

Allegan County Commission On Aging



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<http://www.allegancountycoa.org>

*Chairperson: George Smeenge
Vice Chairperson: Don Black*

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING – AGENDA

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
Spartan Room – Human Services Building
3255 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

COMMISSIONERS

Don Black
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Theresa Lynn
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Patricia Pera
269-543-3791

CALL TO ORDER:

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

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 20, 2009

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

COMMUNICATIONS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

INTRODUCTIONS: Sherry Torres, New Director of Senior Services

CONFERENCE UPDATE: Sherry Torres

PRESENTATION: Mr. Jim English, Wayland Union Schools

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tammy Grigg

ACTION:

1. Generations' request for additional funding
2. Contract change recommendations

DISCUSSION:

1. Goals-update from focus groups

REPORTS / MISC:

1. Outreach Report - October
2. Report on November 5 forum on Gerontology – Rebekah Walton
3. I & R Log – October
4. Parking Lot
5. Story – Sherry Torres

ROUND TABLE:

ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT MEETING: December 15, 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”

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COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING – MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
Nederveld Room - County Services Building
3283 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

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CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m., by Chairperson, George Smeenge

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

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM: Members present: Don Black, Terry Burns, Judith Graff, Doris Hawkey, Eleanor Nielsen, George Smeenge, Naomi Whetzel, Theresa Lynn, Patricia Pera. Absent: Sally Brooks, Susan Gawaluch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 15, 2009. Don Black called attention to the fact that his name was missing from the attendant list. Whetzel moved and Nielsen seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. All voted yes. Passed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter from Michigan Society of Gerontology regarding their fall forum on November 5, which Rebekah will be attending. It was requested that Rebekah report back on the forum at next month's meeting. Tammy Grigg mentioned the next Wayland Fitness Center meeting is coming up on November 3 at 4 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Black moved and Lynn seconded that the agenda be approved. All voted yes. Passed.

INTRODUCTIONS: None.

PRESENTATION: Susan Katt, Casco Senior Care Program

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tammy Grigg presented her reports, which was included in the prepared packet. She also mentioned that 4 COA members' terms are ending at the end of the year. So if there is any desire to return to the board, their applications need to be submitted soon.

ACTION: No actions taken this month.

Mission Statement

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

DISCUSSION:

1. Goals-update from focus groups
2. Satisfaction Survey Results—Sue Nelson turned over the returned surveys to the committee with a recap of the results.
3. Service Provider Assessments—Tammy reported that all the providers came through in good standing and that they all did an awesome job.

REPORTS / MISC:

1. I & R Log – September; discussed and accepted
2. Outreach Report – September; discussed and praised
3. Story – Eleanor Nielsen
4. Parking Lot; it was requested that we include a date indicating when they are added to the list.
5. Senior Services Brochures; newly printed brochures were issued to each board member with wishes to have them distributed throughout the County. 25,000 were printed.

ROUND TABLE: Pera stated that she will not be attending next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Nelson, Secretary
Senior Services



The Source for Seniors

News and Notes

November 2009

Important Dates:

November 2
AAAWM Advisory Council Meeting

November 11
AAAWM Office Closed for Veterans Day

November 20
Advocates for Senior Issues Meeting

November 23
AAAWM Board of Directors Meeting

November 26-27
AAAWM Office Closed for Thanksgiving

State Budget Final- Older Adults See 14% Cuts

On October 30, Governor Granholm signed the remaining budget bills, including the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH).

The budget does include a \$17 million increase for the MI Choice Waiver program and an increase for Home Help worker wages, raising most workers from \$7.50 to \$8.00 per hour.

The Governor vetoed 70 programs in various budgets, totalling \$127 million. While the DCH budget had nine vetoes, none of those were related to the Office of Services to the Aging. (OSA).

Granholm expressed her dissatisfaction with cuts made by the legislature in the DCH budget, but the proposed 14% cuts to OSA are final.

