

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION

MINUTES APRIL 22, 2009

Adult and Aging Commission Attendance List:

Commissioners Present:

Geraldine Esposito
Darby Patterson
Pamela Flohr
Helen Brewer
Melanie Rochin

Joe Samora
Gary Myerscough
Robert Ingols
Joseph Montoya

Commissioners Absent:

Beth Mann
Cyrus Moazam
Kelly Martin

Christin Hemann
Cordia Wade
Gloria Sylvester

Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Ex-Officio
Galt

Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio Board of
Supervisors

Guests Present:

Manijeh Behziz (Mehr)
Alex Eng
Will Tift (A4AA)
Deon Batchelder
Bert Bettis (SAS)
Tighe Boyle (Paratransit)

Kayvondokht Sabet (Mehr)
Paul Lake (County Executive's Office)
Janet Heath (Care Mgt Srvs UCDHS)
Debra Morrow (DHA)
Bernice Zaborski (DBH)
Judy Ludwick (SAS)

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 In-Home Supportive Services Rancho Cordova Building and reminded everyone that the Commission was happy to answer questions from the audience.

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

The Minutes of March 25 were reviewed and required some information clarification on page 5. Ms. Zaborski's report, 1st paragraph last sentence has to be revised to be more accurate. Specific wording was noted by staff. **It was moved/seconded**



(Myerscough/Montoya) to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was unanimous in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Mehr (loving kindness) – Manijeh Behziz (President Board of Directors) and Kayvondokht Sabet (Vice President Board of Directors)

Ms. Behziz and Ms. Sabet talked about the purpose of Mehr, its organization, and its mission. Simply put, it is to help primarily Iranian seniors to have activities that help them avoid becoming isolated and to learn about services that can be of assistance to them and their families. It is not necessary to be Iranian to join in; requirements are residency in the Greater Sacramento area and being age 62+. They receive financial support from individuals, the Iranian business community, and fundraisers. The fundraisers revolve around special Iranian holidays such as Norouz (New Year) and Yalda (celebration of the longest night of the year). They also celebrate Valentine's Day and Thanksgiving. Besides social gatherings they hold informative lectures, sightseeing excursions, bi-weekly Bingo, and poetry readings/concerts. They currently hold most of their meetings in an extra room at a pizza restaurant in Rancho Cordova. When asked what the greatest need is within their community, they said it was transportation. There are about 25,000 Iranians in the Sacramento area. The census was brought up, and Ms. Sabet said they are able to help people complete forms at the meetings.

Budget Update – Paul Lake, County Executive's Office

Mr. Lake provided numeric information regarding the sources of income to the county that will be short. The total shortfall in the General Fund is \$187 million. This is, in actuality, a larger amount if the amount of matching funds lost from state and federal sources is taken into consideration. For example, he said that for every 10 cents of county money allocated to DHA, there are 90 cents of matching funds. Another aspect of the budget that leads to the County's woes is the labor contracts.

He then explained the methodology the County Executive used to determine budget determinations. This is based on a Board decision in 2003 when budget priorities were set. In order of importance: absolute mandates, flexible mandates, discretionary law enforcement, safety net services, sustainable and livable community services, general government, and prevention/early intervention.

Mr. Lake provided the Commissioners with the Timeline for FY 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. There will be a public workshop May 14 in the Board Chambers at which health and human service departments will provide their reluctant proposals and public testimony will be allowed. June 11th the Board will again hear from health and human service departments, public testimony will be heard, and there will be a Beilsenson Hearing.



Question: Has anybody come to a definition of what is “non-core” for Adult Protective Services (APS)? A: This is a complicated issue and County Council is still working on it.

Question: What is discretionary law enforcement? A: Everything other than the jail, a certain level of patrolling, and the District Attorney must prosecute crimes.

Question: Where does Probation fall in there? A: They have only to run a juvenile hall and do some monitoring of parolees. There are thousands of parolees currently being unmonitored because of the last cuts.

Question: At what point does a program get cut so as to become ineffective? There was not specific answer.

