

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES MARCH 25, 2009 - AMENDED**

**Adult and Aging Commission Attendance List:**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

Beth Mann	Christin Hemann
Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Ex-Officio Galt	

**Guests Present:**

Bill Clearwater	Kris Nelson (DHA)
Donna Butler (C H Collaborative)	Ana Negrón (Senator Steinberg)
Bernice Zaborski (Div. Mental Health)	Alex Eng
Rosalind Garner (SAS)	Bert Bettis (SAS)
Guy Klopp (IHSS)	Elizabeth Foster-Ward (APS)
Will Tift (A4AA)	Diane McFarland (IHSS)
Laura Bjornsen (Pannell Center)	

**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 to the Samuel Pannell Meadowview Community Center and reminded everyone that the Commission was happy to answer questions any time from the audience.

The agenda was reviewed and **it was moved/seconded (Flohr/Samora) to adopt the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.**



The Minutes of February 23 were reviewed and required spelling corrections: HICAPP should be HICAP and on page 4, Ray Treadaway should be spelled Ray Treathaway.. **It was moved/seconded (Myerscough/Montoya) to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**PRESENTATION:**

Sutter PACE – Bill Clearwater, Director

Mr. Clearwater introduced PACE, a division of the Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region. It is a non-profit health plan for the frail elderly (55+). It has been serving Sacramento for 16 years. There are 61 PACE programs in 29 states. Participants must be nursing home eligible and low income. If a client is not on Medicare and MediCal, they must pay out-of-pocket the \$3500/month. PACE uses a team centered approach maximizing communication and coordination among all a patient's providers who are part of an interdisciplinary team of professionals and technicians. Most is done within the Sutter system. The program includes an adult day health center, a community clinic, and home health/home care as needed. The goal is to allow the elder to live as independently as possible for as long as possible in the comfort and safety of their own home. PACE offers social and volunteer opportunities for clients understanding that the whole person must be considered, not just their medical frailties.

Question: How many can be served? There is no official cap but reality dictates a cap at about 240. Currently there are 209 enrollees.

Question: What are sources of income in addition to Medicare and MediCal? Sutter covers all costs not met by Medicare and MediCal as a community service.

Question: Could the PACE model impact national health insurance? PACE has been held up as a successful model and may get some attention when a national health system is looked at in the near future.

Question: Does PACE do home upgrades such as ramps and grab bars? Yes, as needed. In addition to this service, there is a geriatrician and nurse on call 24/7.

Question: What about people who have too much to be eligible for MediCal but too little to afford the \$3500/month? PACE does try to work with private insurance, but this is a definite gap in service at this time. Besides encouraging private insurance to get on board, work is also being done with the Veterans Administration.

Senior and Adult Services Bi-Annual Report – Rosalind Garner

Ms. Garner provided a hard copy of the report in a binder for the Commission's office. Commissioners received a CD version.

The report covers some of the budget cuts that have been taking place and some of the changes in operations to reduce expenses further. Streamlining to operations have



improved and sped up service. Uses of ADAM has been improving the ability of APS, for example, to quickly respond and provide client services, supervise staff with high caseloads, and extract data needed for planning and service provision.

The number of email requests for assistance received via the internet almost tripled since June-December 2007.

Construction has begun on the Senior Safe House.

All programs showed a slight increase of use by males.

Most statistics did not reflect much change from the last report. There were slight drops in many areas reflecting loss of staff.

IHSS began requiring providers on new intake cases to attend an orientation where they receive critical information regarding services authorized through IHSS, details on the provider's responsibilities to the recipient and the program, and information about what constitutes fraud. Attendees must present photo ID and an original social security card for admission. They are also required to sign the Provider Responsibility Checklist to acknowledge receipt of the information.

The Board of Supervisors approved formation of an IHSS Task Force to address the recommendations of the 2006 Elder Death Review Team report regarding mandatory background checks and training of service providers.

IHSS received an average of 453 calls for referrals per month.

For lack of time, Ms. Garner was not able to go into much detail with the remainder of the report, but Commissioners did receive the CD version.

#### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Ratification Chair appointments of Committee Community Members - Steven Lowrey has been appointed to the Oversight Committee. Deon Batchelder has been appointed to the Program Review, Outreach, and Development committee. **A motion was moved/seconded (Montoya/Flohr) to accept the appointments. It was accepted by unanimous vote.**

Nominating and election of the 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Nominating Committee – Of necessity Commissioner Heather Thompson has to resign from the Commission leaving a vacancy on the Nominating Committee. There were nominations, but none of those nominated were able to accept. Having no one to vote for, this matter was moved over to the May agenda.

Ratification Chair appointment of the 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Executive Committee – Again, because of the resignation of Heather Thompson, the Chair found it necessary to appoint a member-at-large to replace her. Ms. Esposito appointed Melanie Rochin. **It**



**was moved/seconded (Wade/Flohr) to accept the appointment of Melanie Rochin as the fifth member of the Executive Committee as a member-at-large.**

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

DHHS Division of Senior and Adult Services (SAS) – Bert Bettis

Before Ms. Bettis gave her report, Ms. Esposito congratulated her on being appointed by Senator Darryl Steinberg to the State Commission on Aging.

Ms. Esposito also asked Ms. Bettis if there was going to be a response from Senior and Adult Services relative to the inequitable article in the *Sacramento Bee* as it reported on a grand jury report about In-Home Supportive Services. Many Commissioners who had read either or both the article and the report took issue with the accusations made against the program. Most of those accusations were related to aspects of the program that are state mandated and controlled, the local county program having no control over them. Ms. Bettis said there would be an appropriate response.

As to recent staff cuts, they will first effect the number of assessments and annual renewals that can be completed. There is a geriatrician on contract that reviews protective level clients. Only Sacramento County does this. The physician volunteers more hours than the 2 hours she is paid for.

Currently, for budget purposes, the division has been asked to determine core services, those that are absolutely necessary but not necessarily mandated. What are the legal consequences if these services are not provided? What are the financial consequences? Each service has to be justified. There are going to be budget hearings during the next week, and Ms. Bettis will make sure the Commission is informed.

Ms. Bettis talked about the new policy mentioned in the bi-annual report that requires IHSS workers to attend an orientation.

Question: Are IHSS care providers required to take CPR training? No, they are not, but the Public Authority does offer training.

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA) – Will Tift

A public hearing is being held April 9<sup>th</sup> in West Sacramento to gather input for the new A4AA 3-year plan and coming fiscal year expenditures draft plan.

The Federal Stimulus Package is bringing dollars to senior nutrition, more than \$450,000 to California. The funds are to help with congregate meals and home delivered meals such as Meals on Wheels. The money must be spent within 18 months, and must be matched by 15%. The match can be in-kind. It cannot be used for equipment, just meals or positions of meal providers. Senior Nutrition Services welcomes this assistance after having to take cuts that involved staff reductions.



The 2009 Senior Survey will be officially out Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. It is available on-line. To take the survey one must be 60+. There will not be another survey for 6 years. Mr. Tift encouraged Commissioners to help distribute the surveys through their personal connections with other groups.

Question: What is considered a significant return? At least 25% return would be workable.

DHA Division of Senior Services – Kris Nelson

Ms. Nelson is the emergency coordinator for the Department of Human Assistance and was reporting on behalf of Debra Morrow who was unavailable.

Ms. Nelson reported that Senior Nutrition Services was very pleased to get \$250,000 from A4AA as Mr. Tift had mentioned. \$109,000 went to congregate meals and \$56,000 to Meals on Wheels. The balance will be disbursed in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

RSVP has trained 95 community members in their neighborhood emergency training since January. They have also completed 340 veterans' interviews for Congress. Eleven volunteers are helping Area 4 distribute the 2009 Senior Survey.

There were 120 boxes of cookies donated to Senior Volunteers, and they were distributed among volunteers and homebound clients.

Ms. Nelson attended a transportation evacuation for special needs individuals with Commissioner Pamela Flohr. There were 93 participants representing 70 agencies. There was a great exchange of ideas and innovative solutions offered.

