

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION
MINUTES JULY 23, 2008

Adult and Aging Commission Attendance List:

Commissioners Present:

Geri Esposito	Joseph Montoya
Gloria Sylvester	Beth Mann
Peggy Forseth-Andrews	Kay Thiem
Pamela Flohr	Joe Samora
Gary Myerscough	Cyrus Moazam
Helen Brewer	Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio, Sacramento County
Heather Thompson	Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Ex-Officio, Galt
Kelly Martin	

Commissioners Absent:

Marta Erissman	Melanie Rochin
Cordia Wade	Karen Oosterman, Ex-Officio, Folsom

Guests Present:

Nicole Piva (Citrus Heights)	Leza Coleman (Ombudsman Services)
Michelle Nevins (Del Oro)	Will Tift (A4AA)
Donna Butler (Citrus Heights Collab)	Sara Fung (CSPC)
Bernice Zaborski (DHHS Mental Hlth)	Bob Ingols (Community member)
Debra Morrow (DHA Community Services)	Bert Bettis (DHHS Senior & Adult Services)
Guy Klopp (DHHS – IHSS)	

Staff Present:

Nancy Yavrom, Program Coordinator (FT); Kevin O'Keefe, Program Coordinator (HT)

CALL TO ORDER:

Geraldine Esposito called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. for the first time as Chair of the Commission. Ms. Esposito welcomed the public and reminded everyone that the Commission was happy to answer questions any time from the audience.

The Agenda required amending in that item "a" under "Action / Discussion Items" had to be held over. The Speakers Bureau PowerPoint presentation review was not completed by the Executive Committee at its last meeting and must be continued into August. **It was moved/seconded (Forseth-Andrews/Samora) to adopt the Agenda as revised. The vote was unanimous in favor.**



The Minutes of June 25, 2008 were approved with corrections as noted by staff. **It was moved/seconded (Myerscough/Montoya) to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

PRESENTATION:

Ombudsman Services of Northern California – Leza Coleman

The Ombudsman Program is mandated by the state AND federal government to receive, investigate, and resolve complaints on behalf of residents in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE). However, the program is not funded well and must rely on volunteers to do most of the work. Until recently, Ombudsman volunteers (there are approximately 84 in northern California) and staff (3) have been able to visit each SNF and RCFE in the region once a month. Community Care Licensing, the government agency charged with licensing and policing SNFs and RCFEs is able to visit once in 5 years. The northern California region covers 9000 beds. There are more RCFEs than SNFs because they are a more lucrative business and are, in fact, booming at this time.

There are 3 aspects to the Ombudsman charge: 1) visiting the SNFs and RCFEs to inspect, suggesting to administrators ways to make improvements or corrections where necessary; 2) follow up on, investigate, and resolve complaints from residents, families, care providers, and even administrators; 3) Educate the public about Ombudsman Services and administrators and staff about alternative methods of restraint and/or management.

Recently an increase in mileage reimbursement was granted for volunteers. However, with this increase, it has become necessary to allow for a visit to facilities every other month. The volunteers, however, have, for the most part, decided to maintain their monthly visits with or without reimbursement.

IHSS Public Authority Annual Report – Rick Simonson

No report was available

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Ratify Speakers Bureau PowerPoint presentation – held over
- b. Ratify Chair's selection of Joe Samora as new Chair for the Oversight Committee since Joseph Montoya, as Vice Chair of the Commission, can no longer serve as chair of the committee. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Flohr) to accept the appointment of Joe Samora as Chair of Oversight. The vote was unanimous in favor.**