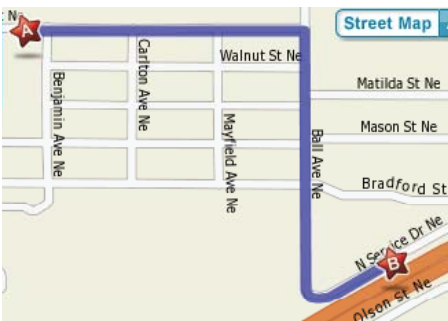
The following is a breakdown of the 14% funding cuts:

Care Management	\$1.1 million
In-home services	\$ 1 million
Access services	\$ 130,000
Congregate Meals	\$ 180,000
Home Delivered Meals	\$ 1.7 million
Respite Care	\$ 530,000
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 110,000
Foster Grandparents	\$ 380,000
Senior Companions	\$280,000
Senior Olympics	funding eliminated

Satellite Office Update

The MMAP and Title V programs officially moved to the satellite office, 1695 Service Road, suite 101A, the week of October 12th.

“We are working hard to get moved in,” says Sandra Davis, Human Resource Director/Planner. “The Medicare Part D prescription drug calls began in October. MMAP volunteers will be especially busy through December. They will benefit from more room and much more privacy when assisting beneficiaries at the satellite office.”



- Start going East on Cedar (A)
- Turn Right on to Ball
- Follow road to the Left- it turns in to Service Road
- Office in building next to Words of Hope, (B) suite 101A

“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

New Employee:

Barbara Stokes

Job Developer



Barbara came to AAAWM as a part-time Job Developer for Ottawa and Allegan counties after taking an early retirement from Grand Rapids Public Schools. She worked as an employment training specialist with adult special education students for twenty-one years.

She and her husband live in Grand Rapids. They have five children and nine grand-children as well as a poodle name Cookie who's "not smart, but she is loving."

When she is not working, Barbara likes to listen to books on her MP3 player, read, ride her bicycle and listen to all kinds of church music (including gospel, classical choral and sacred harp). She enjoys exercise and is a fanatic about it, saying it's essential after having two replaced knees.

AAAWM Giving Tree



The annual AAAWM Giving Tree will adorn the lobby November 20. Tags with client needs will be placed on the tree for anyone to take and make purchases. Monetary donations are also accepted. All contributions are due back by December 8.



United Way Campaign Update

The United Way campaign ran from October 12-23 with a goal of increasing staff participation to 55%.

That goal was met and exceeded with 40 staff members contributing.

Thank you to everyone who participated to help us reach our goal! Your donations will help improve our community for all ages.

Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Updates

There are about 15,000 Medicare beneficiaries in our region who are affected by plans that are being dropped for 2010. Statewide the number jumps to over 50,000.

West Michigan is affected more than any other part of the state by a large percentage. MMAP Central believes our regional offices will receive more calls this year than in 2006 when Part D began.



MMAP, Inc.

Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

Navigating Medicare

Advocacy Action Project 2020

Project 2020 has been introduced as freestanding legislation, but N4A (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging) wants to get 2020 included in the health care reform moving through Congress.

Senator Stabenow has been supportive, signing on as an original co-sponsor. Senator Levin's office has stated he is "likely" to support 2020 when an amendment is introduced on the Senate floor.

Advocates are encouraged to contact Senator Levin's office to support Project 2020 and urge him to vote for it when it is introduced as an amendment to health reform legislation.

Talking Points:

- Older adults want to stay in their own homes as long as possible and it is more cost effective than nursing home care. On average, home care costs one-quarter of institutional care.
- Federal funding for the Older Americans Act has not kept pace with inflation or the growth in the older adult population. This means many seniors are not getting the services they need to stay healthy and independent.

Outreach and Assessment Coordinator Report for month of October 2009

Prepared by Rebekah Walton

October kept me quite busy with preparing our Allegan County Medicare beneficiaries for the upcoming open enrollment period that began on Oct. 1st for those who learned that their current plan was being dropped for 2010. As the news quickly spread and rumors began to circulate, it was decided that it would be helpful to begin scheduling some Medicare workshops to assist as many seniors as possible.

The following workshops have been scheduled throughout Allegan County. On, Tuesday, Nov. 17th, I will be at Douglas Community Church from 12:30-4:30 PM. The Douglas community is working with other local congregations to spread the word of my visit. Thus far, I have a full day scheduled and are currently looking at a secondary date. We will begin with a general information session and 12:30PM and work into scheduled appointments.

