

Director's Report

November 2016

Executive Directors Meeting

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) and the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Executive Directors meetings were held on October 11, 2016 in Lansing. The next 4AM meeting will be on November 8, 2016 in Lansing. There will be no AASA meeting in November, due to their moving to their new office location.

Betsy Weihl, 4AM Lobbyist, informed the group that:

- the legislature completed their September session. The Senate will return October 18-20 and the House on October 19.
- there will be a "Lame Duck" legislative session after the elections.
- Tom Leonard is the House Republican caucus's leader for the 2017-18 session and Representative Tim Greimel will continue as the House Democratic caucus leader. (Both are assumed to be re-elected on November 8.) Republicans currently hold a 9 seat majority pending the November 8 election.
- Senate Bill 1013, which would create mid-level dental therapists to practice in public clinics, and/or serve 50% Medicaid or uninsured patients, has not been acted on yet.
- SB 987-990, creates an alternative mechanism to the Health Insurance Claims Assessment (HICA) which is currently the primary mechanism of state funding of Medicaid. The bills have passed the House and are being returned to the Senate for further deliberation. The bills as passed, would fully eliminate the HICA by 2018 rather than 2020 as originally proposed.
- Governor Snyder has issued Executive Order (EO) 2016-19, elevating the state's Chief Medical Executive to a cabinet-level position reporting directly to the Governor. The EO also creates a 24-member Public Health Advisory Commission charged with reviewing best Public Health Practices, and recommending ways to improve public health in Michigan. Both actions were recommended by the Flint Water Advisory Task force.

Mary Ablan, 4AM Director, informed the group:

- October is the last month to hold Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) with clients with Type 2 diabetes, and Matter of Balance (MOB) trainings for clients with mobility problems, as the current Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) Grant ends October 31, 2016. We are requesting a no-cost grant extension of carry-over funding from the MHEF Grant to be re-allocated in FY-17. Kari Sederburg is open to our proposal and it will most likely be granted.
- reviewed the FY-17 4AM budget and goals/objectives.
- discussion is taking place with Rick Murdock, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Health Plans regarding Long Term Care (LTC), proposing that the AAA's could possibly be the Care Managers for LTC services for the plans.
- Older Michiganders Day lost a little money this past year due to limited sponsorships.
- Chris Priest, Medicaid Director, visited Region 8 (Grand Rapids) and was educated on and visited NFT clients in that area to get a better understanding of nursing facility transitions.
- discussed the top four (4) priorities from the joint strategic planning retreat meeting.

At the AASA meeting, Richard Kline, Acting Director, and other AASA staff informed the group that:

- The current push of the MDHHS merger is for Integrated Service Delivery. AASA is beginning to see results of this. Discretionary grants will now need to be approved through MDHHS, but the main part of our services will remain the same.
- The Senior Deputy Director position (Kari's position) is now posted. There is a slight title change, as AASA fits into the overall MDHHS structure.
- Richard went to Otsego for Senior Power Day. This year's less central location led to fewer attendees. Next year should be more central.
- Audit results:
 - Home Help and Adult Protective Services (APS) had findings. The finding that affected us is in APS in measuring the quality of services.
 - other findings didn't affect this office. Richard testified in a hearing before the legislature. He and others will be working their hardest to measure whether risk is lowered in measuring effectiveness.
 - a new unit has been created under the Medical Services Administration called the Home Help Department, in response to an audit finding, and Michele Martin has been hired to be the director.
 - Home Help policy staff is remaining within AASA, and since Home Help is a Medicaid-funded program, it seems to make some sense to get the service delivery function over in their direction.

Other Staff reported on:

