

# Allegan County Commission on Aging



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**Chairperson: Larry Ladenburger**  
**Vice Chairperson: Alice Kelsey**

## COMMISSION ON AGING - MINUTES

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Zimmerman Room, Human Services Building  
3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 200 – Allegan, MI

**Public Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82375478232?pwd=NnNsUEhwZnhWVlFPNjAyNkRZNjkzZz09>

### **COMMISSIONER**

**Dean Kapenga**  
616-218-2599  
Hamilton

### **Chairperson**

**Larry Ladenburger**  
(Senior Representative)  
269-673-6200  
Allegan

### **Vice Chairperson**

**Alice Kelsey**  
(At-Large Representative)  
269-366-0431  
Martin

### **SENIOR**

#### **MEMBERS**

**Stuart Peet**  
269-672-9520  
Shelbyville

#### **Lou Phelps**

269-870-3710  
Plainwell

#### **Mary Campbell**

610-316-3550  
Pullman

#### **Richard Butler**

616 902-0046  
Plainwell

#### **Patricia Petersen**

616-644-8059  
Allegan

#### **Sally Heavener**

616-355-3494  
Holland

### **STAFF**

#### **Sherry Owens**

269-686-5144  
Director

#### **Ashley Dever**

269-673-3333 x 2498  
Senior Services  
Counselor

#### **Katie Cole**

269-673-3333 x 2495  
Senior Services  
Counselor

#### **Maria Hawk**

269-673-3333 x2497  
Administrative  
Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Chairman Larry Ladenburger at 2:26 pm

**CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Patricia Petersen, Dean Kapenga, Alice Kelsey, Stuart Peet, Lou Phelps, Mary Campbell, Rich Butler, Larry Ladenburger

**ABSENT:** Sally Heavener

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved by Stuart Peet. Supported by Alice Kelsey. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Pat Petersen. Supported by Alice Kelsey. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

-Director's Report (**Attachment B**)

Things to consider:

- Our team is receiving requests for continued services for seniors who have to return to the work force. We will be extending grace in home delivered meals especially, as these seniors don't have the option to stay home.
- Some providers have increased unit rates to accommodate employee retention, food prices and other factors. We are losing volunteer drivers, due to gas prices. We have acquired a model for mileage reimbursement as monthly stipends through an outside organization and will discuss a reimbursement plan for our drivers.

### **Mission Statement**

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

- An agency under United Way have stated interest in completing a housing study in Allegan County. Dan Wedge stated that funds had been received so that the process of beginning the study may happen. This agency, Housing Next, has completed studies in Ottawa County and working on Kent County. Allegan County has seen a lot of challenges with affordable housing. Dan stated that employers are noticing this too when trying to hire a staff but there is no housing in the area for potential employees to land. This study will help to determine what's available, what price points buyers are looking for, and gather data to support study to expand housing, amongst other factors. Senior housing will also be addressed in this study.

#### -Financial Reports (**Attachment C**)

The senior team is monitoring services closely to maintain accuracy. In Home Supports wait-list has been reworked to bundle clients geographically which has lowered the count on the list substantially. Sherry stated that Ashley is combing through the PERs bills monthly to make sure the client list is accurate and all PERs units are in service as they should be.

Sherry stated that by next month transportation finance reports should be all up to date and accounted for 2022. Rich stated that he would like to see unit costs of services on the report. Looking at fund balances, PERs overserved clients in 2022 but ADC underserved the county based on the allotted budget. 2023 budgets have been adjusted to accommodate services as they are utilized by county seniors. Sherry will adjust the financial report key and color coding to explain what services are overserving and underserving.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Election of Officers
  - a. Up for election is Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Pat Petersen moved to re-elect current officers if they are so in favor. Dean Kapenga supported the motion. All current members in favor. Motion carried. Larry Ladenburger will remain Chairperson and Alice Kelsey will remain Vice Chairperson.
2. Natalie Van Houten Resignation (Attachment D)
  - a. Alice Kelsey moved, with regret. Stuart Peet supported. No discussion. All in favor. No objections. Motion carried.
3. Approve 2023 COA Meeting Calendar (Attachment F)
  - a. COA monthly meeting calendar dates to stay the same, with a change to the start time of 10:00 am. Mary Campbell motioned. Rich Butler supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Meeting Date/Time Review
  - a. Alice suggested moving the monthly meeting to the third Tuesday at 1:00 pm, with several members objecting. Pat stated that the meeting should start later but remain on the current dates. Alice agreed and

suggested a start time of 10:00 am every third Wednesday. Moved by Stuart Peet. Supported by Lou Phelps. All in favor. Motion carried. Meetings will be held every third Wednesday from 10:00am-12:00pm.

- b. The topic of the strategic planning day is presented. Stuart proposed to wait until January of 2024. Larry asked if the board would want to conduct meetings in November and December due to holidays. Sherry offered the suggestion to postpone the discussion and think about it. Alice agreed to accept the calendar as it is for now and readdress at a later date.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS:** There is an open appointment slot for AAAWM. County of Allegan pays mileage and per diem. Larry offered members time to think on it and potentially appoint a member at the next meeting.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

AAAWM Board of Directors- Stuart Peet gave an update on his last Board of Directors meeting.

AAAWM Advisory Council- no update

**ROUND TABLE (COA MEMBER TIME):** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Alice Kelsey moved. Pat Petersen supported. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

Next Meeting: **February 15, 2023**, 10:00 am-12:00pm in the Zimmerman Room