On, Wednesday, Nov. 18th from 1:30-3:30PM, I will be at Love Inc. in Pullman. A bi-lingual social worker will be available to assist those whose primary language is Spanish. At my last visit to Pullman, signs were put up around town to advertise for this assistance. I was informed on Oct. 30th that they have received numerous inquiries of my upcoming visit. I was told that they made sure to get wi-fi for me ☺. The following day, Thursday, Nov. 19th, I will be at Project Hope in Dorr from 1-4:30PM. Daelynn (Compassionate Care Coordinator) is fearful that they will not be able to accommodate the response, and asked if I would be willing to meet with beneficiaries one on one if they cannot make it. I think you know what I told her. Of course I will.

The last workshop I currently have scheduled is for Wednesday, Dec. 2nd (all day). Susan Katt, Senior Care Coordinator for Casco Twp., has been advertising the upcoming event. Their volunteer transportation team is working to assist those who do not have transportation to get to the event. They are currently scheduling appointments with those who are planning to attend. It will be nice to report the outcome of the workshops in next month's report.

To assist as many individuals as possible, I created a Medicare Assistance Worksheet that I have asked those who are assisting with the workshops to pass out prior to the workshop to bring back completed. Having the information readily available, will allow me to cut to the chase and get things plugged in immediately. A list of locally owned pharmacies was also compiled to hand out at the work shops. The list also addressed any special services that they may offer and whether they are accepting all plans for 2010. For those who prefer to utilize a chain of pharmacies such as Walgreens or Rite Aid, they can still compare between pharmacies. My thoughts when doing this, was that we would be helping our County and communities during these tough economic times and have also found that they are very reliable and willing to please their customers.

On Oct. 1st, I had the opportunity to present the Plainwell Rotary Club with some background on the COA and the DSS. It was a nice way to announce what it is "we do". I received several inquiries about our services the following week who informed me that someone at the Rotary Club gave them our number.

As mentioned in earlier reports, we continue to have a lengthy wait list (currently 21) for Home Delivered Meals. We are hopeful that we will be able to remove the wait list completely by the end of November. We have a small wait list for homemaking, however are all prior clients of Evergreen Commons. The wait lists for personal care, in home respite, and volunteer transportation have been eliminated.

As you can tell, the Department of Senior Services has been hopping over the last month, and expect it will continue through the new year.

“Making Michigan Communities Livable for Older Adults”

Think back to when you were in your twenties. You're career was just starting, you may have been starting a family, and the last thing on your mind was where are you going to be in say, another 40 years?

On, November 5th, at the forum on “Making Michigan Communities Livable for Older Adults”. The core of the forum was simple: Should someone have to move out of their home because they can no longer drive? Regardless of age, the ability to conduct the “business of life” and participate in the social life of the community is often determined by the community design and assets that allow residents access to grocery stores, banks, health care, restaurants, shops and entertainment.

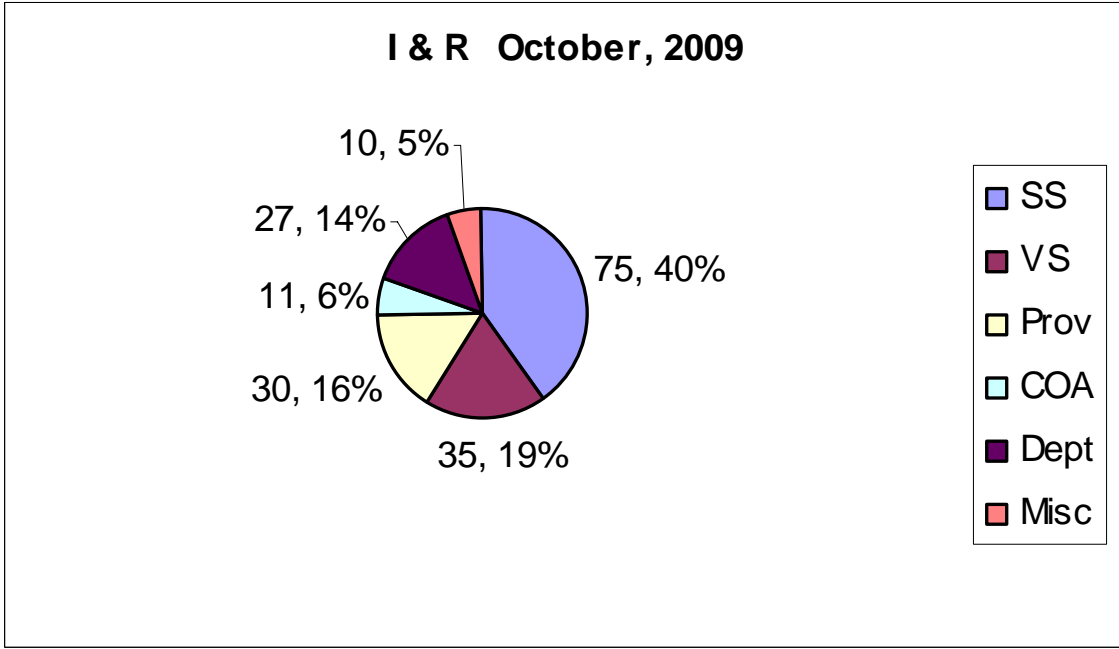
There was much discussion on why should we be thinking about building communities for all generations? Some of the reasons discussed are as follows: We are living in an age where there are greater numbers of older adults. People are living longer and are generally much healthier (however may/may not be dealing with a chronic disease or other health issue). Lastly, there are a greater number of “boomers”.