- AAA's Fund Balance Policy Follow-Up. Whereby, the AAAs are responding to comply with the recent issued Transmittal Letter on fund balances.
- the FY 2016 Year-End Closing – Program and Financial Reporting information from Transmittal letter #319, dated November 2015, must be followed.
- due to a federal government budget continuation for FY 2017, funding allotments will be for three (3) month SGAs in hope that Congress will have the budget in place by December 9. State funding is at the full-year levels. The \$2.5 million extra that was allocated in Michigan this year for community services is included. FY 2017 is the final year of the phase in of funding formula changes. FY 2019 will be the next time there is an update on the formula allocations.
- Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect Today (PREVNT) grants were approved at the September 16, Commission meeting. Region VII's grant proposal was not selected.
- AASA is moving to their new building at 333 S. Grand Ave., Lansing, MI on October 27th.
- regarding the Ombudsman relocation, September 30th was the date when the Ombudsman program moved to the Michigan Association of Prosecutors. Sarah Slocum is remaining in place as the State Ombudsman while they are hiring her replacement. AASA will be managing this program as a contract, doing assessments and programmatic reviews.
- discussion on the Aging Network Strategic Planning Retreat was presented by the lead committee which met after the retreat and added more depth and discussion to the four Priority Statements. The retreat committee will look at feedback from the group and will bring back any changes, and make an action plan.
- Discussion took place on the new ruling on sick leave: "The EO requires certain parties that contract with the Federal Government to provide their employees with up to 7 days of paid sick leave annually, including paid leave allowing for family care." - US Dept. of Labor.

Information & Assistance/MMAP/General Information

- I&A and MMAP continue to be busy in assisting callers and walk-ins with their questions/concerns.
- staff continue to conduct Matter of Balance (MOB) and Diabetes-Personal Action Towards Health (D-PATH) workshops.
- Part-D drug plan selections began on October 15 and ends on December 7, 2016.

Program Development

Region VII has been very busy with current and upcoming events. Some of the highlights are:

- **TRANSPORTATION:** There continues to be knowledge gaps among organizations and groups working to improve transportation within our service area, especially with crossing county lines. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) is being piloted in Region VII's ten county service area. Whereby, Region VII will house a Mobility Manager and two Transportation Coordinators arranging for NEMT for clients from both Region VII's and A&D's MI Choice Waiver program.
- **SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES:** Marketing and education continues with nursing home administrators and social workers regarding nursing facility transfers (NFT's), which allows for smooth transfers of potential clients out of the nursing homes to a residential setting of their choice.
- **HOMELESS OUTREACH:** We have participated in 4 county homeless project connect events since August. The people participating are older, appear to have more need, and there are no longer long lines of people waiting for the food truck distribution.
- there will be a "meet-and-greet" held at the Cass City office on November 10 for staff to meet with service providers, hospitals discharge planners, healthcare professionals and other community partners to educate them about Region VII's home and community based programs available to older adults and persons with disabilities (see the November 10, event flyer in your hand outs).
- efforts to promote diabetes PATH (personal action towards health) education continues with a region-wide radio campaign.

Waiver/Care Management Department

In October, WA staff were able to bring on 32 new clients (9 NFT's and 23 regular WA). Region VII has been allocated a total of 1,175 slots for FY 2017, and we are currently at 934 through October.

Fiscal Department

Staff are preparing for final year-end closeout.

Other October Meetings/Trainings/Events Attended by Staff/Board members

Executive Directors Meeting (Drew O)

AASA All Star Mtg. (Drew O, Sue G, Lisa P, Stacey D, Loren F)

WA Directors Mtg.; New Provider Openings; ALJ Hearing; Milliman Capitation Rate Mtg. (Kerry W)

Provider Open's/Monitoring's/Assessments; AASA Care Giver Mtg.; Care Management client observation; NAPIS Conferance Call. (Stacey D)

Huron & Sanilac County CoA Mtg.; Gladwin County HSCB Mtg.; Caregiver Screening and Assessment Planning Mtg.; REST Training to become a REST trainer. (Loren F)

SVSU-Advocacy as an Ethical Responsibility. (Stacey L)

Marketing: Sanilac County Project Homeless Connect; Council of Governments re. Transportation; BWCIL – direct care workforce improvement; Midland Daily News Senior Expo; Tuscola County Project Project Homeless Connect; Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe; Integrated Healthcare forum SVSU; Bay County Project Homeless Connect; Opiate and Older Adults Conference for Healthcare; Midland ALS Support Group; Saginaw Senior Health and Wellness Forum; BWCIL Annual Meeting; Covenant Cooper Aging Services Overview for RN/discharge planners; website development; visits to physicians, nursing homes and assisted living locations on behalf of WA; the MHEF radio/TV5 campaign. (Annette J)

Remember to visit the Region VII web site on a regular basis.

www.region7aaa.org