Area Agency on Aging 1-B
Advocacy • Action • Answers on Aging

EXECUTIVE REPORT
June, 2013

Strategic Updates

Program Diversification

The team working to explore opportunities to develop a private care service model presented a project development concept to the Joint Finance and Governance Committee on June 10. An update on the project will be provided to the full Board at the June meeting.

Interviews for an Executive Director of the Huron Valley Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) are underway. Two qualified candidates will be interviewed by the full Board of Huron Valley PACE in June. We anticipate the position will be filled by mid to late July. Thanks to Deanna Mitchell for her assistance in reviewing applications.

Program Development

We were selected for a national award by the 2013 National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) ***Aging Achievement Award*** in the marketing area for our public education monthly radio segment called **Living Well**. The program is underwritten primarily by sponsor companies who receive a 60 second radio advertisement that is preceded by a 60 second educational feature about the AAA 1-B's programs and services or about a relevant topic that benefits family caregivers and older adults. The sponsors receive association with the agency through a billboard within the content of the feature, their 60 second advertisement, which is also part of the Living Well audio file that is placed on the agency website, and the placement of their logo in an ad in ACCESS, the AAA 1-B's newsletter. The program can easily be replicated by other AAAs looking to expand awareness. Congratulations to Jenny Jarvis, Sallie Justice, and Kathleen Yanik on this honor and for helping us to achieve our third year of national recognition for innovation

Congratulations to Roberta Habowski, Program Manager for myride2, who was awarded a $19,455 Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living grant from the Federal Transit Administration administered by Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Other partners include Easter Seals, n4a and Westat. Through the Regional Elder Mobility Alliance (REMA), the purpose of this project is to educate and engage seniors and adults with disabilities in transportation policy decision making in Southeast Michigan. This project will include developing a marketing plan to enhance messaging about the value of regional transit and coordinate and support participants' involvement in transportation planning and implementation.

Organizational Support

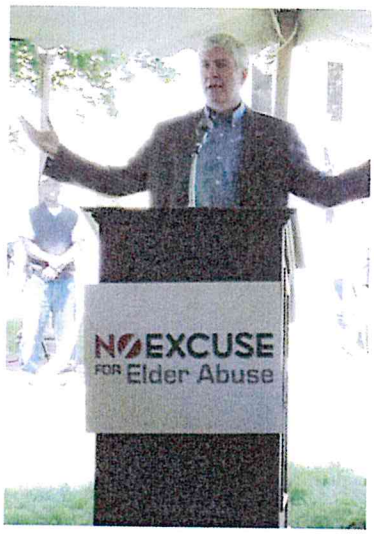
Attached is a letter from OSA indicating that our annual programmatic evaluation went well. There were no compliance or recommendations made.

Marketing/Communication

The benchmark survey process has begun among older adults, caregivers, and adults with disabilities to determine brand awareness. As you know, the goal of this strategy is to ensure we have a communication strategy that informs potential consumers and partners.

Older Michiganians Day (OMD)

The event was held on June 4 and was another rousing success with more than 800 in attendance! The main focus of the event was on: 1) ensuring access to quality long-term care supports and services; 2) supporting healthy programs (like evidence-based wellness) and Medicaid expansion; and 3) protecting the rights of seniors (including passing the remaining elder abuse bills).



For the first time in years, the Governor attended the event, and this was very exciting for participants. See attached photo of Governor Snyder at the podium. There was a lot of media on hand to see how the Governor would be greeted by seniors. Overall, the reception was very warm, and the Governor delivered very positive comments.

Thanks to our corporate sponsors Health Alliance Plan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan who helped fund the event. Thanks to board members Karen Wintringham and Andy Hetzel for their help in connecting us to the right people to make sponsorships possible.

Special thanks to Ryan Cowmeadow, our new Advocacy Specialist, for all his hard work organizing the event, and planning a full week of OMD Spirit Week events for the staff. We had a lot of fun at the agency celebrating the nearly 2 million older adults who live in Michigan.

Federal Sequestration

We continue to wait for final word from the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) about final funding levels. We are confident that our projected funding cuts are fairly accurate; however, we may need to make a few minor adjustments. Our hope is that our congregate meal cuts may be able to be scaled back, but we will not know this for sure until we receive the final Statement of Grant Award from OSA.

Some of you may have seen an editorial by State Representative Anthony Forlini, of Macomb County, which appeared in the Detroit News in April. He was unhappy with some of our early communication on the issue of sequestration and had contacted me several weeks before releasing the editorial to talk about our administrative actions to reduce the impact of the federal cuts. As a result of our conversation, we adjusted our materials and provided him with documentation about our administrative actions. Unfortunately, our efforts did not satisfy him. I have spoken with several elected and

appointed officials since the editorial was published, and all (to date) have supported the AAA 1-B actions. I am planning to meet with Representative Forlini sometime in the future to see if there are other actions our agency can take to better meet his expectations.

