Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging

The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) is a 15-member, bipartisan body that is appointed by the governor. The CSA advises the governor, the Michigan legislature, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau) on matters relating to policies and programs for older adults. Members are appointed for three-year terms, and membership reflects the distribution and composition of the state’s older population. A majority are age 60 and older, and no more than eight members are from the same political party.

Working in close collaboration with the ACLS Bureau, the CSA approves funds for services statewide; participates in preparation of the multi-year state plan required as a condition of federal funding; determines aging policy; serves as an advocate for older adults in government decisions; holds public hearings across the state; and appoints a 40-member State Advisory Council on Aging to advise state-level decision-making.

State Advisory Council on Aging

The 40-member State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) is appointed by the CSA to represent the needs and interests of local communities providing sage advice on vital state issues and policies impacting Michigan’s older and vulnerable adults. The council researches important topics assigned by the commission to inform Michigan’s older adults, the aging network, and state government.
SAC Leadership

Commissioner Kristie E. Zamora, SAC Chairperson
Commissioner Michael L. Pohnl, SAC Incoming Chairperson
Audra D. Frye, SAC Co-Vice Chairperson
Marjorie A. Hobe, SAC Co-Vice Chairperson
Lauren A. Swanson-Aprill, MDHHS-ACLS Bureau, Lead of the SAC

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Executive Summary

The goal of many older adults is to age in place or in a community that supports older adults. The success relies on good planning, setting goals, and access to services and supports. All of this requires good information and a team of trusted advisors.

This report is divided into five sections. They are planning for the future, staying healthy, building connections, aging in community (housing), and transitions to home- and community-based services. Each section has resources that can be used to find information, whether it is estate planning, modification of the home, or the need for adult day care. The report provides internet links to the resources that can help an aging adult, or the family navigate information, which can be found in the Resource Guide at the end of the report. This is not an erudite tome that provides in depth research on these topics. There are checklists to consider for items such as home modifications to needing home support.

Planning for the future, staying health, building connections, and transitions to home care and community-based services are good starting points. The information may be used by those contemplating retirement and those who are retired. It may also be used by those family members who are helping older adults.

There are eight recommendations. The first is to promote the rebalancing of Medicaid dollars to fund Home- and Community-Based Services equal to or greater than institution care funding. Other recommendations include having the items in this report developed at a regional level and continuing to support nutrition programs including Senior Project Fresh.

This document and the Resource Guide will help older adults be able to age in place in both homes and communities.

The full 2022 State Advisory Council Report may be found at: www.michigan.gov/bphasa under Publications and Reports.