- c. Ratify appointments of new Commissioners Gary Myerscough and Kelly Martin to the Oversight Committee. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Sylvester) to accept Commissioners Myerscough and Martin as members of the Oversight Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor.**
- d. Empower Executive Committee to work on the Responsive Grant of Sierra Health Foundation. Ms. Forseth-Andrews described the two projects being reviewed for possible partnerships and feasibility. Staff described the parameters of the grant, including a due date of August 15th. **There was a motion and second (Myerscough/ Martin) when additional discussion ensued.** The Commission does not run programs, but does get them started then hands them off to permanent providers. **The vote was called for and it was unanimous in favor.**
- e. Approve Bi-Annual Report to Senior and Adult Services, January – June 2008. The report had been made available prior to the meeting. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Mann) to approve the report as is. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

AGENCY REPORTS:

DHHS Senior and Adult Services (SAS) – Bert Bettis

- Heat wave July 8 – 10: Ms. Bettis provided a handout showing that a total of 3,534 phone calls were completed to at-risk clients to IHSS and APS. Those who did not respond to telephone calls were visited; there were 346 home visits. Five clients required 9-1-1 services, and one, a lady who refused to turn on her air conditioner, died.
- SAS has been collaborating with SMUD in various ways to educate seniors about use of their air conditioners, the dangers of using fans alone, the need to keep hydrated, etc.
- Ms. Bettis provided a brief budget update. The 2nd part of budget hearings will take place in September. She expressed her appreciation for the Commission's efforts to inform the Board of Supervisors regarding the personal consequences of the proposed cuts, including a presentation made by Ms. Esposito at one of the hearings.

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA) – Will Tift

- With sadness, Mr. Tift announced the recent death of Mr. Ron Clyma, a long-time A4AA staff member, and a very well-known, highly respected individual by many who work in the older adult system of care.
- Monday, July 28th, the forth and final Town Hall meeting will be held at Folsom Senior Center. This is an abbreviated meeting from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Tift talked about the 2008 assessment survey process. It will be out in the community for 8 weeks instead of 6. The section that is strictly for Sacramento



County will deal with electronic technology, how seniors use or do not use it. The target total of surveys to be received is 2000.

DHA Division of Community Services – Debra Morrow

- Heat wave: A little known fact is that DHA is responsible for sheltering in times of emergency and crisis, such as for the heat wave. Department of Human Assistance is therefore responsible for setting up the cooling centers. Ms. Morrow expressed that she has found a great deal of agency duplication and isolation rather than collaboration with efforts to provide for the elderly, dependent adults, and the disabled. Another note, since the Governor called this a “heat alert” rather than a “heat emergency” staff of DHA and DHHS who had to work overtime because of the heat wave will not be reimbursed for overtime.
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has trained more than 500 seniors to go out in their neighborhoods and train others about preparedness in time of emergency or crisis.
- Senior Companion Program is seeking a new Program Manager.
- Foster Grandparents is recruiting for seniors.
- Senior Nutrition Services (SNS) received 979 referrals, 875 of whom qualified. However, there is not a waiting list because 779 went off the program, usually due to admittance into a long term care facility, death, or relocation.
- SNS is working with the Environmental Health agency while they complete their inspections of congregate meal sites. There is hope for reasonable compromise on requirements to be able to keep the sites they have and still be sure appropriate standards are being upheld. The Commission will be kept informed as this process progresses.

DHSS Division of Mental Health Older Adult Programs – Bernice Zaborski

- Budget – due to budget cuts Mental Health Older Adult Services was not able to renew its contract with Eskaton TLC. Eskaton has affirmed that they will continue calling the 110 clients they now have.
- Senior Peer Counseling of the Mental Health Association did get most of its funding.
- There is work on a policy to enable communication between primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and staff so everybody will be equally informed about patients they have in common.
- There is a new program for employment that would serve all ages.
- Another multidisciplinary program is being designed that would allow non-poor community members to receive extended care if required after the usual 30-day crisis limit.



- Mentioned again about the 28th Annual Mental Health and Aging Conference.
- Announced the 6th Annual California Memorial Project Remembrance Day which is part of an effort to restore “dignity to individuals that lived and died in State institutions” and were buried anonymously on State hospital property.

