

**MINUTES OF THE  
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
March 19, 2014**

**Visit the MAC website at <http://www.ct.gov/MAC>**

Ram Aberasturia, MAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10a.m. and thanked those in attendance for their participation.

**Guest Presentation**

Ram welcomed Robert Rodriguez, Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration's (SSA) New Britain Office. Ram thanked everyone for their attendance today. He also thanked Debi Freund, MAC Treasurer, for arranging for this guest presentation. It is one of MAC's goals to provide these kinds of educational events for managers. Please feel free to contact any of the MAC officers with recommendations for guest speakers. At this point, Debi introduced Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez was accompanied today by Kim Goulias, a Technical Claim Representative with the SSA's New Britain office.

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Mr. Rodriguez stated the following:

The goal of today's presentation is to provide education on various aspects of the Social Security system and to provide a call to action. An excellent place to begin is to visit the SSA website. The website is very transparent, and has received awards for ease of use. The more educated you are about the system, the more you will have a step ahead in accessing the benefits of the system. Social Security has been around for more than 75 years, and the system will continue to be there for you. The system has grown over the years, beginning with Retirement Insurance in 1935, adding Survivors Insurance in 1939, Disability Insurance in 1956, Medicare in 1965, Supplemental Security Insurance in 1972, and the Medicare Prescription Drug program in 2003.

Social Security income is a foundation for retirement planning. It was never intended to provide the sole source of retirement income, and should be complemented by pension income, savings and investments, and other sources. Currently, 63 million people are receiving benefits, and 150 million workers are contributing to the system. The lower birth rate means that there are fewer workers supporting the system. The "silver tsunami" will consist of 80 million boomers beginning to collect benefits from the system. These beneficiaries will, on average, enjoy longer life spans, especially the women.

From the website, an individual account can be created:

[www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)

Users can select additional features of the on-line account to enhance security. From your account, you can access your annual social security statement on-line; this statement is no longer mailed out. There is a useful fact sheet on when you can start receiving benefits, and there is an on-line estimator that can help with this decision-making process. The full retirement age is gradually increased based on your year of birth. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can work and still receive full benefits, regardless of how much you may earn annually.

A benefit matrix is available to show what the benefit would be, beginning at age 62 up to the full retirement age. This is calculated by month. There is not a calculator on-line, so you have to contact SSA to request a calculation of your matrix.

The intent is to do as much as possible on-line. It takes about 15 minutes to apply for Social Security on-line. You can apply 4 months before you want to begin receiving benefits.

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Mr. Rodriguez provided a PowerPoint presentation, which expanded on many of the details of the various benefits and how they can be taken. After the meeting, Debi Freund will be in contact with Mr. Rodriguez to obtain a copy of The PowerPoint presentation, so it can be posted on the MAC website, along with these minutes.

Debi thanked Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Goulias for a very informative presentation.

The business meeting was convened by Debi Freund, Treasurer, at 10:37 a.m. Ram Aberasturia, Chair, and Elisa Nahas, Vice Chair, were unable to be in attendance for the business meeting, and provided their regrets.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2014 were distributed electronically via the list serv. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Debi Freund, Treasurer, reported that there was a dividend of \$1.65 credited to the account on February 28, 2014. As of that date, the balance in the treasury was \$2,573.56. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously, as submitted.

### **Committee Reports**

Credentials. John Jaramillo, Credentials Chair, reported that he has updated the MAC Representatives and Alternates list, through February 14, 2014. The updated roster was provided to Nancy Nicolescu for posting on the MAC website. New members in attendance today include John Bishop, Alternate from the Department of Developmental Services, and Melissa Yeich, Alternate from the Office of Policy and Management. Mark Aronowitz, the former Representative from the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), is retiring on April 1, following 34 years of state service. Mark was thanked for his lengthy service on MAC and his many contributions to the organization. Discussion arose as to the procedures for agencies to elect their Representatives and Alternates. It has been the advice of the previous Credentials Chair that, when an election would be uncontested (i.e., there is only one person stepping forward for Representative and one person stepping forward for Alternate), the formality of an election is not necessary. If an election is to be held, it is an election voted on by one's management peers. The agency members cannot be appointed by the agency head or designee. There was a review of the By-Laws to make note of those agencies that are scheduled to hold elections.

## **Old Business**

Speakers and Logistics.Debi invited suggestions for speakers for future meetings. Mark Aronowitz will follow up with his colleagues at OSC about a presentation on state retirement benefits. It was felt that this would be very timely, in light of the questions that arose concerning state and SSA retirement and health care benefits. Other topics that were suggested were PARS and the new “breakpoint”.

Web Content/Communications/Orientation Committee.Elise Kremer noted that the website has been regularly updated with meeting notices, draft and adopted minutes, and speakers’ materials. The MAC membership roster has also been updated in February. Nancy Nicolescu is thanked for her ongoing efforts to keep the website current and informative.

Other Old Business. There was no Other Old Business.

## **New Business**

Legislative Report. Elise has prepared a list of bills that may be of general interest to managers. The list is for informational purposes only. It will be circulated via the list serv and also attached to these minutes.

Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee needs to be appointed in April. The committee’s charge is to develop a proposed slate of MAC officers, in preparation for the elections to be held in June. Please let any of the officers know if you are interested in serving on the Committee.

Planning Committee for Managers Day 2014. A committee needs to be formed to plan for Managers Day2014. MAC members as well as interested managerial non-members are welcome to serve on the committee. Peggy Zabawar, Blanche Tucker, and Elise volunteered; other volunteers are needed as well. Please let any officer know if you are interested in participating. We would like to convene the first planning committee meeting after next month’s business meeting.

Other New Business.There was no other New Business.

