

MINUTES

DRAFT

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw, MI 48602

Monday, August 4, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Tracey Slodowski – Chair, Gerald Little – Vice-Chair, Lisa Coney, Michael Webster, Jack Tany
Others: Vanessa Guerra, Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Jessica Sargent, Sandra Lindsey, Andrew Klackiewicz, Darcie Totten, Suzy Koeplinger, Renee Sharkey, and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to Order ---**Chair Slodowski at 4:00 p.m.**
- II. Welcome
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (**June 2, 2025**) [*Note: No meeting in July*]
 - **Moved by Coney, seconded by Tany, to approve. Motion carried.**
- IV. Public Comment – **None**
- V. Agenda

1. **Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO, SCCMHA, re:**

- **8-19-1** Submitted a draft Resolution in Opposition to the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) plans to competitively procure Michigan's Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plan (*Resolution*)
- The Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority Board passed a resolution on July 14, 2025, in opposition to the plan to initiate a competitive procurement process for the management of PIHP functions, if instated it may open the door to private, non-profit health plans or managed care organizations (MCOs) assuming control over behavioral health services. Commissioners discussed how allowing this could disrupt relationships between local mental health authorities, providers, and the communities they serve. These entities are not subject to the Open Meetings Act nor the Freedom of Information Act. Reduced quality of care, limited accessibility to preferred services, loss of local control, and lack of transparency were concerns addressed that are expected to affect citizens. Fees for services, which haven't happened since the 1990's, could have an impact on the services offered locally, and the quality of service. Since beneficial programs such as mental health training with law enforcement agencies, Sheriff's Department, and SVSU are not billable services, they may no longer exist if fee for service is implemented. Commissioner Webster suggested that if pre-paid Inpatient Health Plans are managed by a for-profit group, services will likely diminish and those managing the money will profit. Vice Chair Little advised that Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) has gone on record in opposition to the plan. Sandra Lindsey requested commissioners draft a resolution with the same language as her draft resolution and share it with MAC, Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director, Elizabeth Hertel, and Michigan Legislature.
- **Webster moved, seconded by Tany, to adopt the proposed resolution and forward to the full board for approval. Motion carried. (Res. 2025-12)**

2. **Jessica Sargent, Commission on Aging Director, re:**

- **8-19-2** Submitted its 2026 Application Summary for Federal/State Funding through Region VII Area Agency on Aging for discussion and approval (*Board Report*)

- Discussion was held about the Foster Grandparenting program having been cut. Chairman Tany asked if anyone has reached out to Saginaw County School District and Saginaw ISD to see if funding is available through the school. He acknowledged the Foster Grandparenting program as a win-win program that seniors, students, teachers and schools all benefit from. Director Sargent will inquire with them. She is hoping the grant funds will still come through, in which case, she will come back to committee to request to amend the budget. She shared that they can still have a presence in the school, but it might look different. They have the data, the network, dedicated volunteers, and a great track record in this program that will create opportunities. It takes just over \$1M in Federal dollars to run this program but they have volunteers who are willing to serve without charge. Commissioners recommended sharing testimonials and data to show how impactful the program is and suggested contacting the Community Foundation and business owners to offer them opportunities to sponsor them. Director Sargent will provide the amount of loss suffered from the lack of Federal support and the effect it has had. Commissioner Webster asked that the programs discontinued due to lack of funding be recorded so that, if money becomes available, the programs can be restored. He also requested a summary of changes between FY25 and FY26 in the budget resolution.
- ***Moved by Coney, seconded by Little, to approve. Motion carried. (Board Report)***

3. **INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (To be Received & Filed in Committee)**

- **8-19-3 REGION VII AREA AGENCY ON AGING** sending notice that Requests for Proposal will be accepted on or before June 23, 2025 from applicants for funding for FY 2026
- **REGION VII AREA AGENCY ON AGING** submitting its proposed Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for FY 2025
- **8-19-4 LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN** sending notification of its Application Summary and Budget Submission FY2026 Region VII Area Agency on Aging Proposal
- Chair Slodowski asked in what ways Legal Services of Eastern Michigan is a benefit to Commission on Aging. Director Jessica Sargent explained that they are a provider of legal services in Saginaw County that can provide services, with the exception of services regarding criminal charges. They can, however, direct people to the right places for help. The office in Saginaw provides training for staff, will do home visits for homebound individuals, they do presentations for seniors, they create documents such as a Will and/or Power of Attorney for them and provide assistance in incidents of suspected elder abuse.
- **8-19-5 MYMICHIGAN HEALTH, FORMERLY ASCENSION ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL** sending notification of its application to Region VII Area Agency on Aging to fund its Angel Respite & Adult Day Services in FY 2026
- ***Moved by Tany, seconded by Webster, to receive and file items 8-19-3, 8-19-4 and 8-19-5. Motion carried. (Receive & File)***

4. Any other matters to come before the committee

VI. Miscellaneous – **Commissioners commented on the large monitors recently installed in the Board Room. The new system eliminates the connection issues experienced with the old monitors. All devices can now be connected via casting for training, presentations etc.**

VII. Adjournment – ***Tany moved, seconded by Little, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:57 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey Slodowski, Committee Chair
Vanessa Guerra, Committee Clerk