

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION

Commission Minutes 11-17-05

Adult & Aging Commission Attendance List:

Commissioners Present

Peggy Forseth-Andrews, Chair
Tessa Janian, Vice Chair
Al Blum
Frank Zolin
Cyrus Moazam
Norman Fong
Lynn Avery

Barney Donnelly
Reggie Williams
Rosemary Jones
Jayna Karpinski-Costa, City of Citrus
Heights Ex-Officio

Commissioners Absent

Jim Sanford
Geraldine Esposito
Janet Heath
Jewell Senegal
Joe Samora
Kelly Patterson

Lynn Davis, County of Sacramento Ex-
Officio
Vincene Rogers-Jones, City of
Sacramento Ex-Officio
Aggie Hanchey, Galt Ex-Officio

Guests Present

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION
Commission Minutes 11-17-05

David Soto, A4AA
Daniel Dullum, Spectrum
Patricia Snowdon, UCC
Melanie Rochin, CA Emergency
FoodLink
Linda Hoschuer, Hart Senior Ctr.
Lin Benjamin, Benjamin Gero-Psych
Consulting
Donna Cambern, Eskaton Senior
Connection
Cynthia Vela, CSUS Intern w/ Eskton
Senior Connection
Anne Spaller, Del Oro Caregiver
Resource Ctr.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY ADULT AND AGING COMMISSION

Commission Minutes 11-17-05

Staff

Nancy Yavrom, Program Associate

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Due to last minute changes, Peggy Forseth-Andrews explained changes to the Agenda. With a consensus the Agenda was accepted as altered.

It was moved/seconded (Donnelly/Fong) to approve the Minutes with one minor change as noted by staff. Motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced Josie Bryant, Focal Point Director of the Cordova Senior Center where the meeting was being held. Director Bryant explained about the Center, its need to enlarge, its many and varied activities, and its regular annual events.

Questions and Discussion: It was asked how long the Center had been at its present location: 1987. Director Bryant did not know how much square footage the Center has, but did comment that there is not enough classrooms and they are not large enough. Besides the many physical and craft activities at the Center, there are also many educational programs, such as health, but there is not enough space for computers and related educational activities. When asked about having transportation available for patrons, Director Bryant said the County lets them use two vans daily free of charge. Funding is primarily from the county, but Cordova Recreation and Parks Districts does pay for some items. The Center does a great deal of fundraising.

A. Chair's Discretion

Regarding the progress with DMV to establish neighborhood centers at the Focal Points, negotiations are on-going.

LIAISON UPDATES

A. Human Services Coordinating Council – Barney Donnelly

Barney Donnelly gave a brief history about the Council and its existence since the early 90's in a County effort to streamline its human services commissions and boards. Its role is to prepare and revise the human services portion of the general plan. It is now considering a single issue on which to focus its energies; it has not yet decided between housing and emergency preparedness.

Mr. Donnelly invited Commissioners to consider taking the two vacant seats on the Council. If interested, he directed them to call the Chair, Peggy Forseth-Andrews.

ACTION ITEM

Commission Minutes 11-17-05

AAC as lead agency on the Strategic Plan of Protection, Community Involvement – Peggy Forseth-Andrews

The Strategic Plan of Protection is a Countywide plan taking in all aspects of protecting vulnerable adults. To be effective, it has to be a community effort, and each player has to be educated as to their part in the plan. The Executive Committee for the Plan and the Working Group want the Commission to be the lead agency for Outreach and to form a sub-committee. Mrs. Forseth-Andrews recommends the Commission adopt this task as part of the Program of Work for the Oversight Committee for 2006.

Questions and Discussion: It was asked if those working on the Plan are cognizant of the budgetary realities and their impact. Mrs. Forseth-Andrews replied that as there are so many groups and agencies involved with the project, funds will probably be made available as needed.

A Motion was made/seconded (Williams/Blum) to accept the responsibility for Outreach and the forming of a sub-committee as part of the Program of Work 2006 for the Outreach Committee. Passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Ratify Program of Work for 2006

The Program of Work for each Committee was the subject of the Commission's retreat in October with the Committees finalizing them during their November meetings. The Program Review, Outreach, and Development Committee did some minor word crafting to its POW. The Outcome for Action Step one was rewritten so it is written as one sentence rather than two. A4AA was substituted for "from appropriate funding organizations" in Action Step 4. The Outcome for Action Step 5 clarifies Sacramento County rather than "provided locally. During the Commission meeting it was agreed that the word "Liaisons" should be substituted by "Relationships" for Action Item 9 of the Executive Committee.

A Motion was made/seconded (Fong/Janian) to ratify the Program of Work for 2006 as presented to the Commission. Passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Ratify 2006 Committee Assignments CHECK THIS PART OUT WITH PEGGY BECAUSE AL WAS TALKING TO ME DURING THIS PART. I THINK IT WAS RATIFIED BUT WHO MADE THE MOTIOIN AND DID FRANK 2ND IT?

ACTION ITEM

Ratify Nominating Committee's Recommendations for Reappointment



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Commission Minutes 11-17-05

The Nominating Committee agreed by consensus at one of its meetings to accept the applications of any of the four Commissioners whose first terms were ending December 31, 2005, and requested the Commission ratify the decision.

A Motion was made/seconded (Howell/Blum) to recommend the four names presented by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Supervisors for reinstatement as Commissioners January 1, 2006. Passed unanimously.

