

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION

MINUTES JANUARY 28, 2009

Adult and Aging Commission Attendance List:

Commissioners Present:

Geraldine Esposito	Joe Samora
Cyrus Moazam	Gary Myerscough
Pamela Flohr	Beth Mann
Cordia Wade	Joseph Montoya
Melanie Rochin	Heather Thompson
Helen Brewer	Christin Hemann
Robert Ingols	Darby Patterson
Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio Board of Supervisors	

Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Sylvester	Kelly Martin
Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Ex-Officio Galt	

Guests Present:

Elizabeth Foster-Ward (DHHS APS)	Karla Crawford (DHS Sr. Volunteer Programs)
Theresa McPeek (Eskaton Sr. Connection)	Donna Butler (Citrus Heights Collaborative)
Ann Edwards-Buckley (CWS/DBH)	Sara Fung (CSPC)
Karen Montegani (Social Security Admin)	Tom Dahill (Ombudsman)
Tighe Boyle (Paratransit)	Joan Klint (SAS)
Ana Negron (Senator Darrell Steinberg)	Bernice Zaborski (DBH Older Adult Mental Hlth)
Carla Neuman (C. H. Collaborative)	

Staff Present:

Nancy Yavrom and Kevin O'Keefe

CALL TO ORDER:

Geraldine Esposito called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She welcomed the public and reminded everyone that the Commission was happy to answer questions any time from the audience. Ms. Esposito welcomed 3 new Commissioners: Christin Hemann, Darby Patterson, and Robert Ingols.

The agenda was reviewed. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Samora) to accept the Agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.**



The Minutes of November 26 required a spelling correction on page 2 which will be noted on the amended minutes. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Flohr) to approve the minutes as corrected.. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

PRESENTATION:

About the new Department of Behavioral Health – Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director

By March 2009 the newly formed Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will be functioning. The programs that comprise the department come from the Department of Health and Human Services, a very large and diverse department with more than 2000 employees. Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Services, and Public Guardian/Public Conservator are all moving over to DBH. These programs have many similarities and work together regularly. There will be no change as far as staffing and functioning. For the most part, those who direct these 3 programs will report to Ms. Edwards-Buckley rather than their previous supervisor. Some employees with obvious division work designations have already been moved over. Some county employees, however, work for multiple funding and program streams and moving them is more complex and requires until March to be organized.

Question: Will community agencies that interact with these programs be notified? Yes, and there will be a media release in February.

Question: Will contractual obligations be impacted? Contractual obligations will remain intact this fiscal year. Renegotiations will take place for the next fiscal year.

Eskaton Senior Connection – Terry McPeek, Director

The goal of Senior Connection (SC) is to enhance the quality of life for seniors, to help them prolong time in their home. There have been some program modifications due to necessary budget adjustments because Eskaton too is affected by the difficult economy. The population of emerging seniors is being added to their focus area. These are often caregivers as well as closing in on senior status. Ms. McPeek talked about the programs that Senior Connection offers: Information & Assistance; free community assistance; telephone reassurance; care management, and Companionship Plus, and Moving Connections. She was very pleased to announce that the Eskaton Foundation is putting in limited funds to allow the care management program and Companionship Plus to offer free services to those who are unable to pay the fee for service. Too often those that have too much to qualify for MediCal and other poverty programs are unable to afford the various fee-for-service programs available in the community. "They fall through the cracks." She is in the process of getting the information more widely spread to the community. A revised Eskaton Resource Directory was given to all members of the Commission on a CD. The resource book is also available on the web. A brochure was passed out about the classes being held.



Finally, Ms. McPeek talked about a demonstration home in Roseville that combines green technology and universal design.

Question: How does SC advertise? radio, website, word of mouth, senior centers.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ratify Speakers Bureau PowerPoint presentation Core Module – There was one question about an item on page 2 stating that age 65 is the age currently designated as being “senior.” Though the age is currently fluctuating because of various social forces, the Commission had decided at an earlier discussion to keep this age for now. At the time an amendment was made to the Program of Work for the PROD Committee stating specifically that the entire modular set will be reviewed annually for updates. **A motion was moved/seconded (Samora/Montoya) to accept the core module as presented. It was accepted by unanimous vote.**

Ratify Revised Rules and Procedures (R&P) - Copies of the revised R&P had been sent to Commissioners previously so it could be reviewed. With no changes being put forward, **it was moved/seconded (Myerscough/Montoya) to accept the newly amended Rules and Procedures so that they may be sent forward as a Receive and File to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was accepted by unanimous vote.**

