

YOU'RE INVITED

AFSI MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 25, 2025 10am – 12pm

AFSI monthly meeting presentation and program beginning at 10am

WHO: The Advocates for Senior Issues Members, Guests, and Sponsors

WHAT: An opportunity to advocate, learn, and grow together. There will be a continental breakfast so **be sure to arrive early and bring a guest!**

WHEN: April 25, 2025 10am-12pm

WHERE: Beacon Hill at Eastgate
1919 Boston Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Questions?

Please contact

AAAWM Advocacy & Planning Director

Sheri Harris

SheriH@aaawm.org | 616-222-7015

Legislative Speaker

Commissioner Ben Greene

Ben Green is the Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioner serving district one. This covers Algoma Township, Plainfield Township and the City of Rockford. He was chosen unanimously to help lead the Board of Commissioners in January.

Program Presentation

"Senior Living Evolved: Embracing the Trends Shaping the Future"

Join us to discuss the ongoing transformation in senior living communities, driven by emerging trends and innovations. This includes advancements in healthcare technology, personalized and wellness focused care, smart home integration, and community-driven living. Senior Living is adapting to meet the changing needs and preferences of aging populations, ensuring a higher quality of life and more dynamic, engaging environments for older adults.

Please note: The AFSI Housing Committee will be meeting prior to the regular membership meeting starting at 9am, if you wish to participate.

ADVOCATES for Senior Issues

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN

Friday, April 25, 2025 @ 10 am

WHERE

Beacon Hill at Eastgate
1919 Boston Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

AGENDA

Call to Order and Announcements:
Margaret Howard, President

Legislative Presentation

Commissioner Ben Greene

Ben Green is the Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioner serving district one. This covers Algoma Township, Plainfield Township and the City of Rockford. He was chosen unanimously to help lead the Board of Commissioners in January

Program Presentation

"Senior Living Evolved:

Embracing the Trends Shaping the Future"

Join us to discuss the ongoing transformation in senior living communities, driven by emerging trends and innovations. This includes advancements in healthcare technology, personalized and wellness focused care, smart home integration, and community-driven living. Senior Living is adapting to meet the changing needs and preferences of aging populations, ensuring a higher quality of life and more dynamic, engaging environments for older adults.

Advocates for Senior Issues is a non-partisan organization, affiliated with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan www.aaawm.org/afsi

SPONSORS



Elders' Helpers
Live on your own with a helper in your home



The Source for Seniors



BEACON HILL

AT
Eastgate



RELIANCE
INTEGRATED WELLNESS CENTER

Beth A. Swagman, PLLC

Elder Law & Estate Planning Services

Lody and Joanne Zwarensteyn



PORTER HILLS
VILLAGE

By Brio Living Services



Christian
Mental Health
Services



Primary
Home Care
Formerly
Angel Care



Senior
NEIGHBORS
no longer alone

PEN

Parents Empowering Network



HOME Sweet HOME

meijer



Consumers Energy

Count on Us



Thank you to our Sponsors

GOLD

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM)

AARP | Beacon Hill | Giving Back Realty

Beth Swagman | Blue Cross Blue Shield

Elders' Helpers | Reliance Community Care Partners

SILVER

Pine Rest | Revive and Thrive Project | Priority Health | Life EMS

West Michigan Credit Union | MKD Funeral Directors | Kelso Homes

BRONZE

Community Care Givers | Grand Rapids Elderly Care

Lody and Joanne Zwarenstejn | Parents Empowering Network

Care Resources PACE | The Village of Heather Hills

Fair Housing Center of West Michigan

Porter Hills Village Retirement Community

Ofield Funeral Home | Leslie Sanford

FRIEND

Chris Becker Kent County Prosecutor | Oasis Senior Advisors

Beth Mans Greenridge Realty | Grand Rapids Savvy Senior Learning Series

Safe Home Michigan | Lois Carey | Luv Doula | Faith Hospice

Phil and Judy France | Senior Neighbors | Tom Appel | Gauthier Family Home Care

Neptune Society | Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy | Joel Jason

Meals on Wheels Western Michigan | Kristyn Vander Zouwen



Join us for

OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

EVENT 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM WITH LUNCH FOLLOWING

Join us for a special livestream or in-person event on the Capitol Lawn as we celebrate

Flip the Script on Aging



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN



- Would you like to participate in a very exciting advocacy opportunity right on the Capitol lawn in Lansing?
- Have you been looking for a chance to talk to legislators face to face?
- Are you looking for a meaningful and impactful spring outing?

