

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION
MINUTES May 23, 2007

Adult & Aging Commission Attendance List:

Commissioners Present:

Peggy Forseth-Andrews
Joseph Montoya
Cyrus Moazam
Janet Heath
Lynn Avery
Randall Williams
Beth Mann

Geraldine Esposito
Joe Samora
Gloria Sylvester
Jewell Senegal
Pam Flohr
Cordia Wade
Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio, Sacramento
County

Commissioners Absent:

Kay Thiem

Karen Oosterman, Ex-Officio Folsom
Robert Sronce, Ex-Officio Citrus Heights
Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Galt

Guests Present:

Katrina Middleton (CSPC)
Michelle Nevins (Del Oro)
Barney Donnelly
Sara Wolf (CSPC)

Terrie Chrysler (CSPC)
Melanie Rochin (CA Emergency Foodlink)
Suzanne Leininger (Pioneer Towers)
Bert Bettis (SAS)

Staff Present:

Nancy Yavrom, Program Coordinator
Kevin O'Keefe, Program Coordinator (½ time)

CALL TO ORDER

Peggy Forseth-Andrews, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Forseth-Andrews welcomed the public and reminded everyone that the Commission was happy to answer questions any time from the audience.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Revised Agenda was reviewed.

It was moved and seconded (Montoya/Esposito) to accept the revised Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.



The Minutes of April 25, 2007 were considered. There were some minor changes.

- The date should be April 25 rather than March 28, 2007.
- Among Guests Present, the name Mat McVicar must be changed to Pat McVicar.
- Under Commissioner Comments, page 4, the information accredited to Gloria Sylvester must be reworded so as to make it clear that it was her aunt that celebrated her 106th birthday, not Ms. Sylvester.

It was moved/seconded (Esposito/Montoya) to approve the Minutes as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S DISCRETION

- Report on the final presentation of the Senior Profile Phase 2 Ad Hoc Committee supplemental report about housing. Copies of the draft had been sent to Commissioners so it could be reviewed ahead of time. Barney Donnelly, ex-Commissioner and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, gave an introduction. There is more data than in the original Senior Profile document regarding housing. The information is arranged so it is more easily compared and analyzed. The Highlight section is designed for decision makers presenting some of the more significant topics/issues. Katrina Middleton addressed questions and suggestions offered by the Commissioners. Most suggestions centered on expressing specific points more clearly or connecting cited sources with the material more directly. There were a few typographical corrections. For the most part, the Commissioners were most pleased with the document. Special mention was given to the quality of the Bibliography. It was suggested that an appendix be added to take some of the very detailed ordinance information out of the report so as to maintain the flow it has. **It was moved and seconded (Esposito/Senegal) to accept the report pending the specific revisions stated. Motion passed unanimously.**
- During May Geri Esposito and Peggy Forseth-Andrews went to the cities in Sacramento County and the Board of Supervisors to recognize Older American's Month. The proclamations received will be given to appropriate Focal Points for community display. Chairman Don Notolli of the Board congratulated the Adult and Aging Commission on doing such good work in the county on behalf of the senior and dependent adult populations.
- The Board of Supervisors recognized the Focal Points recently designated by the Governing Board of A4AA. Six of the 7 were previously designated, and one, the Asian Community Center, was new.
- Chair encouraged Commissioners to participate in the Mentor and Mentee program. For those new Commissioners who were former Commissioners, there is probably no need for a mentor, but they should feel free to call Ms. Forseth-Andrews if they have questions.

REPORTS

Committee Chairs

Program Review, Outreach, and Development (PROD) - Joe Samora (Chair)



- May is Older Americans Month. Displays were placed; proclamations took place. Commissioners and staff were reminded to pick up the displays as soon after the end of May as possible.
- The PowerPoint materials for the Speaker's Bureau are being updated and modified.
- The Disaster Preparedness report is being worked on.

Oversight Case Review – Joe Montoya (Chair)

The review went on even though only the two community members (both ex-Commissioners) were there with staff from the Public Guardian/Conservator/Administrator.

Oversight – Joe Montoya (Chair)

- Met with Randy Statton from Sacramento City Dangerous Buildings section and Chris Hicks from Community Care Licensing to discuss possible action to be taken regarding unlicensed facilities such as Room and Board. Input was enlightening. A sub-Committee has been formed to work on a draft ordinance requiring business licensing and self-certification
- The third community forum focused on senior safety and was very successful. Presenters and participants were very complimentary and enthusiastic for another such event.
- The fourth community forum will be held June 21st at the Elks Lodge on Riverside Blvd. The focus is on women and healthy aging.
- Attendance at the Case Review was discussed and the Committee would like to go back to the schedule used last year. Case Review and regular committee meetings were held on alternating months.

