



Area Agency on Aging 1-B

THE ADVOCATE

July 2013

Senate Ponders Medicaid Expansion

On June 13 the Michigan House of Representatives voted to pass HB 4714 reforming Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level for up to 48 months with a requirement that the newly insured would pay no more than 5% of their out of pocket medical expenses. Following the 48 month period, the newly insured could then remain on Medicaid with an increase in their copayments up to 7% or they could choose to purchase health coverage through the Federal Health Care Exchange. This legislation has the potential to improve the quality of life and health care outcomes of nearly 500,000 Michiganians.

This widely backed legislation moved to the state Senate in late June where the anticipated vote failed to take place with Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) citing the need for more time to thoroughly review the measure before taking action. Senator Richardville later announced an all Republican workgroup to assess the legislation led by Senator Roger Kahn, M.D. who is a vocal proponent of Medicaid expansion. Other members include Senators Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale), Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), John Pappageorge (R-Troy), James Marleau (R-Lake Orion) and Darwin Booher (R-Evart).

Governor Snyder is hoping for a vote on this legislation to take place when the Senate next convenes on July 3; however, given the formation of the Medicaid reform work group a vote may not come until fall of 2013. Supporters worry this time frame may be too late to achieve the federal waivers needed to implement Medicaid reform.

On June 27, speaking at a special Medicaid event in Grand Blanc, Governor Rick Snyder called for Michiganians to take 3 actions to help move Medicaid reform forward;

1. Call your senator and express your support
2. Network with your friends and neighbors to have them call their senators
3. Sign the online petition at www.healthymichigannow.com

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Request for Applications:
RTA Citizen's Advisory
Committee

Help Shape the Future of Public Transportation in Southeast Michigan



After several decades and 23 failed legislative attempts, Public Act 387 of 2012 established the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for southeast Michigan. The RTA is charged with connecting and coordinating public transit options in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne counties and the City of Detroit.

The goal of the Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority is to create a public transit system that addresses the transportation challenges and opportunities facing our region. To achieve this goal, the RTA is creating a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC will advise the RTA on transit issues, make suggestions for improvements in transit service, and advocate for greater funding for public transportation.

The CAC will be made up of 10-30 members who reside in the service region of Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne Counties, and the City of Detroit.

The RTA is seeking interested seniors to serve a 2 year term on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. You do not need to be a transit rider to apply. The application deadline is Friday July 19, 2013.

Committee members will:

- Attend quarterly meetings, locations to be determined;
- Review & comment on the comprehensive public transportation plan for the region and annual updates;
- Advise the RTA board regarding the coordination and functions between public transportation facilities;
- Review and comment on a specialized services coordination plan;
- Upon request of the board, provide recommendations on other matters that concern public transportation in the region.

If you have questions or are interested in applying to be a part of the Regional Transit Authority Citizen's Advisory Committee, please contact Ryan Cowmeadow by phone or email at (248) 263-1282, rcowmeadow@aaa1b.com.



The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. Contact Ryan Cowmeadow, (248) 262-1282 or by e-mail at rcowmeadow@aaa1b.com to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.