GET ON THE BUS!



BUS TO LANSING

We will be leaving AAAMM at 8:00am and returning around 3:00pm
(don't worry, lunch will be provided)

Reserve your seat today as space is limited!

**CONTACT DIRECTOR OF
ADVOCACY, SHERI HARRIS**



616-222-7015



SheriH@aaawm.org



3215 Eaglecrest Drive NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525



PLATFORM FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

SENIOR ACTION WEEK: MAY 5 - MAY 9, 2025

OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY: MAY 7, 2025

1. EXPAND ACCESS TO MI CHOICE

MI Choice is an in-home service program that enables over 15,000 Medicaid-eligible seniors and adults with a disability who meet eligibility requirements, to receive Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) in their home rather than a nursing facility. Not only do most older adults (88%) want to age in their homes and communities, but the MI Choice program is also 62% less expensive than a Medicaid nursing facility. MI Choice supports individuals by providing an extensive array of person-centered, in-home services and supports including assistance with activities of daily living, nursing services, home-delivered meals, home modifications, respite care, transportation, adult day care and more. To support participants in the program, a risk pool assists in covering additional costs. This risk pool has been underfunded and doesn't cover the need. In addition, the difference between revenue and cost, or margin rate, along with the administration rate are not in line with other state Medicaid programs.

Michigan ranks near the bottom in the proportion of taxpayer dollars spent by states to provide long-term care through home and community-based services (HCBS) versus institutional care. In Michigan during Fiscal Year 2023, only 29% of LTSS funding was allocated to HCBS while 71% went to institutional settings – far below the national average of 53% of LTSS funding going towards HCBS. Supporting access to MI Choice would bring Michigan more in line with most states in allocating at least half of LTSS funding to HCBS.

ACTION: Urge the legislature to fully fund the risk pool with an appropriation directly from the Medicaid HCBS budget line, requiring about \$5 million in GF.

ACTION: Urge MDHHS to increase the margin rate to at least 1% and increase the administration rate to 9%.

ACTION: Urge MDHHS to address non-financial administrative issues through a workgroup process.

ACTION: Urge the legislature to bring equity between HCBS and institutional care by rebalancing Medicaid LTSS funding to at least the national average of 53%

Flip the Script on Aging



PLATFORM FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

SENIOR ACTION WEEK: MAY 5 - MAY 9, 2025
OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY: MAY 7, 2025

2. INCREASE ACCESS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

In Michigan, there are currently 6,970 seniors on waiting lists for essential non-Medicaid in-home services provided through Michigan's Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports (ACLS Bureau). These funded services include home delivered meals, in-home personal care, homemaking, and respite care that delay or prevent the need for more costly long-term care interventions.

ACTION: Support the Silver Key Coalition's request for a \$8 million increase for ACLS in-home services in ACLS' FY26 budget.

ACTION: Support the Silver Key Coalition's request for a \$2 million increase for home delivered meals in ACLS' FY26 budget.

3. SUPPORT FAMILY AND INFORMAL CAREGIVERS

Family caregivers provide essential care to older adults and loved ones. It is estimated that 1.73 million Michiganians provide an estimated 1.1 billion hours of voluntary care worth approximately \$19.6 billion per year and are the largest source of long-term services and supports in the country. With the continuing direct care workforce shortage, support for caregivers is even more important to assist older adults in their homes. Without continued family-provided help, the cost to Michigan's health and Long-Term Services and Supports systems will skyrocket.

ACTION: Urge the legislature to support a permanent \$5 million appropriation in the FY26 budget distributed to AAAs to support continued development of AAA Caregiver Resource Centers, caregiver educational opportunities, services and supports with a focus on health equity.

ACTION: Urge the legislature to pass the Caring for MI Family Tax Credit to provide tax relief of up to \$5,000 per year for family caregivers.

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan also supports the Alzheimer's Association's request for an additional \$2 million in annual funding for Michigan's Dementia Unit to help expand services for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Flip the Script on Aging