Executive Committee –Peggy Forseth-Andrews (Chair)

- There is always an update given by the committees.
- The supplemental housing report had been reviewed. Recognition was given to Sara Wolf for her insight while staffing the group.
- Focal Point designation and recognition had been discussed.
- The Nominating Committee will be presenting two very fine candidates for the Commission later in the Agenda.
- Executive will be looking closely at solutions for the attendance dilemmas presented by the current Oversight Committee schedule.
- A form has been devised for the Nominating Committee to use to help in the pre-interview phase of the process. Executive accepted the form since it deals only with process.
- Request from Citrus Heights for a Commissioner to attend their steering committee meetings working with a Healthy Cities grant to improve walkability for seniors in the city was discussed. Commissioner Beth Mann, a resident of Citrus Heights, has consented to attend the meetings as a Commissioner.



- The budget situation with Senior Legal Hotline and SB426 were discussed and are on the agenda for later.
- With rising gasoline prices, Commissioners have been asking about mileage reimbursement. The Committee is looking into feasibility and protocol.

Nominating Committee – Joseph Montoya (Chair)

In the process of reporting the activities of the Committee, the Commission took up Action and Discussion Items “a” and “b.”

- a. The Nominating Committee introduced its selection for the slate of officers that will be voted on after additional nominations from the floor at the June 27th meeting. The Committee chose to keep the slate intact with the exception of Jewell Senegal who filled in temporarily the seat vacated by Past Chair Barney Donnelly when he termed off the Commission. The Past Chair seat is an appointed position if there is no Past Chair, which is the current case since the Nominating Committee has chosen to keep Peggy Forseth-Andrews as Chair. If elected in June, Ms. Forseth-Andrews will study the roster to find an appointee who will then be approved by the Commission.
- b. The Nominating Committee put forward two names recommended to the Commission for candidacy to the Board of Supervisors for appointment: Marta Erissman and Melanie Rochin. **It was moved/seconded (Heath/Flohr) to move forward to the Board of Supervisors the two names presented to the Commission by the Nominating Committee: Marta Erissman and Melanie Rochin. Motion passed unanimously.**

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS (3 minutes)

Beth Mann – She shared about the meeting with Citrus Heights. They have a plan for three community meetings about walking safety. The first will be to explain the project followed by individuals taking photos of specific areas to make recommendations. The 2nd will put the information together, and the third will be going to the City Council with the information.

Cordia Wade – She served at the Slavic Safety Fair and found it to be a very enlightening experience. She did suggest that the Commission’s display be made more portable. She is on the Gerontology Advisory Committee at American River College. ARC is starting a new program called Design for Life Certificate that focuses on universal design for the building industry.

Cyrus Moazam – There was an anniversary celebration for 200 Iranians who have become citizens. There was also recognition of 45 volunteers. Mr. Moazam apologized for missing the Coordinating Council meeting at the Hart senior center.

Jewell Senegal – She attended the Focal Point awards at the Board of Supervisors’ on May 22nd, and thought it was very impressive. Ms. Senegal picked up the nicely framed



certificate for the Samuel Pannell Meadowview Community Center and delivered it to the director who was very impressed.

Joseph Montoya – As Commission Liaison and member of the Coordinating Council for Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, Mr. Montoya helped at the May 18th senior health fair. It was a fine event, but participation was off because one of the affiliated senior centers forgot to close their program, which resulted in 80 less attendees.

Geraldine Esposito – She participated in the Rally at the Capitol in the morning helping put up 250 red pop up tents on the capitol lawn. Each tent represents 10 homeless families. The rally was for the purpose of supporting AB2034 maintaining funding.

Peggy Forseth-Andrews – The CarFit event being held May 24th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. needs a volunteer because this is an event endorsed by the Commission. Folsom Senior and Art Center is holding a grand opening June 1st. It is an outreach event from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Joe Samora – He is the liaison to the Cordova Senior Activities Center and attended a meeting where the need for a cross walk and a larger parking area were discussed. It is a serious issue because seniors have to run across a busy street to get to the center. A member of the city council was present to look into the issue. Josie Bryant, director of the center, was present at the Board of Supervisors' recognition. At the Pacific Rim Festival Mr. Samora was approached by a lady who would like to be a Commissioner. He passed on her contact information to staff. The ALS Patient Services Committee is passing out the Commission's brochure about alternative driving options.

Pamela Flohr – The Pacific Rim event was very positive. The Commission's table received good attention and good questions were asked.

Gloria Sylvester – She served at the Stanford Settlement Senior Health Fair and enjoyed it a lot. She learned a great deal while talking to approximately 100 people. She was pleased to have the opportunity.

Randall Williams – He served at the Pacific Rim Festival. It was his first volunteer event, and he liked it.

Lynn Davis – She was on the planning committee for the Slavic safety fair. It was geared toward health care and children. There were a lot of activities.

Staff: Nancy Yavrom – Announced the upcoming Commissioner in-service on June 6th, encouraging any commissioner to attend.

Kevin O'Keefe – Reminded Commissioners to pick up the displays they distributed at the beginning of the month and return them to Kevin at the next Commission meeting. He also mentioned that one more volunteer was needed for the Folsom Senior and Art Center grand opening, and Mr. Moazam volunteered.