Ratify Committee Chair appointments and Committee membership appointments - Along with the usual annual appointment of Commissioners to the 2 standing committees and appointment of Chairs to those committees, the Chair also selected Commissioner Heather Thompson to be the fifth member of the Executive Committee. **It was moved/seconded (Wade/Thompson) to accept all appointments as documented. The motion was accepted by unanimous vote.**

Ratify selection of Christin Hemann and Robert Ingols for appointment by the Board of Supervisors – According to R&P 2.5.2.1.2. the Executive Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Commission when time is of the essence. With two health-related resignations and one Commissioner terming off, the Commission membership would have been short come 2009. Christin Hemann and Robert Ingols went through the nominating process and were recommended for nomination. The Executive Committee agreed and sent the names forward to the Board of Supervisors. The Board appointed both to the Commission in December. However, when the Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Commission, the action must still be ratified by the full body. **It was moved/seconded (Flohr/Wade) to ratify the nominations of Christin Hemann and Robert Ingols to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was accepted by unanimous vote.**

AGENCY REPORTS:



DHHS Division of Senior and Adult Services (SAS) – Elizabeth Foster-Ward (APS)

Ms. Foster-Ward introduced Joan Klint the SAS Financial Officer to explain some of the most recent budget cuts. IHSS will lose 32 full time positions (FTE). These will be positions from social workers to support staff, those who administer the program. It does not affect the number of care providers. There are currently 20,000 IHSS recipients, and this number keeps growing since it is an entitlement program. This move will save the County \$415,000 but will cost it in state and federal leveraging funds \$2.7 million. The increased workload on remaining staff will impact processing of annual renewals and frequency of visits to clients. This could result in legal issues if deadlines are not met according to the state mandates. Contracts with various agencies will be cancelled or modified. Some questions about personnel issues were asked but they are Human Resource matters and could not be answered. With the state budget still pending more cuts may be in the future.

Question: Are there internship programs that can help with the slack? Not really.

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA) – Will Tift

The timeline for the 2009 Senior Needs Assessment Survey has been revised. The process of recruiting volunteers to distribute and collect the surveys is underway. There will be 4 trainings for full-time volunteers who will be in charge of a designated area. These trainings will be March 2, 5, 10, and 17. The Survey will be rolled out March 30th and collect by May 11th. Mr. Tift brought up a question that he has been asked often: Since there is no money, why do this survey? There are two reasons. Right now during budget short falls, it is important to know where to set priorities. During times of plenty, there is need to know where the funds will be best invested.

A4AA has not experienced any additional cuts.

There is new hope about the approach to senior issues at the national level due to the change in the White House. There have been high level talks between National Area Agencies on Aging with other officials and President Obama's transition team members regarding the senior agenda. More information can be had at www.n4a.org

DHA Division of Senior Services – Karla Crawford

Although DHA has not been identified for cuts for the remainder of the 08/09 fiscal year, they are anticipating cuts for the 09/10 budget year and will keep the Commission apprised of any impact to senior programs. Community Services are not affected yet, but they are still waiting for State and Federal budget information.

Senior Companion Program: Rosalinda Stoffel was hired as the new director; she was a transfer from another program in DHA.



Senior Nutrition: The Meals on Wheels program continues to meet the need of all seniors that need and qualify for the services without having a waiting list and so far have not been told of any budget impacts to the program.

DHA is continuing to work on the permitting of dining sites with Environmental Management to assure that every senior is guaranteed that their meal has been prepared and served following the strictest food safety criteria.

DHHS Division of Mental Health Older Adult Program – Bernice Zaborski

Mental Health Division is experiencing a third round of cuts. Community meetings have been held to try to find what to prioritize since it is necessary to choose between programs. There have been 36 positions cut at all levels, of these 20 were vacant already. Geriatric Network (GN) has to make a budget adjustment as well as face a \$400,000 reduction next year. As a result crisis services and case management will be very impacted. Many will have to be referred out according to insurance or other program benefits (veterans) the person may have. GN is trying to find other community resources.

Regional Support Teams will face a \$9 mil. cut in 09-10. This will make it necessary for them to find other community resources.

The Mental Health Association will be cut even more in 09-10 possibly losing funding for Senior Peer Counseling.