DBH Division of Mental Health Older Adult Program – Bernice Zaborski

Ms. Zaborski expressed appreciation for the work that PACE does. Currently the program will not take patients with a primary mental health diagnosis, but Mr. Clearwater is working hard to open doors in that area. ~~Recently PACE did introduce psychiatric counseling.~~ PACE recently arranged to have psychiatric consultation services available to assist their physicians in managing psychiatric medications as needed.

The Division of Mental Health is anticipating significant budget reductions in FY 09-10 and is developing plans to continue core mental health services.

Will Tift will present *The Dual Challenge* to the Older Adult Committee during its April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The suicide prevention work group has completed their information gathering. The report is not yet out. When it is available, Ms. Zaborski will make sure the Commission gets a copy.



The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health and Aging Conference is scheduled for October 22, 2009. The theme will deal with isolation, “Aging in the Shadows.”

**AAC REPORTS:**

Chair’s Discretion – Ms. Esposito called for a volunteer to do the Older Americans Month proclamation in the city of Isleton. Commissioner Darby Patterson volunteered. The meeting with the City Council is scheduled for Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Committee Reports –

PROD – In the interest of time. Ms. Flohr encouraged those interested in PROD’s activities in March to read the Synopsis that was made available.

Oversight – Joe Samora drew attention to the Committee’s effort to do a gap analysis of the older adult system of care.

Nominating – Cordia Wade said there was a pending interview in early April. She encouraged Commissioners to recruit people of capacity they are acquainted with.

Executive – Ms. Esposito referred to the Synopsis of March Committee meetings. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the remaining Finding Common Ground Town Hall Meetings that are being held throughout the county.

Liaison Reports – none

Commissioners’ Comments –

Cordia Wade – Expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the Pannell Center and the informative tour the director, Laura Bjornsen, gave for the Commission prior to the meeting. Ms. Bjornsen is working with Ms. Wade to revitalize the Focal Point Coordinating Council. Ms. Wade recently attended Senior Connect at Hagginwood and was very pleased with it. She has been appointed to the IHSS Task Force and would appreciate having an alternate as these meetings are extremely important. Ms. Esposito pointed out that any alternate would have to be accepted by Ms. Bettis who immediately voiced her acceptance of there being an alternate for Ms. Wade.

Darby Patterson – She attended the Town Hall meeting held in North Natomas and wished there would have more citizens rather than advocates and providers.

Gary Myerscough – Mr. Myerscough expressed appreciation to Will Tift for the way he organized the field volunteer training for those helping distribute and collect the 2009 Senior Survey.

Heather Thompson – She recently visited the Eskaton Demo House in Roseville and was very impressed by it, particularly the computer software employed for brain exercise and various monitoring devices for the children of elderly parents who would live in such a



house. Ms. Thompson expressed her appreciation for the experience of being a Commissioner.

Joe Samora – Mr. Samora also complimented Will Tift and the work he has done to help field volunteers understand their task. Mr. Samora shared information that the Director of the Cordova Senior Activities Center, Josie Bryant, recently resigned. He and Ms. Rochin, as Focal Point Liaisons to that center, are being proactive with the park district to maintain positive relations.

Robert Ingols – Mr. Ingols announced the training for the Stop.Listen.Care. Speakers Bureau being held April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He briefly promoted SLC as a powerful grass roots project.

Gloria Sylvester – She has appreciated the support given her by the Commission and individual Commissioners. She hopes to be back in full swing soon.

Geraldine Esposito – Ms. Esposito expressed the sentiment of all regarding the enormous commitment to the Commission and other charitable acts exercised by Heather Thompson. She has been in the forefront seeking out the underserved and connecting with them.

Staff – Nancy encouraged Commissioners to contact her if they would like to help distribute the A4AA Senior Surveys. She also reminded members that they must get her a copy of their 2008 Ethics Training Completion Certificate or else they will have to retake the training in June.

Kevin made arrangements to organize distribution of Older Americans Month displays with Commissioners.

**Other / Announcements / Public Comment:**

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