State Budget Update

Ryan Cowmeadow reported that the joint conference committee consisting of Senators John Moolenaar, Vincent Gregory and Roger Kahn and Representatives Matthew Lori, Rob VerHeulen and Rashida Tlaib reconciled the differences between the House and Senate Department of Community Health budget proposals. The conference committee report includes some positive news for senior advocates with an increase in MI Choice Medicaid Waiver funding and a partial restoration of funding for Home Delivered Meals. The MI Choice Waiver program will receive an increase of $18 million bringing total program funding to $300 million annually.

Since 2009, Home Delivered Meals funding has been hit hard. Meals on Wheels lost $3.3 million in state funding from 2009-2011. Additionally, Home Delivered Meals lost $360,000 as a result of sequestration. Thanks to the efforts of senior advocates and supporters in the Senate, Home Delivered Meals will see a partial restoration of cuts in the amount of $500,000. The partial restoration will provide 116,822 more meals in 2014 for homebound seniors.

As the budget moves forward to a floor vote, it still excludes the Governor-supported expansion of Medicaid to those at or below 133% of poverty level which would provide insurance to approximately 400,000 Michiganians. This will remain a priority for the Governor which he hopes to accomplish by the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, 2013.

Quick Note about Donations

Only donations received between 10/1/11 and 9/30/12 were reflected in the FY 2012 Annual Report that was distributed at our Annual Community Board Meeting. Some Board members who made donations during **calendar** year 2012 were not included, simply because of the timeline of our fiscal year. We are grateful to all donations received from our Board and Advisory Council members.

Advisory Council Attendance

Attendance at the Advisory Council meetings has been steadily declining for the past several months. There have been several times when we almost didn't have a quorum which makes it impossible to conduct necessary agency business. The bylaws require regular attendance of the Board and committee members, stating any member missing three consecutive meetings without explanation for the absences may be removed. Please make every effort to attend all meetings. We understand that conflicts will arise, but if you are not able to attend a meeting, please let us know in advance. And,

remember, you can participate by phone if you are unable to attend the meeting in person.

212 Degree News

Big thanks to all the Board and Advisory Council members who attended our Annual Community Meeting, and a special thank you to Board officers, Amin Irving, Chair, Tom Miree and Andy Hetzel, and Finance Committee Chair Mark Rottermond for their participation at the event. The event is such a great opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our governance, staff, and aging network partners. For those unable to attend, we will have extra copies of our annual report at the June meetings.

It was great to catch up with Advisory Council member Dennis Griffin at the Annual Community Meeting. He was grateful to talk with his Advisory Council colleagues, and told me he really enjoyed the event. He called me after the event to tell me about an "extraordinary" AAA 1-B employee, Cathy Backos, who went out of her way to help him with a wheel chair problem and to get back into his car. That's 212 Degrees!

Congratulations to Jan Dolan who was a runner up for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Claude Pepper award and was honored at the Older Michiganians Day! See the attached picture of her at the event with Michigan Department of Community Health Director Jim Haveman, who was a former colleague of hers. Congratulations, Jan!

Emily DeMeester, Care Manager, was interviewed by the 4th Graders at Conant Elementary School who wanted to learn more about what we do at the AAA 1-B. The kids were so impressed with what they learned that they had several bake sales and raised $421 to support AAA 1-B programs! See attached picture of Emily with the students and check. Way to inspire the next generation, Emily!

Congratulations to Barb Link, Tina Berry, and Michael Scully for providing an excellent presentation at the May 29 statewide Care Transitions Summit. Their presentation was innovative, informative, and resulted in several hospitals approaching us to consider possible partnership. I heard numerous people say how impressive the program was and, in fact, it was referenced throughout the day by speakers from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other presenters. You know you've made an impact when other people reference your work. As you know, the vision of the AAA 1-B is to be a "regional leader" to ensure people lead their highest quality of life. At the Care Transitions Summit, our team exhibited qualities of "state and national leaders" in the Care Transitions field. Way to go!

There has been a 10% increase in the percentage of calls received by Adult Protective Services (APS) since we kicked off the "No Excuse for Elder Abuse" campaign a little over a month ago! Kudos to Ann Langford who continues to work hard to keep the social media campaign alive, and who was able to get the "No Excuse for Elder Abuse" sign posted on the Older Michiganian's Day podium, so we could capture a picture of the governor, at the podium, with the sign. In July, the campaign will also be promoted at a Detroit Tiger's game. We are raising awareness and moving the bar as a result of this campaign!

Jenny Jarvis gave a presentation at a large housing event in Washtenaw County, and several people made a point of stopping by the AAA 1-B booth to tell other staff how appreciative they were for the helpful information. It's always a pleasure when people make a point of going out of their way to say thank you to our staff for their quality work. See the attached letter from George Mkrtychyan-Martin who was so grateful to Denise Parker, Vikki Rochester, and Sandy Smith for their help that he made a donation to the agency!

