

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES AUGUST 27, 2008 - REVISED**

**Adult and Aging Commission Attendance List:**

**Commissioners Present:**

Geri Esposito	Joseph Montoya
Gloria Sylvester	Cyrus Moazam
Marta Erismann	Kay Thiem
Pamela Flohr	Joe Samora
Cordia Wade	Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Galt
Helen Brewer	Lynn Davis, Ex-Officio, Sacramento County
Heather Thompson	Councilwoman Barbara Payne, Ex-Officio, Galt
Kelly Martin	

**Commissioners Absent:**

Peggy Forseth-Andrews	Melanie Rochin
Gary Myerscough	Karen Oosterman, Ex-Officio, Folsom
Beth Mann	

**Guests Present:**

Donna Butler (C H Collaborative)	Janet Heath (UCD)
Pat McVicar (A4AA)	Bernice Zaborski (DHHS Older Adult Mental Health)
Debra Morrow (DHA Comm. Services)	Bernadette Lunch (IHSS PA)
Rick Simonson (IHSS PA)	Guy Klopp (DHSS SAS)
Bert Bettis (DHSS SAS)	

**Staff Present:**

Nancy Yavrom and Kevin O'Keefe

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

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



The Minutes of *July 23, 2008* were approved as presented. **It was moved/seconded (Flohr/Montoya) to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**PRESENTATION:**

IHSS Public Authority Annual Report – Rick Simonson

Mr. Simonson gave an informative overview of IHSS and the role of the Public Authority, relating the information to the 2007 Annual Report which was passed out to Commissioners during the July meeting. A few of the many interesting points made by Mr. Simonson are as follows:

- Care recipients are the employer, and as such, are responsible for the hiring, firing, and training of the care giver.
- In-Home Supportive Services is responsible for determining eligibility of the care recipient and determining the level of care required. IHSS also manages payroll matters, particularly time cards.
- State of California processes the paychecks to the caregivers and provides workers compensation.
- The role of the Public Authority (PA) as employer of record began in 2000. Though the care recipient is responsible for the professional relationship with the caregiver, the PA negotiates for the caregivers with appropriate unions over wages and benefits. The PA also maintains a registry for those care recipients who have to find a caregiver other than a family member or friend. The 3<sup>rd</sup> task of the PA is to educate and train caregivers as well as recipients. Caregivers do earn more than minimum wage.
- Those caregivers who are part of the registry do get local background checks and Department of Justice checks. They do not get drug tested. The question was asked why, and the best answer was that it is very controversial. Part of the dilemma revolves around the care recipient being the actual employer, making it difficult for them to have drug testing done.
- PA does do follow-up with recipients who use caregivers from the registry to make sure things work out.
- PA in 2007 held 101 classes for IHSS caregivers and recipients with 1,356 attending. A health educator has been added to the PA staff.
- PA has support groups for IHSS care providers.
- There is an arrangement in place for a substitute caregiver to be available within 2 hours if a recipient calls reporting that their regular caregiver has not shown up.



- Mr. Simonson also talked about the IHSS Advisory Committee and mentioned it needs membership.

Many questions were raised during the presentation and afterwards providing more information:

- Caregivers are not able to take as many classes as they may want because usually there is not time; sometimes transportation is an issue.
- There are no fees for the classes.
- It would be beneficial if the screening that takes place with registry caregivers could be done to all caregivers. This is, however, a complicated issue, not easily resolved.
- 4-5% of caregivers come from the registry.
- PA has 18,000 Safely Out packets that are gradually being distributed to IHSS recipients.

