Washtenaw County Commission on Aging
August 6th, 2021
8:30 – 10:30am
Remote Via Zoom

Join by Zoom: https://zoom.us/join
Join by Phone: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 954 3400 0397
Passcode: 633697

AGENDA

   I.   Call to Order

Called by Chair Munce at 8:30 PM

   II.   Roll Call

Present: Steven Stein, Gary Munce, Bennett Stark, Elizabeth Thompson, Marie Gress, Bonny Webber, Marta Larson, Jason Maciejewski, Margaret Reynolds

Absent (excused): Ellen Offen, DeLois Wilson

   III.   Citizen Participation

None.

   IV.   Commission Response to Citizen Participation

None.

   V.   Approval of Minutes

Chair Munce used this as an opportunity to explain the voting and discussion process for approval of items.

Moved: Reynolds, seconded Thompson, that the minutes of the 7.16 meeting be approved.

Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

VI.   Special Presentation

A. Information from the Ann Arbor Community Foundation
Christopher Lemon, Senior Community Investment Officer

Chris Lemon presented on information from a recent effort to collect information about needs and concerns of seniors in our community and the work the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation does in this area. He fielded a variety of questions from Commissioners including specifics about finding from the analysis, such as the usage of senior centers, current advocacy efforts, the impact the pandemic has had on data collection and results, service delivery models, and technology.

The main takeaway from the resulting conversation is that people want a coordinated, supportive system for access services that. Navigation of services is key due to siloed work and limited bandwidth of specific providers.

[A copy of the presentation is available here.](#)

VII.Resolutions

A. Adopting Bylaws

Moved: Thompson, seconded Gress, the resolution adopting Commission on Aging By Laws.

Chair Munce highlighted updates that were made from the last meeting.

Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

B. Adopting Meeting Calendar

Moved: Gress, seconded Webber, the resolution adopting Commission on Aging 2021 Calendar.

Commissions had discussion about potentially amending the calendar, but decided to hold off on any amendments to the meeting calendar as drafted. The consensus was any amendments to the calendar would be had on a case-by-case basis when setting next meetings.

Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

VIII.   Discussion Items

Chair Munce asked to the take these items out of order to focus on C. Role of Information Gathering and Special Presentations.

A. Public Engagement & Communications

Postponed until a future meeting.

B. Logistics and Operations

Postponed until a future meeting.

C. Role of Information Gathering & Special Presentation

Chair Munce introduced the conversation by suggesting the Commission talk about areas they want to learn more and take future action to inform a deliberate plan to invite presenters and gather information.

Commissioner Maciejewski supports the conversation about creating a plan to move in a specific direction and offered work with the Commission and officer to help facilitate what information is helpful when it comes to reporting Commission on Aging activities and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, specifically in line with the year-end report described in newly adopted bylaws.

Commissioner Thompson and Munce introduced the idea that this first report can focus on providing a high level synopsis of strengths, weaknesses, and potential opportunities of the aging sector services in Washtenaw County rather than making specific recommendations. Commissioner Webber agreed, and added that the initial report should be internally focused on setting goals and making recommendations for the Commission on Aging.

Commissioners Larson and Reynolds then discussed that adopting this framework will allow time to identify gaps in information that need to be filled and for the members of the Commission on Aging to develop relationships with the Board of Commissioners to strengthen recommendations when they are ready to make them.

Commissioner Stein raises that it will be important to not hear from organizations that fund and support aging work, but also the providers doing this work.

Chair Munce and Commissioner Stein briefly discuss this general process being created and acknowledge that these tasks are not linear. Some recommendations can be pursued before every piece of data and information is collected.

Commissioners Webber, Larson, and Munce agree that identifying gaps of information, potentially based on Oakland County's list of "Domains of Interest" is a good starting point for gathering information that currently exists and the information that is still needed. They also mention that identifying gaps in this way will help strengthen recommendations for expanded services, future data collection, funding request and more.

Commissioner Stein raises the idea of a potential census of service needs to begin serving community members by identifying specific needs of individuals rather than doing another general assessment. Commissioners Munce and Larson understand the interest, but point to where that exists, the limitations in funding that work, and whether that is the role of the commission, or if the commission should recommend others who are better positioned to do that work to lead those efforts.

Commissioner Munce and Webber talk about how to collect information from Senior Centers. One model could be asking for brief presentations from Senior Center. Another could be sending a survey to providers – Thompson suggest this survey could go more broadly to organizations that service seniors, even if said organization is not senior-specific. Commissioner Larson seconds that idea and suggests members send officers a list of question they would want on this provider census so that they can begin developing the survey. Webber agrees and suggest building out a list of people to send this potential survey to at the same time as developing the survey.

Commissioners Gress and Stein circle back to original question of organizing data, and underscore the importance of collecting data based on general domains, rather than comparing and contrasting organizations to get different providers working towards the same goal: filling gaps in services. Commissioner Gress also highlights the data folder she has shared, and is offering her interns to help them do this data organization work.

Chair Munce suggests wraps up this conversation and suggest action items moving forward, including suggesting the Officers discuss who should be invited to the next few Commission on Aging Meetings.

Webber identifies immediate suggestions for funding as a potential topic for conversation.

Margaret wants to look at the money that's available now, and has Chris answer a question about recommended interventions and how we are moving to that.

Stein talks about the ARPA funds and working to find potential matches.

Larson asks about ARPA process, Lindeman answers the timing and process.

Stein suggests we maybe ask aging experts to help us develop an immediate proposal for ARPA funding. Chris and Jim offer we are currently in a "wait" stage.

Thompson reminds the broadband ask. Says their role can be to advocate that broadband expansion

IX. Report from the Chair

Chair Munce reported that, as instructed by resolution at the prior meeting, the officers drafted and shared a letter in support of equitable Broadband expansion as part of the Board of Commissioners Washtenaw Rescue plan.

X. Report from the Board of Commissioners

None.

XI. New Business

Commissioners Webber, Reynolds, Stein, and Larson talk about the importance of consider immediate suggestion for funding as a potential topic of conversation. There is a brief conversation about the American Rescue Plan Act Funding, but Chris Lemon and Jim McGuire answer a question from the Commissioners, stating that a lot of this work is still pending guidelines, but recommendations could be coming in the next few months.

XII. Setting Next Meeting

A. August 20th, 2021 8:30 –10:30am

XIII. Adjournment

Moved: Reynolds, seconded Stark. Meeting adjourned.