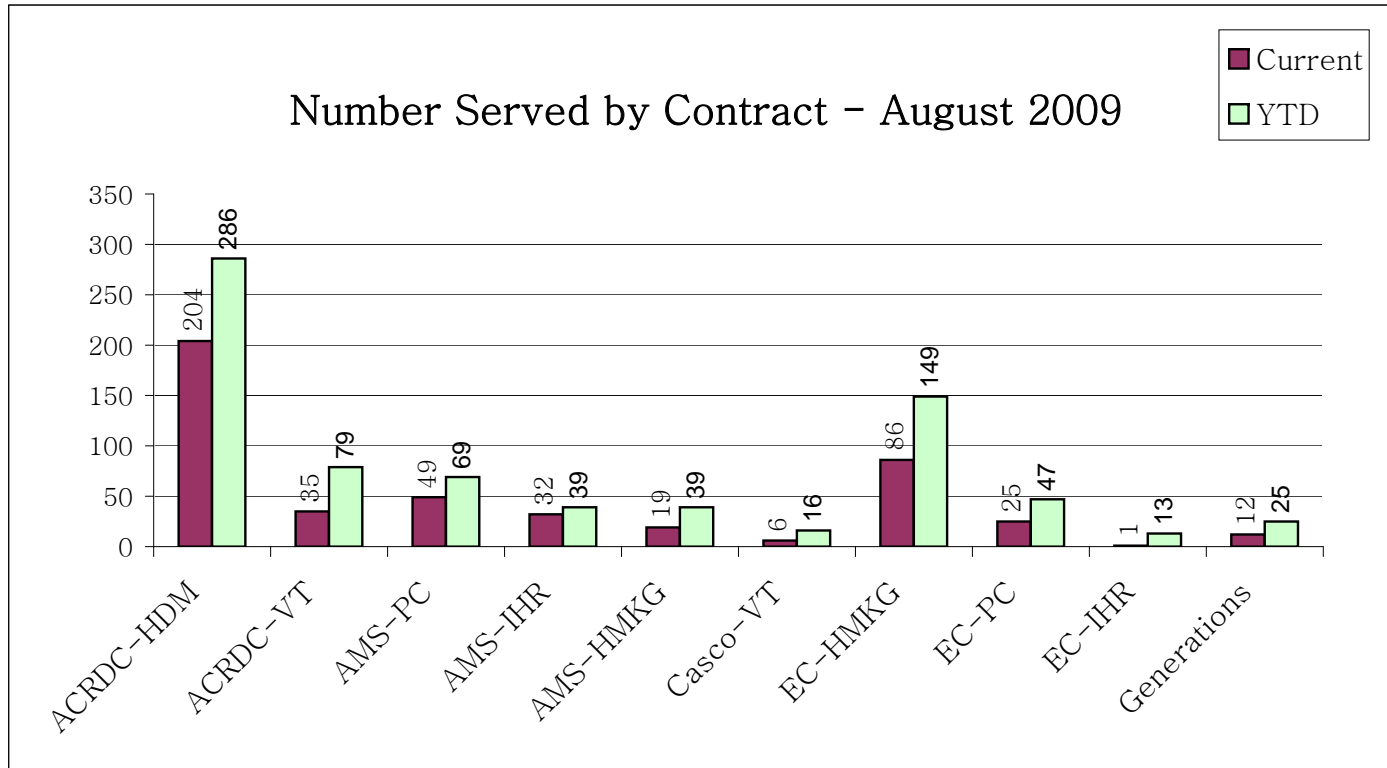
[English@wayland.k12.mi.us](mailto:English@wayland.k12.mi.us)

Margaret Bakker – Elder Abuse

**Allegan County Department of Senior Services  
August 2009 Monthly Report**

	Number Served		Number of Units		Cost	
	Current	YTD	Current	YTD	Current	YTD
ACRDC-HDM	204	286	3,004.00	26,380.00	\$14,989.96	\$131,636.20
ACRDC-VT	35	79	345.00	2,336.00	\$7,131.05	\$51,773.26
AMS-PC	49	69	589.75	4,784.75	\$10,615.50	\$86,125.50
AMS-IHR	32	39	275.50	1,483.25	\$4,821.25	\$25,888.13
AMS-HMKG	19	39	79.50	556.25	\$1,175.00	\$8,877.00
Casco-VT	6	16	26.00	518.00	\$604.31	\$8,336.86
EC-HMKG	86	149	302.25	2,763.50	\$6,045.00	\$55,270.00
EC-PC	25	47	304.50	3,399.25	\$5,481.00	\$61,186.50
EC-IHR	1	13	8.00	1,237.50	\$140.00	\$21,656.25
Generations	12	25	1,030.75	9,659.50	\$7,551.16	\$75,545.79

# Allegan County Department of Senior Services August 2009 Monthly Report





The Source for Seniors

# News and Notes

October 2009

## Important Dates:

**October 5**

*AAAWM Advisory Council Meeting*

**October 16**

*Advocates for Senior Issues Meeting*

**October 26**

*AAAWM Board of Directors Meeting*

## State Budget-Older Adult Services Cut 14%

The budget debate lasted until the early hours of October 1 before a continuation budget was passed. The continuation budget, which will expire at midnight on October 31, includes cuts to match the lower FY 2010 agreements.