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

- a. Ratify Speakers Bureau PowerPoint presentation – held over again
- b. Ratify Legislative Platform 2009 – As part of its annual opportunity to present preferred policies for the Board of Supervisors through the Legislative Advocate, the Commission reviewed those policies on the existing list which is going to be revised for 2009. **It was moved/seconded (Montoya/Flohr) to support 9 of 14 policies concerning the Senior and Adult System of Protection.**
- c. Ratify appointment of Eva Williams as Liaison to the Ethel McLeod Hart Memorial Trust Fund. Ms. Williams made a presentation about the trust fund at the June meeting. **It was moved/seconded (Wade/Flohr) to ratify the appointment of Eva Williams as Liaison to the Ethel McLeod Hart Memorial Trust Fund.**

#### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

##### DHHS Senior and Adult Services (SAS) – Bert Bettis

- Still waiting for the State budget outcomes
- Received Safely Out kits and will be sending them to IHSS recipients during annual assessments. It may take about a year.
- Suggestions were offered as to other venues that might be used to distribute the kits: Focal Points, Meals-on-Wheels, Senior Gleaners, and RSVP. It was also suggested that people in the flood plain areas should be targeted first.
- Ms. Bettis thanked the Commission for the Stop.Listen.Care. Breakfast that was held August 20<sup>th</sup> as part of a community awareness program in support of the



Senior and Dependent Adult System of Care.

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA) – Pat McVicar

- Ms. McVicar brought fliers about a CarFit event in Walnut Grove October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There was also a flier with tips to prevent falling as part of Falls Prevention Month
- October 25<sup>th</sup> A4AA and others are sponsoring a kinship care conference focused on grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.
- The 2008 Needs Assessment survey has to be postponed until January.

DHA Division of Community Services – Debra Morrow

- Ms. Morrow expressed appreciation for the Older Adult System of Care chart that was sent out to the community by the Commission.
- The Coordinator of Senior Services was invited to a special meeting at the White House.
- Senior Companions needs a coordinator but the county is devising a test for applicants.
- Foster Grandparents is holding a recognition celebration September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior Nutrition Services is still working with the county Environmental Health (EH) department and its inspection of congregate meal sites. Her office is awaiting a letter of recommendations before they can strategize best possible actions to maximize use of the sites within the guidelines of EH. There was a question about past history of occurrences of food poisoning or other mishaps at the food sites; they have been very rare. It was suggested that Ms. Morrow bring this situation to the Oversight Committee and discuss possibilities of developing an ordinance that will make the situation more workable for the food sites.
- Ms. Morrow introduced Kris Nelson, Emergency Response Coordinator for DHA. Ms. Nelson talked a bit about her job and her awareness of the efforts made by the Commission to bring matters related to older and dependent adults to the consciousness of planners. She mentioned a growing awareness of resources available from the faith-based community. She provided a flier about National Service Nation Day on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

DHSS Division of Mental Health Older Adult Programs – Bernice Zaborski

- The Older Adult Plan for crisis intervention is still being worked on by the work group and is nearing finalization.
- The plan for employment reported on at the July meeting did get approved by the Board of Supervisors.



- There is more input from consumers needed so there are meetings being held with community recovery groups.
- On September 9<sup>th</sup> the Older Adult Committee will have Peggy Forseth-Andrews present about the Stop.Listen.Care. Campaign, and Nancy Yavrom talk about the OASC chart. The Chart is a tool that encourages collaboration and helps with training.
- The Sierra Elder Wellness Program will be having vacancies soon because some of its current recipients are ready for “step-down services.”
- Ms. Zaborski provided fliers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual California Memorial Project Remembrance Day and the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Aging Conference.
- A comment was made about the Continuity of Care Project which is bringing new policies to primary care, opening up communication between primary care physicians and those providing mental health services to individuals.
- MHSA will be holding a meeting for public comment regarding prevention/early intervention. Ms. Zaborski encouraged those present to participate in order to assure that older adults will not be forgotten in the planning taking place.

### **AAC REPORTS:**

Chair’s Discretion – Ms. Esposito appreciated the comments that had been made earlier about the Stop.Listen.Care. Breakfast. She appreciated the work of all those who helped make it happen. It was well attended. SMUD provided a wonderful venue and good food.