## **Adjournment**

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:55a.m. The list of those in attendance at the March 19, 2014 meeting and the materials from the guest presentation are appended below and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A at the Department of Transportation. There is no guest speaker scheduled at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Kremer  
MAC Secretary  
MAC Representative for the  
Department of Public Health

**MAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**  
**March 19, 2014**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rep/Alt/Guest</u>
Administrative Services	Peggy Zabawar	R
Administrative Services	Frank Arute	G
Administrative Services	Joann Bellamo	G
Administrative Services	David Busanet	G
Administrative Services	Deb Craig	G
Administrative Services	Patricia Doyle	G
Administrative Services	Fran Dwyer	G
Administrative Services	Martha Gallagher	G
Administrative Services	Deborah Hearl	G
Administrative Services	Carolyn Koloseus	G
Administrative Services	V. Jean Michael	G
Administrative Services	Eileen Morin	G
Administrative Services	Sue Turko	G
Administrative Services	Mary Yabrosky	G
Banking	Debora Lein	R
Children and Families	Debi Freund, Treasurer	R
Children and Families	Dawn Alexander	G
Children and Families	April Brenker	G
Children and Families	Brain Faraci	G
Children and Families	Domingo Lazu	G
Children and Families	Sherry Rautenberg	G
Children and Families	Connie Tessarzic	G
Comptroller	Stephen Perkins	A
Comptroller	Mark Aronowitz	G
Comptroller	Donalynn Black	G
Comptroller	Debbie Miggins	G
Consumer Protection	Elisa Nahas, Vice-Chair	R
Consumer Protection	John Suchy	A
Consumer Protection	John Neumon	G
Consumer Protection	Bill Ryan	G
Correction	Rafael Palacio	R
Correction	Sandy Bundy	G
Correction	Dianna Gonzalez	G
Correction	Michael Steeves	G
Correction	Jay Tkacz	G
Developmental Services	Carl Jordan	R
Developmental Services	John Bishop	A
Developmental Services	Daimar Ramos	G
Early Childhood	Linda Goodman	G
Education	Deb Paradis	R
Education	Jim Polites	A
Emergency Services and Public Protection	Jeanne Anderson	G
Insurance	Maura Welch	R
Governmental Accountability	Sue Mazzocoli	G
Labor	Ram Aberasturia, Chair	R
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Crane W. Cesario	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Gayle Gagliardo	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Laurene Gomez	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Dawn Grodzki	G

**MAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**  
**March 19, 2014 (Continued)**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rep/Alt/Guest</u>
Mental Health and Addiction Services	James R. Reed, Jr.	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Mike Schuberth.	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Janet Storey	G
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Thomas Tokarz	G
Motor Vehicles	Bill Callahan	G
Pardons and Paroles	Andrew Mosely	G
Policy and Management	John Jaramillo	R
Policy and Management	Melissa Yeich	A
Public Health	Elise Kremer, Secretary	R
Public Health	Ellen Blaschinski	G
Revenue Services	Jim Norton	R
Revenue Services	Ben Alejandro	G
Revenue Services	Dave Burke	G
Revenue Services	Marc Papandrea	G
Revenue Services	Penny Potter	G
Secretary of the State	Blanche Tucker	A
Secretary of the State	Diane Steir	G
Social Services	Lynwood Patrick	A
Transportation	Wanda Seldon	R
Transportation	Mark W. Alexander	G
Transportation	David Alfredson	G
Transportation	Robbin Cabelus	G
Transportation	Lewis Cannon	G
Transportation	Robert Card	G
Transportation	James Connery	G
Transportation	Vin Hogan	G
Transportation	Patricia Hustus	G
Transportation	Kim Jamieson	G
Transportation	Michele Joyce	G
Transportation	Valerie Joyner	G
Transportation	Colleen Kissane	G
Transportation	Nancy Malinguaggio	G
Transportation	Jesse Peel	G
Transportation	Doreen Rossi	G
Transportation	Philip Scarozzo	G
Transportation	Paula Jean Yukna	G
Transportation	Lynn Cichowski	G
Transportation	Marie Rodrigues	G
Transportation	Marybeth Wojenski	G

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**March 19, 2014**

***Senate Bill No. 222, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEE***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To classify fewer state employees as managers

***Senate Bill No. 272, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIXED TIME PERIOD FOR AGENCY REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To require agencies to submit a review of their existing regulations every four years to the regulation review committee

***Senate Bill No. 349, AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To require each state agency to determine whether a proposed regulation of such agency is of significant impact, and to impose additional procedural requirements for the adoption of any regulation that is determined to be of significant impact

***Senate Bill No. 350, ACT CONCERNING THE STATE-WIDE PROCESS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To create a state-wide process improvement initiative for purposes of increasing productivity in state government

***Senate Bill No. 452, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE DISPARITY STUDY CONCERNING THE MINORITY BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To implement the results of the first phase of the disparity study

***Senate Bill No. 470, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO COLLECT TAXES AND FEES***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To study the administrative costs of collecting taxes and fees, and to consider changes to adjust such costs as a result of such studies

***Governor's Bill No. 5049, AN ACT ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT REGULATION***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To implement the Governor's budget recommendations

***House Bill No. 5358, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE OR BURDENSOME REGULATIONS***

***Statement of Purpose:*** To permit the regulation review committee to review current agency regulations and to recommend the repeal of burdensome or obsolete regulations

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**March 19, 2014 (Continued)**

***House Bill No. 5433, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL***

**Statement of Purpose:** To establish an Office of the Inspector General to detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse in state government

***House Bill No. 5548, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE GENERAL STATUTES***

**Statement of Purpose:** To establish a task force to determine whether there are provisions of the general statutes that are obsolete or no longer relevant

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