With much discussion over what we should do to make our communities more “livable”, a concept called “Walkability” was mentioned. In order to begin making our communities more livable, we should start with a “Walk Score”. A walk score is a number which will judge a community's ability to “age in place” simply by being able to walk to his/her preferred destination. Each community is based on the following criteria: Access to a grocery store, health care, restaurants, transportation, nearby coffee shops, schools, parks, libraries, book stores, fitness, drug stores/pharmacies, hardware stores, clothing stores, and even taverns. Scores begin at 0 and go up to 100. The value of the community is also based on this score.

I decided to take a look at what Allegan County has to offer to our residents. The following towns/cities received the following scores. Remember the higher the number, the greater the value of that community. Allegan: 80 (not bad), Dorr: 55, Fennville: 45, Hamilton: 40, Martin: 38, Otsego: 71, Plainwell: 55 (I agree, I thought the number would be higher too), Pullman: 46, Saugatuck: 72, Shelbyville: 14, and Wayland: 80. We need to ask ourselves if our community is a good place to “grow up” as well as a place to “grow old”? Will your community meet your needs when you are 65, 75, 85, 95, or even 105 years old? If not, let's discuss what we can do to make a community a “livable community for a lifetime”.

To put things into perspective, following this report, you will find several photographs. The next time you are walking in your community, look around and decide if your community could make a few alterations to please those of all ages. Look at the condition of the sidewalk, the curb-cuts, the signs and routing, the quality and placement of street/sidewalk lighting. Is there seating available, and if so, is it accessible to all age groups? As you cross the street, how much time are you allowed to cross safely without having to sprint? Is there a neighborhood watch, should someone need immediate attention?

The following communities/counties have been recognized as “Communities for a Lifetime”: City of Gaylord, Battle Creek, Northwest Ottawa County, Washtenaw County, Kent County, City of Alpena, Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, Bay County, and the City of Holland. A city or a county can apply to be researched to also become a Community of a Lifetime. The process can take up to a year, and if not awarded at that time, you can make alterations to the City/County in which you would like to be recognized and reapply.



PARKING LOT

7/17/09

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

Second Harvest Gleaners

Disability Networks

9/21/09

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

Englishj@wayland.k12.mi.us

Margaret Bakker – Elder Abuse

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

	Number Served		Number of Units		Cost	
	Current	YTD	Current	YTD	Current	YTD
ACRDC-HDM	200	296	2,557.00	28,937.00	\$12,759.43	\$144,395.63
ACRDC-VT	47	98	312.00	2,648.00	\$4,906.11	\$56,679.37
AMS-PC	50	77	635.00	5,419.75	\$11,430.00	\$97,555.50
AMS-IHR	31	48	359.50	1,851.75	\$6,291.25	\$32,179.38
AMS-HMKG	31	45	118.00	674.25	\$2,045.00	\$10,922.00
Casco-VT	8	16	24.00	542.00	\$601.78	\$8,938.64
EC-HMKG	78	151	304.00	3,067.50	\$6,080.00	\$61,350.00
EC-PC	25	50	356.25	3,755.50	\$6,412.50	\$67,599.00
EC-IHR	0	13	0.00	1,237.50	\$0.00	\$21,656.25
Generations	12	25	1,046.75	10,706.25	\$7,647.96	\$83,193.75

Allegan County Department of Senior Services September 2009 Monthly Report