### Committee Reports –

- PROD – Commissioners and audience members were referred to the August 2008 Committee Meeting Synopsis. Ms. Flohr shared recent developments regarding disaster preparedness. There was a meeting with the Board of Supervisors at which Rick Martinez, Director of Emergency Services, shared the work of his office and his efforts to respond to the recommendations made by the Commission at an earlier meeting. Ms. Forseth-Andrews had talked about the current fragmentation of efforts, the need to develop a neighborhood concept similar to the block warden program of WWII so that those seniors and frail adults that are not part of a program will be identified. She also spoke to the need for greater outreach to the community at large. There was a motion put forward by Ms. Forseth-Andrews to make the Office of Emergency Services the nominal head of disaster preparation and planning. The Board approved this concept. Ms. Flohr reported on a meeting of the Vulnerable Populations Committee. At that meeting Mr. Roger Ince spoke about AB38 (Nada)



that passed the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. The bill provides for the joining of the State Office of Emergency Services with Home Land Security thus streamlining the system. September is Disaster Preparedness month.

- Oversight – The Synopsis was briefly reviewed.
- Executive – Ms. Esposito went through the Synopsis quickly. She talked about the development of quarterly meetings between the Executive Committee and heads of divisions such as Ms. Bettis and Ms. Morrow as well as agencies such as A4AA. The purpose would be to understand how the programs are working under the current budget and what is foreseen for the next year. It would help the Commission be more prepared to advocate when the time comes. A Letter of Intent was submitted to Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) for the Chronic Illness Management program discussed at the last Commission meeting when the grant was going to be submitted to Sierra Health Foundation. For technical reasons that did not happen, but because it is a worthy effort, the Commission decided to move it on to CHW.

#### Liaison Reports –

SETA – Lynn Avery did not come because SETA's board has not met

Mental Health Board Older Adult Committee – Geri Esposito: Expressed her appreciation for the report given by Ms. Zaborski which covered many areas of her report. She expressed an enthusiasm for the work of the Committee including its high quality presentations. The Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 1:00 p.m. at the DHA office on East Parkway.

Mobility Advisory Council (MAC) – Joe Montoya: The Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 2:30 p.m. at RT headquarters. They have been working on budget issues because of the expected slash of funds by the state. Recommendations have been made to the Board, many of which were accepted. Some fee hikes were approved including one for ~~Paratransit~~ RT bus service which will now require handicapped riders to pay \$1.00. *Until now, they have been able to ride the bus for free.* There has been no action yet about cutting services.

#### Commissioners' Comments –

Councilwoman Barbara Payne – Galt is very excited about its gold medal winner at the Olympics

Lynn Davis – Brought a flyer about Concert in the Park at Pioneer Park in Old Foothill Farms September 13th. Besides live music there will be a variety of activities available for all ages.

Heather Thompson – She attended a faith-based community conference meant to empower communities. She has also put together a report from the California



Endowment seminar which took place a few weeks ago focusing on the impending state budget cuts and impacts on Sacramento County.

Cordia Wade – In her recent travels around the country, she saw how other areas treat the disabled which has made her more appreciative of what California does. She attended a conference put on by the California Women League at which women were encouraged and instructed on how to apply for positions on member advisory boards such as the Commission.

Pamela Flohr – Also a Liaison to MAC but for the Older Adult Committee, she talked about the work of the subcommittee reviewing Paratransit's ADA plan. Part of the effort is to streamline the plan.

Joe Samora – He mentioned the recognition of Peggy Forseth-Andrews as chair for 4 years on the Commission which was given by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Samora also read an article about Cordia Wade in the alumni magazine of Sac State.

Helen Brewer – The outreach display for the mental health conference is progressing

Staff:

Ms. Yavrom called attention to the date for the Retreat in October. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Mr. O'Keefe put out another call for outreach volunteers

**Other / Announcement / Public Comment:** none

Meeting adjourned.