Natalie Pearce, Training & LGBT Programs Specialist, recently conducted a training and immediately following the presentation was approached by a woman who shared that her husband cross dresses. The woman was extremely nervous, emotional and brave and close to tears when she spoke. She then followed up in writing extending her heartfelt thanks to Natalie for listening to her story. The woman expressed how much it meant to know that others understand what she and her husband are experiencing, and she and her husband plan to attend future trainings. Way to go, Natalie!!

We celebrated National Nurses Week in May and want to recognize the following AAA 1-B nurses who enhance the lives of people and families everyday:

Cathy Backos
Marie Baloga
Rhonda Barrie
Geralyn Beard
Janet Belsky
Marian Bjerke
Anita Effinger
Kathleen Fee
Beth Gamboa
Christine Gannon
Peggy Hart
Nancy Hoffman
Jean Jacques
Janaya James
Liz Kelly
Rebecca Knorp
Cyndi Kuehn
Kathy Kueppers
Joyce Kukuk
Barb Lavery
Barb Leasia
Kristy Mattingly
Denise Mayburn
Dara Michael
Pat Pencak
Mary Beth Platt
Kathy Poland
Shara Pullou
Karen Ranella
Gerilyn Selmek
Deborah Shtulman
Regina Smak
Charlene Southern
Linda Watson-Russell
Janice Wolf
Ruth Zwick

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KARI SEDERBURG
DIRECTOR

May 20, 2013

Tina Abbate Marzolf, CEO
Area Agency on Aging 1-B
29100 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 400
Southfield, MI 48034

Dear Ms. Abbate Marzolf:

On May 8, 2013, the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) conducted an on-site assessment of Area Agency on Aging 1-B. This assessment reviewed the agency's compliance with OSA Operating Standards, fiscal year (FY) 2012 area plan program outcomes and service delivery, and the agency's FY 2013 area plan implementation.

We are pleased to report there are no findings of non-compliance with OSA Operating Standards. Area Agency on Aging 1-B achieved satisfactory outcomes for its FY 2012 Area Implementation Plan program outcomes. Service delivery operations appear to be proceeding well according to your FY 2013 approved area plan.

Thank you for your cooperation during the assessment. Please direct any questions to OSA's office representative for your agency, Steve Betterly, at (517) 373-4089, or at BetterlyS@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Scott Wamsley, Manager
Technical Assistance, Support and Compliance Section

SW/sb

cc: Mr. Amin Irving, Chairperson, AAA 1-B Board of Directors
Steve Betterly, OSA

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KARI SEDERBURG
DIRECTOR

June 3, 2013

Jan Dolan
22587 Gill Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Dear Ms. Dolan:

Each year the Michigan Commission and Office of Services to the Aging, along with Consumers Energy, honor two older adults for their outstanding volunteer contributions to community life in Michigan. I wish to commend you for being nominated for the 2013 Senior Citizen of the Year by Tina Abbate Marzolf, CEO.

Several worthy people were nominated to receive this award, and making this decision was beyond difficult. Although you were not selected as an award recipient, people such as yourself, who reach out to help others are always winners, and you should be extremely proud of your extraordinary accomplishments. Your nomination speaks volumes about the personal attributes that make you special, as well as the reasons why those you work with and help hold you in such high regard.

The enclosed Certificate of Appreciation is being sent to celebrate all that you have done in service to others. With this certificate, the State of Michigan honors you – your dedication, your commitment to the well-being of your community, and your selfless choice to make a positive difference. Please accept this certificate in this spirit.

We wish you all the best, and wholeheartedly thank you for your volunteerism.

With Warm Regards,

Kari Sederburg
Director

Enclosure

cc: Area Agency on Aging 1-B

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

JAN DOLAN

IN RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERISM AND
DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE IN MICHIGAN

KARI SEDERBURG, DIRECTOR
MI OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING

June 3, 2013

our Responsibilities
Our Tooth chart
52368
Conant Elementary School
4100 West Quarton Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
5-9-13
Date
$421.00
Pay to the Order of Area Agency on Aging 1-B
00/100 Dollars
four hundred twenty one
Exhibition Bank
Alex
Noah
Lauren
Caroline
For 4th grade PYP
⑆286521009⑆ 1320456125⑈ 52368

Exec. Summary

07-29-2013

George Mkrtychyan- Martin
7426 Azalea Court
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
248-788-1307

Tina
FYI
Jenny

Mrs. Tina Abbate Marzolf
Chief Executive Officer
Area Agency on Aging 1-B
29100 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 400
Southfield, MI 48034

Dear Mrs. Abbate Marzolf,

On behalf of my sick wife Nata Mkrtychyan and myself I would like to deeply express my appreciation to the staff of Area Agency on Aging 1-B and especially Mrs. Dinese Parker, Vikki Rochester, Sandy Smith, and to all others who were during my numerous contacts always provided outstanding support, understanding and sincere concern with our issue.

Thanks to all of you and to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. we were able to collect all necessary documentation and soon will apply for necessary supporting services for my wife.

Many thanks again.
Sincerely,

George Mkrtychyan-Martin

P.S.: We are happy to make a modest voluntary contribution by the attached check to Area Agency on Agency 1-B.