AAC REPORTS:

Chair’s Discretion – Ms. Esposito presented a special award to Ms. Forseth-Andrews for her unprecedented 4 terms as Chair of the Commission. Ms. Esposito also announced that there would be cake after the meeting as part of the celebration of Ms. Forseth-Andrews’ outstanding leadership from July 2004 – June 2008.

Committee Reports –

- PROD – Commissioners and audience members were referred to the July 2008 Committee Meeting Synopsis. An item not on the Synopsis was a meeting of the Vulnerable Populations Committee on August 13th.
- Oversight – The Synopsis was briefly reviewed with emphasis on the Stop.Listen.Care Campaign kick-off breakfast being held August 20th.
- Executive – Ms. Esposito went through the Synopsis quickly emphasizing the joint effort of the Commission, HSCC, other Member Advisory Boards and community members to prepare to be more proactive and effective during the 2009-2010 budget process.

Liaison Reports –

Area 4 Agency on Aging Advisory Council – Peggy Forseth-Andrews and Joseph Montoya

Mr. Montoya gave some background information about A4AA and its origins in the Older Americans Act which required funding of programs for people 60+ years. These federal monies are filtered to the community through the Area Agencies on Aging. Sacramento County is one of 7 that is part of Area 4. A4AA has a governing board composed of key political figures such as members of boards of supervisors. The Advisory Council advises the Governing Board which has close communication with A4AA staff, county Commissions on Aging, and other grass roots entities. The Advisory Council helps solve problems such as those caused by the State’s hold on federal dollars destined to go to A4AA funded programs.

Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio representing the Board of Supervisors, is also Chair of the Governing Board. She expressed the Board’s appreciation for the work the Advisory Council does.

Commissioners’ Comments –



Lynn Davis – She brought “Safely Out” packets for everybody and mentioned that her office can get more of them upon request.

Heather Thompson – 2 things: 1) went to an ethnic event in West Sacramento that included many diverse southeast Asian communities. She suggested that the monasteries that sponsored the event might be good resources to make contact with these communities. 2) There is a report out by Karen Baker, Secretary of Volunteerism, about her findings after interviewing over 600 nonprofit agencies throughout the state. Ms. Thompson will make it available electronically to staff for distribution to Commission members.

Peggy Forseth-Andrews – Expressed appreciation for all those who helped make the Centenarian Banquet a huge success. They are going to apply to the Guinness Book of World Records because they think the banquet is possibly the greatest number of centenarians congregated in one place for an event. She also expressed appreciation for all the extraordinary Commissioners she has been privileged to work with over her 4-year term as well as the efforts of staff over that time. She also expressed gratitude for the cooperation and collaboration with division heads such as Bert Bettis and Debra Morrow.

Joe Samora – Attended a luau at the Cordova Senior Activities Center which was very enjoyable and very successful. He also mentioned the special write-up in Sac State’s alumni magazine about Cordia Wade, class of ’55. Staff will bring the issue back for the next meeting when Ms. Wade is present so congratulations can be offered.

Pamela Flohr – Ms. Flohr provided a handout about the work of an ADA Paratransit Plan Update Ad-Hoc Committee which is part of the Mobility Advisory Council. She shared details and asked Commissioners to review the recommendations being made and get back to her with input.

Beth Mann – Ms. Mann has been sharing about the progress being made by the California Coalition for Culture Change in Nursing Homes regarding meal preparation and delivery practices. The project has been completed and now a how-to report is being prepared to share with nursing homes throughout the state.

Helen Brewer – She with Ms. Yavrom is working on an outreach display to be used at the Mental Health and Aging Conference. She hopes it will serve as a prototype for other displays at other outreach events.

Staff: nothing

Other / Announcement / Public Comment:

Mr. Tift provided copies of the volunteer form to get the needs assessment surveys out to the community when it is ready around Labor Day.



**ADULT AND AGING
COMMISSION**

Appointed by the Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors

There was a motion/second (Montoya/Flohr) to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

