



**Senior Advocates Coalition
Muskegon, Ottawa & Oceana Counties**

MEMORANDUM

To: Senior Advocates Coalition
From: Pam Curtis, Facilitator
Date: February 6, 2024
Re: February 12, 2024, Senior Advocates Meeting

Meeting Reminder

The next meeting of the Senior Advocates Coalition for Muskegon, Ottawa, and Oceana counties will be held:

**Monday, February 12, 2024
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

In-Person at 560 Seminole Road in Norton Shores
or
Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88563675871?pwd=ifZbuaE4J9bdRMuy6qmWtYtgJGUqHO.1>

Meeting ID: 885 6367 5871
Passcode: 564365

We will be meeting with our State Legislators or Legislative Aides

AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome/Announcements – Pam Curtis**
- 2) **Older Michiganians Day- May 1st and Senior Action Week – April 29 - May 3**
- 3) **Guardianship Bills - Pam Curtis**
HB 4909-2912 and HB5047
A few of the basic highlights are:

- Require professional guardians and professional conservators to be licensed and establish a process for processing complaints and upholding licensure standards.
- Establish the Office of State Guardian Board and prescribe its duties and that of its executive director to facilitate licensure.
- Establish new suitability requirements in the appointment of a guardian or conservator.
- Revise the duties of a guardian ad litem related to guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.
- Modify requirements concerning the appointment of a temporary guardian or a successor conservator.

4) Updates from Legislative Offices 1- opportunity to provide updates on legislation and their committee work they are involved with.

- Senator Roger Victory
- Senator Mark Huizenga
- Representative Nancy DeBoer

5) Legislation Regarding: Multi-Discipline Teams for Elder Abuse Investigations

– Kris Collee, AgeWell Services

6) Updates from Legislative Offices 2

- Representative Curt VanderWall
- Representative Luke Meerman

7) Alzheimer’s Association Public Policy Updates – Matt Phelan or Greg Bird, Alzheimer’s Association

8) Updates from Legislative Offices 3

- Representative Will Snyder
- Representative Greg VanWoerkom

9) Voices from the Aging Network – an opportunity for those in attendance to share what is happening in their organizations and how state legislators can help you better serve older adults and persons with disabilities.

10) Other Advocacy News

Caring for MI Family Tax Credit -Governor Whitmer proposed a caregiving credit in her state of the state speech in January. **According to the limited information available, the state income tax credit could be worth up to \$5,000 for caregivers spending an average of \$7,000 a year on their charge.** This would apply to individuals caring for elderly relatives as well as children with long-term health needs. Eligible expenses would include things like nursing or respite services, transportation and counseling.

Unfortunately, the impact on the state budget for the plan has yet to be released.

The concept is that by allowing people to write off caregiving expenses, we can help more seniors age-in-place at home instead of a costlier long-term care facility.

11) Next Senior Advocates Coalition Meeting

Monday, April 8th with Congressional aides – in person at Tanglewood Park or via Zoom