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PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. HICAP – Joan Parks, Program Manager, Ombudsman Services of Northern California; Legal Services of Northern California, Inc. and Geneva Carroll, HICAP Outreach Coordinator

Ms. Parks gave a brief overview of HICAP Services as a provider of counseling about Medicare for those who are already with Medicare and those who are close to being eligible. The counseling is one-on-one at their sites. They have a nine-county contract funded through three Area Agencies on Aging. Ms. Parks is the administrator for both HICAP and the Ombudsman Services. Many handouts were distributed to go along with the information shared including sites where outreach opportunities are scheduled. A “cheat sheet” about Medicare D was distributed, and it was mentioned that it requires continuous updates. Because of Medicare Part D, there is need for a lot of training of HICAP staff; there is need for more office space; they would like more contact information to be able to outreach to more groups to educate them about Part D. This HICAP has a crucial need for more volunteer counselors and outreach presenters. The collaboration HICAP has with the Social Security Administration was given an overview. Both organizations combine to fully inform the consumer about Medicare and Social Security.

Questions and Discussion: A request was made for scheduling more evening meetings so family members of Medicare recipients can become more informed to help their loved one. The presenters are all volunteers and for their nine county jurisdictions they have only 20. If they get more volunteers then they can look at more variety in scheduling the information meetings. It was asked if they expect more funding for their outreach efforts, and Ms. Parks replied that they have been told more funding is designated for them. The issue of the many languages spoken in California was brought up, and they are trying to find volunteers who speak more than one language; at this time there is a counselor library that has multiple language information brochures. It was asked why they are able to do only large groups at the outreach events or one-on-one at their counseling sites. What about small groups? The current accommodations are best suited to the volunteer capacity they have. Knowing those



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Commission Minutes 11-17-05

attending the meeting have many connections, they described the type of person they need as a volunteer presenter in hopes of finding more.

B. Disaster Emergency Response Strategic Plan – Carole Hopwood, Sacramento County Disaster Coordinator

There has been a Strategic Plan for emergency response with specific personnel assigned to this task in place since 1973. The plan gets revised on a periodic basis. It is in a phase of restructuring taking into account lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with an emphasis on communication. This local plan has to be in compliance with the National Response Plan, which was put in place after September 11. There has to be coordination between several agencies and departments at both the state and county levels as well as with local city organizations. Sacramento's greatest threat is flooding caused by problems with Folsom Dam and/or the levy system that intertwines within the county. The levies are being reinforced, but more federal funds are needed to put in lower level gates at the Dam as well as raise its wall another seven feet. Ms. Hopwood emphasized the need for the citizenry of Sacramento County to take responsibility to be prepared for evacuation and to be obedient to any instructions given as to routes to take, etc.

Questions and Discussion: The scenario of panic and confusion causing the most problems for an effective evacuation drew attention to a need to have the plans shared with the public before an event happens. Ms. Hopwood stated this is not possible because there are too many contingencies that can be taking place when a disaster happens, things that are not related to the disaster but may cause routing designs to be changed, such as a construction project on one of the major streets or highways. Local law enforcement and the Highway Patrol will know at the time which routes are best for the populous to take and will make that information readily known. The question arose about people in the more rural areas of the county, especially the frail elderly, and how authorities are going to take care of them. At this point there is a database with a great deal of information about special populations within it, such as IHSS recipients. However, there is need for providers and programs that work with the adult and aging population to give them more data so their mapping can be more complete. The issue of confidentiality about clients sometimes gets in the way of sharing needed information for the emergency plan when it concerns users of Paratransit and other services. In conclusion, the Commission shared its plan to look at emergency preparedness in regards to the frail elderly through its Program Review and Development Committee.

Agency Reports

DHHS, Senior and Adult Services Division – Guy Klopp IHSS Quality Assurance



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Commission Minutes 11-17-05

Four of the six workgroups at the state level have completed their work. Only Regulations and Time for Task work groups remain. Fraud is being looked at as an educational piece for early detection and prevention. A survey was taken of applicants during the May 2005 period. The purpose was to learn about the quality of interaction between potential clients and personnel at the initial time of query. The results were shared. QA will use this information to improve further this initializing part of their process and service.

A4AA – Pat McVicar

Due to the shortness of time, Ms. McVicar deferred her report and shared instead three handouts: 1) a showing of *Golden Road* on KVIE; 2) the Driving Wellness Information Bulletin; 3) a flyer about Caregivers' Appreciation event coming soon.

Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

Oversight – Kelly Patterson

The committee received the bi-annual update from SAS presented in binders. There were updates by both the Program of Protection and IHSS. The Program of Work for 2006 was also discussed.

PRD/Outreach – In absence of Barney Donnelly, Al Blum, Vice Chair

Discussed the Program of Work for 2006 and integrating PRD with Outreach into one committee. A new item was suggested for the POW: investigating emergency preparedness for the frail elderly.

Executive Committee – Peggy Forseth-Andrews

In Alliance has requested guidance/support for a proposal to use extra 1.5 acres of their property for a project that would benefit seniors. The date for the Housing Forum had to be changed to November 4, and a professional facilitator has been hired. Materials for the Retreat were approved. The agreement between DMV, AAC, and the Focal Points were discussed as presented to this meeting. Clarification was made as to who is allowed to attend Oversight Case Review Meetings. All in attendance must sign an oath of confidentiality. There cannot be visitors or volunteers at these meetings. Mentors were assigned to the new Commissioners.

Senior Profile Phase II Ad Hoc Committee – no meeting

Commissioner's Comments

Lynn Davis – Except for a few formalities, the ground breaking for the Senior Safe House are scheduled to begin very soon.



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Staff reminded Commissioners about the Healthy Aging Summit and the need for volunteers since the Commission has endorsed this event.

ADJOURNMENT



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