One bright spot is the Sierra Elder Wellness program: of the 145 allowed, there are 130 clients. However, it will be necessary to cut back to the originally agreed upon 100 moving the less intense-needs clients to other programs.

The MHSA community forums are ongoing, but the crisis intervention team is on hold.

There is a study about social isolation. A copy will be sent to Ms. Yavrom to distribute to those Commissioners who requested it.

AAC REPORTS:

Chair's Discretion – Marie Nitz has been appointed to a state committee working on stigma and discrimination in the area of mental health. It is part of Proposition 63. Ms. Nitz will be able to get significant points for seniors into the state plan. It is necessary to make the community aware that health is a continuum of care and is, in fact, a community issue including mental health. Ms. Esposito would like to see the Commission more involved with older adult mental health.

Committee Reports –

Each Committee Chair referred to the Synopsis of January meetings.



PROD – Pamela Flohr reported that the Office of Emergency Services has received a \$200,000 grant for public education for vulnerable populations. Cheryl Bennett is training first responders about ADA compliance and elder adults and those with special needs

Oversight – Joe Samora shared that the ordinance (draft 9) for regulating room and board housing arrangements in order to protect the frail and vulnerable, has had to be put on hold. In the meantime a registration system is being looked at.

Stop.Listen.Care. Campaign is planning a second breakfast aimed at pharmacists to get those in business involved with promotion of the idea that “keeping your distance is overrated.” The Older Adult System of Care project is going into phase 3 and the product will be a gap analysis of services.

Nominating – Cordia Wade welcomed the 3 new Commissioners. At its first meeting of 2009, the interview questions were reviewed. After a paper review of applications, one interview is scheduled for February.

Executive – Ms. Esposito reported that the Recruitment Brochure has been revised. Other business can be read on the January Synopsis. Ms. Esposito wanted most to talk about the quarterly meetings the committee is holding with division heads and program managers that work with the Older Adult System of Care, particularly those that fall within the Commission’s oversight responsibilities. RoseMary Vaske from Public Guardian/Public Conservator/Public Administrator will visit with the Executive Committee in February. All Commissioners will be invited to this meeting.

Liaison Reports –

A4AA Advisory Council – Peggy Forseth-Andrews

A4AA is one of 33 area agencies on aging in California. A4AA covers 7 counties. A brief overview of how A4AA comes by its funds was given. The Advisory Committee (AC) itself works with policy and procedure issues that have to go through the Governing Board. AC reviews programs funded by A4AA. The Commission gets these reports so it can be apprised of any problems programs may be facing. In Sacramento County AC works with the Commission to identify Focal Points. The Commission collaborates with A4AA on many things such as the Needs Assessment Survey, Focal Points, CarFit, and other projects.

Commissioners’ Comments –

Gary Myerscough – Was part of a panel for an A4AA staff training regarding sensitivity to the gay and lesbian community. Staff was very attentive. He recently had the opportunity to visit the Senior Nutrition Services kitchen facility in West Sacramento and was very impressed.



Robert Ingols – Pleased to be a Commissioner and is very impressed with the Commission's work and processes.

Christin Hemann – Pleased to be a Commissioner and looking forward to participating.

Helen Brewer – Announced that Citrus Heights will hold its 2nd Annual Senior Health Fair. The second AAC article in *Senior Spectrum* will be in an early March issue.

Beth Mann – The California Culture Change Coalition in Nursing Homes has completed its first year with great success. There will be an expansion of collaboratives beginning in April including one in Sacramento. They are hoping to double the number of nursing homes from 56. Positive changes are taking place to the benefit of the residence.

Pamela Flohr – She offered homage to George Francis who recently died at age 112. Mr. Francis left a stellar legacy of dignity and respect with his family and in the community.

Joe Samora – Cordova Senior Activities Center has completed the kitchen. Representative Doris Matsui will be coming in February for a dedication.

Melanie Rochin – Recently took a class training lay leaders to conduct classes for chronic illness management.

Darby Patterson – Appreciates being a new Commissioner.

Cordia Wade – Recently sat on a panel for the California Health Policy Forum. It was a very informative event. She has been recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be the Commission's liaison to the IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committee, and will present the senior voice enthusiastically.

Staff – Nancy Yavrom informed Commissioners that their meeting packet included a new 2009 roster and an invitation to the orientation for new Commissioners that is scheduled for February.

Other / Announcements / Public Comment:

A member of the audience volunteered for the A4AA assessment survey.

Meeting adjourned.

