

History of the Older Adult Advisory Council

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency's (OLHSA) Older Adult Advisory Council (OAAC), formerly known as the Senior Citizen Advisory Council (SCAC), has been an ad hoc committee of OLHSA's Board of Directors for over 50 years. Advisory Councils are maintained to provide consumers of services with an opportunity to make recommendations to the OLHSA Board of Directors and to aid in the mobilization of resources where advisory members have influence. Membership is comprised of persons age 50 and older or representatives from senior advocacy groups and/or service organizations from Oakland and Livingston Counties.

This council formed with the mission to gather older adults from across both counties to convene to discuss pressing and relevant issues and needs facing older adults in the community. The purpose of this council is to:

- A. Promote OLHSA services in the community including participating with program staff at local events to enhance OLHSA brand recognition.
- B. Provide Recommendations for action to address community needs presented at Council meetings.
- C. Participate in Resource Development activities for OLHSA programs.
- D. Offer recommendations and report to the OLHSA Board of Directors on issues and concerns facing seniors that require action of the full board

Every two years, advisory council members nominate up to two members to run as candidates for OLHSA's Board of Directors. They also nominate two additional members to participate in the election as delegates to vote for new members of the Board of Directors.

Presentations by experts are conducted at bi-monthly council meetings on interesting and pertinent topics so that they bring the information back to their local senior centers and senior living complexes. The council routinely writes advocacy and lobbying letters addressing state and federal legislation that concern seniors.

Prior informational presentations have included: music for seniors, Cochlear devices, phone scams, Diabetes and eye care, hospice, Weatherization, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, OLHSA's Walk for Warmth, a panel presentation from three home care companies, Meals on Wheels, alternative pain medication, and how to keep yourself safe.

Key advocacy/lobbying action taken on by the Council include: urging congress to add additional funding to the Older Americans Act, supporting the Silver Key Campaign, urging congress to not cut funding for the Community Services Block Grant, and supporting the passage of the State of Michigan elder abuse bills.

If you would like to get involved with the Older Adult Advisory Council, please email Marie Verheyen, staff liaison at MarieV@olhsa.org.