As of the end of last week, the MI Choice Waiver Program is still set for a \$17 million increase. Programs funded by the Office of Services to the Aging, however, have a 14% overall cut, for a total of \$5.3 million.

Also included were 8% cuts to some Medicaid providers (nursing homes and hospitals will see a 4% cut), elimination of some Medicaid optional services as well as grants for Alzheimer's information centers and other targeted projects.

Breakdown of the Department of Community Health budget cuts and how many seniors will be affected:

<b>Care Management</b>	\$1.1 million 465 seniors
<b>In-home services</b>	\$ 1 million 1,000 older adults
<b>Access services</b>	\$ 130,000 8,000 units
<b>Congregate Meals</b>	\$ 180,000 33,000 meals or 733 seniors
<b>Home-delivered meals</b>	\$ 1.7 million 400,000 meals to 2,600 seniors
<b>Respite Care</b>	\$ 530,000 38,000 hours for 215 caregivers
<b>Retired Senior Volunteer Program</b>	\$ 110,000 500 volunteers or 110,000 hours
<b>Foster Grandparents</b>	\$ 380,000 140 seniors helping 700 children
<b>Senior Companions</b>	\$280,000 100 volunteers and 500 frail seniors
	Senior Olympics funding eliminated

## Alliance for Health Expo

The Alliance for Health Expo will take place on October 22 at Centerpointe Mall in Grand Rapids.

The event will run from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. and will feature over 30 exhibitors.

Health screenings and services will include flu shots, balance screening, body fat analysis and more.

Stop at the AAWM booth or visit [www.afh.org](http://www.afh.org) for more information.

“The purpose of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is to provide older persons, including those in the greatest social and economic need, with an array of human services designed to maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities.”

News and Notes is a publication of AAWM  
Amanda Walter, Editor

## Tom Celebrates 30 Years at AAAWM

On Thursday, September 17 staff helped Tom Czerwinski celebrate 30 years at AAAWM.

Throughout his tenure, Tom has worked in many capacities including accounting and contracts. He was also the Assistant Director under Larry Murray before taking over as Executive Director.

'Thank you' Tom for your dedication to older adults, the mission of the agency and your staff.



## New MMAP and Title V Office Opens

In mid-October AAAWM will open a satellite office at 1695 Service Road NE, Grand Rapids. The office (located East of Ball) will house the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) and the Title V Employment program.

"We don't have enough room in our building to accommodate all of our staff," says Jackie O'Connor, Assistant Director. "The new office will provide MMAP and Title V with more space, including private meeting rooms, which is essential for their work with volunteers and enrollees."

The satellite office will be piloting a new telephone and internet system. Current phone numbers and email addresses for MMAP and Title V staff will remain the same.

The Senior Meals Program currently rents office space at AAAWM, which they are anticipated to vacate by the end of 2009. When they move, AAAWM staff will be assigned to those offices and the conference room will be opened up to accommodate larger meetings.

## Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Updates

Information on Medicare plans for 2010 will be available to the public the third week of October.

The Annual Election Period (Part D enrollment) for all beneficiaries begins November 15 and runs through December 31.



**MMAP, Inc.**  
Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

## United Way Campaign

The United Way campaign kicks off on October 12 and will run through October 23. This year the goal is to have staff participation at 55% or more.

AAAWM employees will receive more information and pledge forms closer to the kick-off date.

**LIVE UNITED** The United Way logo, featuring a globe and the text "United Way".

## Advocacy Action- State Budget

The final version of the Department of Community Health Budget bill (HB 4436) was agreed to by the joint House-Senate Conference Committee after lengthy negotiations.

The report was approved (56 to 52) by the House and passed (20 to 17) the Senate. Because the Senate did not give the budget "immediate effect" it is still on the Senate floor waiting for that approval (without immediate effect, the budget cannot be implemented until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns for the calendar year).

When and if the Senate gives the budget immediate effect, it will be sent to Governor Granholm who can exercise her veto power over the entire bill or line by line.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their state Representative and Senator and voice concern over the cuts to senior services.