LIAISON UPDATES

SETA Community Action Board – Lynn Avery

Two reports were handed out. The first report was about Workforce Trends. The aging population, particularly the Baby Boomers, is creating trends. A livable wage has been



calculated for a single parent (\$16/hr. Vocational training has to receive more emphasis so children can be trained in skills and make a livable wage. Certificates for technical labor should be valued. The second report, "Sacramento County Snapshot," demonstrates changes in population in the County including population density by zip code, percent of foreign-born residents by zip code, percent of non-English speakers by zip code. Wage and housing issues are also highlighted along with the potential impact on resources as the Slavic population ages.

ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- c. Request for funding from Senior Legal Hotline (SLH). Commissioner Joseph Montoya recused himself from the discussion, as he is a volunteer at SLH. Updated information from Mr. David Mandel stated that it is not too late for the Commission to advocate for support of the augmentation of funds. **It was moved/seconded (Senegal/Samora) to support this augmentation through a letter to the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Request for legislative support. SB426 calls for the creation of a position for a Deputy Director for Access and Functional Needs Coordination by the Director of the Office of Emergency Services. This legislation does fall in line with the legislative platform of the Board of Supervisors. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Moazam) that a letter be written to the Board of Supervisors encouraging them to write a letter of support for SB426. The Motion passed unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS

First Five Sacramento Advisory Committee – Michele Watts, Program Coordinator

Ms. Watts came to promote the liaison position that is available to the Commission. Commissioner Al Blum vacated the seat when he termed off in December 2006. The Committee is a technical advisory body to the First Five Commission. A handout of information was provided. Any interested Commissioners should contact staff, Ms. Yavrom.

California Health Care Interpreting Association – Don Schinske, Executive Director

Mr. Schinske began by describing the organization, which is a 501-C public charity that specializes in health care interpreting. This type of interpreting has not been defined by a discreet set of skills until the last few years. Eleven per cent of patients in Sacramento are non-English speaking. Twenty-five thousand households are linguistically isolated because nobody over the age of 14 speaks English. The consequence of this large population without adequate language facility for health matters is that there are misdiagnoses by doctors, and poor compliance on the part of patients. The patient who does not speak English is twice as likely to experience serious medical errors. A large proportion of this population is seniors who live a life of isolation from the English-speaking society. Although having medical interpreters



available has been mandated by the state since 2003, it is still a patchwork. Most hospitals are very good about providing the service. Primary care providers are very challenged to meet this need, as are all levels of rural providers. MediCal is set up for primary care providers to give 15 minutes/patient. But if translation has to take place another 5 – 15 minutes can be added onto the visit. The doctors will not be reimbursed for this extra time. Interpreters are not readily available either. Mr. Schinske talked about the need for a training standard for health care interpreters and need for training in working with cultural barriers. The state needs a certification program. American River College is in the process of adopting a health care training certification.

Questions/Comments:

- Q. It seems to hinge on lack of dollars. Providers are going out-of-pocket; hospitals shift costs from here to there to absorb the costs. Reliance on volunteers and family members can lead to serious consequences such as misdiagnosis and lack of compliance. Having translators available at the level of the primary care provider is actually a form of prevention because people would not wait until their condition is so serious that they need emergency care.*
- C. Emphasis should be on quality improvements and funds should be justifiable in that way.*
- C. It is hard for the elderly to learn a new language making the service a requirement.*
- C. MediCal does pay for a couple of waiver programs so there is precedence.*

AGENCY REPORTS –

DHHS, Senior and Adult Services Division – Bert Bettis

- DHHS held its recognition luncheon for community partners and volunteers. Ms. Bettis presented the award and certificate to the Commission, “For your continued support and dedicated commitment to the department and our services to the community of Sacramento.”
- Community Forum 3, Senior Safety, was an outstanding success with 125 seniors attending.
- Community Forum 4 is coming June 21st and will focus on healthy aging for women. The cost will be \$30, which just covers the cost of the meal. Ms. Bettis shared about the high quality of presenters and distributed brochures.
- The May Revise of the budget keeps funding where it has been. Cost of living increase is being looked at for APS and IHSS and might take affect next year. It will help catch up with the rising cost of doing business.
- The Assembly has recommended a budget of \$12 mil for APS while the Senate recommended \$10 mil. The subject is now in joint committee for negotiation. Staff is overloaded and there may have to be criteria established to limit those receiving services.
- *The Commission offered apologies for the lack of attendance at the recent Case Review.*
- *Funds raised from the Centennarian Banquet are put in a fund for Senior Adult Services (SAS). It was asked if those funds could go to APS. Those funds are held in abeyance as*



a back up in case either the state or the federal government withholds funds as was done four or five years ago.

- The Board of Supervisors recently approved the partnerships between IHSS and SMUD as well as between APS with Kaiser and Sutter Hospitals. This latter partnership will allow APS workers to be placed in the hospitals and work with discharge nurses.

Area 4 Agency on Aging – Pat McVicar – No report was made

Department of Human Assistance (DHA) –No report was made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

It was announced that Mr. George Francis of Sacramento is the oldest living man in the U.S. The Guinness Book of World Records is finalizing its research in London. Janet Heath is still looking for volunteers to help at the banquet.

Adjournment - next meeting will be Wednesday, June 27, 2007, same time, same place.

