

Allegan County Commission on Aging



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Chairperson: George Waden
Vice Chairperson: Larry Ladenburger

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING – MINUTES

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

ZOOM MEETING

COMMISSIONERS

Rick Cain
269-744-7918
Shelbyville

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
Hamilton

Chairperson
George Waden
(Senior Representative)
269-857-3472
Douglas

Vice Chairperson
Larry Ladenburger
(Senior Representative)
269-673-6200
Allegan

SENIOR MEMBERS

Maré Westin
269-270-1876
Otsego

Stuart Peet
269-672-9520
Shelbyville

Thomas Peelle
616-283-8898
Allegan

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Alice Kelsey
(269) 366-0431
Martin

Patricia Petersen
616-644-8059
Allegan

Darlene Dewitt
616-566-6827
Holland

Paul Visscher
269-857-4522
Saugatuck

STAFF

Sherry Owens
269-686-5144
Director

Havilah MacInnes
269-673-3333 x 2495
Senior Services
Counselor

CALL TO ORDER: 9:08am by Chairperson George Waden

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL: George Waden, Larry Ladenburger, Rick Cain, Dean Kapenga, Stuart Peet, Alice Kelsey, Patricia Petersen, Darlene DeWitt, Maré Westin

Members Absent: Paul Visscher and Thomas Peelle

Others Present: Dan Wedge, Sherry Owens, Havilah MacInnes, Steve Sedore, Katheryn from Atrio and Jennifer from Alliance

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

COMMUNICATION: none

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH MINUTES: (*Attachment A*)
Stuart Peet moved, Larry Ladenburger supported. Motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Patricia Petersen moved, George Waden supported. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS: none

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

-Director's Report (*Attachment B*)

-Financial Report (*Attachment F*)

-Outreach Report (*Attachment G*)

Mission Statement

"Dedicated to serving Allegan County seniors by developing and coordinating services that support their independence, maintain their dignity, and preserve the

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Service level update during COVID-19

- **ADC:** Generations has remained open for the few people that we discussed in March. They closed off the doors between the ADC wing and the facility, and use a separate entrance. Staff worked with the families to discharge most of the clients to family members and remain in regular contact to ensure that things are well. There is approximately 6 at any given time, and they are all very separate in that large sunny room. Standard screening occurs before clients and staff come into the facility daily and all necessary PPE is in place.
- **HDM:** Daily meals continue on schedule. Additionally, each client has 14 days' worth of emergency meals in their home. New clients receive these meals with their first day of service. At some point (once we can be reasonably confident emergency meals will not be needed during this crisis) we will initiate a "brown bag Friday" (where clients eat an emergency meal for lunch instead of regular meal delivery until there remains a 6 day supply that will continue to be maintained throughout the year.
- **In-Home Supports:** On March 20, 2020 when the Governor's Stay at Home was enacted, Homemaking clients were notified that there would no longer be any housekeeping done until this order was lifted. Clients were however provided the opportunity on a regular basis to use the service for shopping and errands that could also include (if appropriate) trash removal, and mail collection providing it could be done without entering the home. To date, 18 clients have accepted this service. With the latest extension of the Stay at Home Order, we offered all homemaking clients a onetime "catch up" for up to three hours to provide assistance with laundry, sanitization, shopping, etc. to support them through May 15th. To date, 49 clients have accepted this service. Most of the Homemaking clients have strong family supports that have provided for their needs during this crisis, but the ones that do not were most appreciative for this help. Six weeks is a long time with no clean laundry!
- **PERS:** This service requires no change to normal operations during this Crisis.
- **Senior Transportation:** This program remains operational for essential transportation such as dialysis and other essential medical needs as well as some shopping for essential items.

2. Requests for Temporary Increase to Unit Rate due to COVID-19

- On April 22, 2020, Governor Whitmore, issued for a temporary increase in pay for direct care workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Jennifer from Alliance Home Health Care Services requested an increase of pay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the Allegan County Senior Millage is not Medicaid funded the staff who are providing essential services to millage clients would not be eligible for this temporary increase. Jennifer would like to increase staff's pay temporarily by \$2.00 an hour retroacting back to April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 per the Governor or until the order is lifted . The increase would be used to offset the cost of payroll tax that comes with payroll increases and to offset the cost increased of PPE. Jennifer also states that her staff is

calling all clients every two weeks to do well care checks over the phone to ensure all clients are taken care of. These calls can last up to 30 minutes per client. Cost of mask at currently at .99 cents each.

- Katheryn from Atrio Homecare agreed with Jennifer from Alliance on the need for a temporary increase of pay for direct care workers. Katheryn additionally added that all employees do a health screening when logging into their computers. This is the same for each client they are coming into contact with. Direct care workers are at an increased risk of exposure working directly with clients.
- The COA board has moved this discussion to an action item

3. Special Committee for Newsletter and/or Senior Center Projects

- No new updates to report due to COVID-19. Will keep as an ongoing project

ACTION ITEMS: The Commission on Aging is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve an additional \$2.24 per unit increase to provide direct care workers with additional \$2.00 per hour Essential Services Compensation that aligns with the State of Michigan Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order retroactive from 4/1/2020 through 6/30/2020 or until such time as the order is lifted.

Date	5/20/2020
Motion	Recommend BOC Approval of an additional \$2.24 per unit increase to provide direct care workers with additional \$2.00 per hour Essential Services Compensation that aligns with the State of Michigan Stay at Home, Stay Safe Executive Order retroactive from 4/1/2020 through 6/30/2020 or until such time as the order is lifted.
Moved	Alice Kelsey
Seconded	George Waden
Yes	R. Cain
Yes	D. Kapenga
Yes	G. Waden
Yes	L. Ladenburger
Yes	M. Westin
Yes	S. Peet
Absent	T. Peelle
Yes	A. Kelsey
Yes	P. Petersen
Absent	P. Visscher
Yes	D. Dewitt

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS:
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:
ROUND TABLE (COA MEMBER TIME):

ADJOURNMENT: 10:25am Larry Ladenburger moved, Rick Cain supported. Motion carried

Next Meeting –Wednesday, June 17, 2020
9-11 am

TBA – MAY BE ANOTHER ZOOM CALL