Question: When developing the impact statements, is there any account taken of the institutional memory that is being lost with these staff cuts? This is setting the whole system of care back so that it will take a decade to get even to where it is now. A: Mr. Lake responded that he understood that the cuts will basically obliterate the system as we know it, and it will be necessary not only for the county but for community programs, advocates, and businesses to get involved with building something new and improved.

Question: Where does APS fall within the priorities? A: It cannot be part of discretionary law enforcement because that has been very specifically described. It will depend on the findings of County Council.

Question: What part of the general fund is the \$187 million shortfall? A: It is about 25%.

Question: Is the Board considering raising taxes or fees? A: At this time Mr. Lake has heard nothing about taxes being raised. Fees have been discussed.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ratification of nominee to be sent forward to Board of Supervisors – Mr. Alex Eng from District 2 was interviewed by the Nominating Committee and found to be a very fine candidate for the Commission. **It was moved/seconded (Samora/Rochin) to ratify Mr. Eng’s nomination to go forward to the Board of Supervisors as a candidate for membership on the Commission. The vote of approval was unanimous.**

Nominating and election of the 5th member of the Nominating Committee – This item was presented for the second time. Mr. Robert Ingols offered to join the Nominating Committee. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Myerscough) and acclaimed by all to accept Mr. Ingol’s offer.**

AGENCY REPORTS:

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



Ms. Bettis chose to say very little about the budget at this time taking into consideration the presentation given by Mr. Lake. Instead, she introduced Judy Ludwick, a Program Planner from her office, to talk about a new and major development in the area of senior housing. In January of this year the Board of Supervisors adopted a Sub-Strategy within the Sacramento County Housing Element 2008-2013 that includes Housing for Seniors. The policy of HE-29 is to “provide adequate and affordable housing for senior citizens.” “The County proposes developing a Senior Housing Master Plan.” Part of this plan will be for neighborhoods where seniors are aging in place to help stabilize the “communities through maintenance, renovation and modification of existing homes.” There will be encouragement for new housing and encouragement for “the provision of affordable and diverse housing structures to meet the needs of low and moderate-income seniors.” There will be an advisory committee to County Planning and Development led by Senior and Adult Services. Commission participation was highly encouraged.

Question: Does the size of this advancement in senior housing depend on the response from developers? A: This is unknown, but the potential is very great.

Question: There are two large state developers housed in Sacramento, such as Housing and Community Developers (HCD). Is there a possibility they will be called to the table? They have been helpful with local efforts before. A: This idea will be given serious consideration.

Another resource to consider is Veterans’ Rehabilitation.

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA) – Will Tift

- On the 10th of April, the Governing Board met and decided to discontinue the contract with Sacramento Lao Family Services. They also decided to give Senior Nutrition Services \$205,000 for congregate meals and \$101,000 for home delivered meals. This is money coming from the American Recovery Act.
- “The Dual Challenge” will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on the tentative date of June 2nd.
- California Department of Aging is in the process of making its 4-year plan. Three public hearings are being held in California, one of them being in Sacramento, May 22, 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Senior and Adult Services building. Mr. Tift encouraged Commission participation.
- The Senior Survey is just about at its half-way point. So far 350 paper surveys have been received and 350 on-line surveys have been received. Mr. Tift seemed pleased with this turn out.



DHA Division of Senior Services – Deborah Morrow – Ms. Morrow had to leave the meeting early. She expressed her regrets and hopes to be present next month.

DBH Division of Mental Health Older Adult Program – Bernice Zaborski

- Ms. Zaborski said little about the budget cuts. She did hand out the “Older Adult Profile Fiscal Year 07-08, Division of Mental health Research, Evaluation, and Performance Outcomes October 2008.” She pointed out the four programs that are funded through Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds meaning their existence is more reliable than others. The report breaks down usage of services by gender, age range, ethnicity and diagnosis.
- It was brought up that the Commission should consider as part of its 2010 Program of Work the convening of a resource committee that will focus on what is offered and what is needed by seniors with a dual diagnosis (mental challenge such as depression and abuse of alcohol or drugs). This is a growing problem as evidenced in the 55-59 age group. This demographic is growing and will present a large problem that will have no resources in place to work with it.
- Geriatric Network has gone from 70 case management workers to 11 or 12 due to the last cuts.
- Mental Health Association is able to maintain Senior Peer Counseling but did not get the ½ time worker they wanted to help with work load.
- TLC at Eskaton was lost.
- The Next Older Adult Committee meeting will have a presentation about veterans’ services

AAC REPORTS:

Chair’s Discretion – Ms. Esposito encouraged Commissioners to attend the April 29th meeting being hosted by the Human Services Coordinating Council with county executive staff, department heads, division and program heads, and member advisory boards (MABs) to talk about the budget. It is an opportunity for the MABs to have input with the impact statements and make county executive staff et al. more aware of the grass roots consequences of the proposed cuts.

Committee Reports –

PROD – Refer to Synopsis of April Committee meetings. Ms. Flohr thanked all the Commissioners volunteering to take Older American Month (OAM) displays throughout the county. She also expressed appreciation for those taking on the several outreach events in May and June. Both actions provide an opportunity to give seniors a positive image with the public. Ms. Rochin reminded everybody about the OAM resolution from



the Board of Supervisors on May 12th. At that time 9 outstanding senior volunteers will be recognized by the Board. The next *Senior Spectrum* article will appear in May. It has been written by Commissioner Helen Brewer and will be about OAM.

Oversight – Refer to Synopsis of April Committee meetings. Mr. Samora expressed his appreciation to Bert Bettis for spending time with the Committee to update members on the SAS budget and share the video of the senate hearing about IHSS.

Nominating – In the absence of Chair Cordia Wade, Melanie Rochin told about the two most recent interviews. One gentleman will be asked to join a committee as a community member. The other gentleman is on hold while staff completes the check on his references.

Executive – Ms. Esposito referred to the Synopsis of April Committee meetings. She expressed the Commission's earnest intention to get the best information possible to the Board about the direct and collateral damages that will be caused by the proposed cuts.

Liaison Reports – none

Commissioners' Comments –

Pamela Flohr – Came from a meeting with the group that worked on the state pilot project dealing with disaster preparedness and vulnerable populations. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the county's evacuation plan, identify gaps, and offer real suggestions for taking care of them. The report from the meeting should be out in June.

Melanie Rochin – She took her mother to a class put on by Eskaton Senior Connection. It was about the free telephones that are available for seniors and others with disabilities that make use of a standard telephone difficult or impossible. She shared brochures from the Assistive Technology agency. She also brought copies for everybody of the new edition of "Seniors and the Law" put out by the California Bar Association. *Senior Spectrum* is holding 1000 copies for the Commission to use at outreach events.

Joe Samora – Attends regular ALS meetings and learned that Lifeline is developing a device that will remind clients about taking medications.

Gary Myerscough – He is concerned about the apparent apathy among the public about the budget cuts and their impact.

Robert Ingols – the subcommittee working on Stop.Listen.Care. will be working on a launch plan at the next meeting.

Darby Patterson – The A4AA 2009 Senior Survey is excellent, and she would like to help distribute them.



Helen Brewer – She shared a press release about a prescription program adopted by Rancho Cordova that will help people without insurance for medications to be able to get a discount at local pharmacies. The Citrus Heights Senior Health Fair is shaping up to be a very fine event. It will take place Saturday May 16th.

Joseph Montoya – He encouraged everybody to write their assembly representative to vote for AB342. This piece of legislation, if passed, will establish a senior level of need to replace the federal poverty line. Currently, the federal poverty line takes into consideration only food costs, and does not take into consideration the true costs of living seniors experience. This bill will establish the basic needs of seniors.

Staff – Ms. Yavrom explained that the staff is having to “go green” meaning that all meeting announcements, correspondence, etc. will, in most cases, be sent by email. This is a move to help cut costs in mailing and duplicating. If this is a hardship for any Commissioner, they are to let Ms. Yavrom know.

Mr. O’Keefe made some announcements to those who had volunteered to take displays out for OAM. He also wanted to ask them to each take copies of the 2006 Housing Report and leave them at the sites where the displays are going.

Other / Announcements / Public Comment:

Janet Heath echoed Mr. Myerscough’s concern. She explained how some of the cuts have made things more difficult for her clients who are all very frail.

Adjourned

