



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

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Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2009

9:00 a.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Joyce Finkelstein (Chair), Doyle Meredith (Vice-chair), Lynn Adler, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh, Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Barry Spiker, Ramona Rusinak, PJ Schoenstene, Gregg Kiely, and Melanie Starns.

Council Members missing

Kati Bates

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, Elsa Gaynor, and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

April Maggio and Paul Herrmann.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the December 4, 2008 planning meeting were reviewed. Bill Engler *made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Marilyn Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes of the December 5, 2008 planning meeting were reviewed. Bill Engler made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Marilyn Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Recognition of GACA Committee Members

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein recognized the five Council members celebrating birthdays in January, February and March and welcomed new members Simone Kelsh and Noreen Nickerson-Cruz to the Council. Ms. Finkelstein also announced Bernadette Polley's resignation from the Council on Aging and expressed appreciation for Ms. Polley's service. The need for additional Council members over age 60 from areas of the state now unrepresented was raised by Ms. Finkelstein as well.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reported on the impact of state budget cuts to the Governor's Office on Aging and the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. She reported that the office budget is running at a deficit; however the deficit is being corrected through the loss of the Executive Director salary. To address the percentage of the lump sum DES deficit assigned to

the office, each of the three GACA staff members will take nine furlough days before June 12, 2009. Those furlough days are being schedule with the intent of helping ensure adequate staffing of the office from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Shawn Trobia updated the Council on the status of the Mature Workforce website and reported 71 applications were submitted for certification as a Mature Worker Friendly Employer. According to Ms. Trobia, of the 71 original applications, 46 were accepted and almost two thirds of the 46 have returned a signed release to be listed on the website. Ms. Trobia indicated to the Council that the Mature Workforce Committee needs to decide on the timeframe for the 2009 application process and that she was happy to report that Peter Polk and Melanie Starns have agreed to once again help with the training. Ms. Trobia has requested assistance from the group to help with the 2009 application process and various projects. Ms. Trobia informed the Council that a copycat site has a similar domain name as the official Mature Worker Website and to be aware as this other website is not affiliated with the state. The first year agreement with Jobing.com for the website has expired but a new one has been signed.

Committee Reports & Voting on Committee Motions

The committee chairs reported on action taken by their committees since the last GACA meeting. Executive Committee Chair Joyce Finkelstein reported that the committee met in February, per Council by-laws, and voted to provide directive for the April 1st Senior Action Day as requested through a motion carried forward from the January 8, 2009 LPCC meeting. The Executive Committee requested that staff determine protocol then send letters of invitation to the Governor and Legislative leadership to provide remarks at the Public Forum portion of Senior Action Day. The Executive Committee also voted to send a letter to Governor Brewer thanking her for her advocacy on behalf of Arizona's seniors during the FY 2009 state budget discussions. A copy of the letter will be provided electronically to all Council members by GACA staff.

Committee Chair Bill Engler reported to the Council that the Legislative Policy & Coordinating Committee (LPCC) met on March 5, 2009 and discussed all bills being tracked by the Council on Aging, Senior Action Day, and the impact of budget cuts on liaison agencies. No action came out of the committee.

George Evanoff, filling in for Committee Chair Barry Spiker, reported on the Mature Workforce Committee (MWC). Mr. Evanoff stated that George Thorne, of Jobing.com, spoke to the committee about the Mature Workers website and the value of blogging. Mr. Evanoff asked that those interested in blogging for the website please contact Shawn Trobia. No action came out of committee.

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith provided an update to the Council on the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee (SHAC) March 5th meeting. According to Mr. Meredith, Valerie Fifield presented a brief update on AZ Links, David Best reported on the Arizona Caregivers Coalition and the committee divided into two sub-committees of Oral Health and Hearing Loss. No action came out of Oral Health but Hearing Loss produced a flyer for Senior Action Day for the Council's approval. *Committee Chair Meredith made a motion to the Council that the flyer be approved as presented. Bill Engler seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Meredith amended his motion to give authorization to Council staff to change the flyer language and for himself, as SHAC Chair and Joyce Finkelstein, as GACA Chair, to be given authorization by the Council to approve its final use. Bill Engler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously*

Senior Action Day Volunteers & Council Participation

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reported to the Council that, based on the original request from the Area Agencies on Aging and due to current economic conditions, Senior Action Day 2009 will be a one-day event held in Phoenix. An invitation flyer was e-mailed to various agencies, advocates and interested parties outlining how those unable to attend can participate and still provide input. Chair Joyce Finkelstein asked for volunteers to assist with preparations and at Senior Action Day. Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reminded members of the need to help contain Council travel expenses.

Liaison Reports

Department of Health Services (DHS) - Ramona Rusinak informed the Council that the public health senior nutrition funds were swept impacting rural areas the hardest. According to Dr. Rusinak, evidenced-based health promotion for older adults in communities is moving forward locally and that \$1.3 million in federal stimulus money will be awarded to three community health centers in northern Arizona, south Phoenix, and in a tribal area.

Department of Economic Security (DES) – Melanie Starns reported to the Council on the impact of state budget cuts to the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). Due to a \$150 million shortfall at DES, independent living, kinship care, and lifespan respite services were cut. Staff layoffs and staff furloughs were implemented to help make up the shortfall.

Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Gregg Kiely reported on transportation issues affecting special needs users. ADOT has lowered the local match for special needs transport vehicles from 20% to 10%. ADOT has also increased the options of types of special needs transport vehicles, providing more price flexibility. He also informed the Council that, due to the continuing resolution on the federal budget, only 41% of ADOT's budget has been approved. ADOT has also implemented staff furloughs in response to state budget cuts.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) – PJ Schoenstene updated the Council on changes to AHCCCS affecting seniors. AHCCCS will no longer be making co-payments on Medicare Part D. AHCCCS is actively searching for community resource help for those affected. Non-mandated home and community based services have been cut. All cuts and effects on service can be found at www.azahcccs.gov.

Thank You & Acknowledgement

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein acknowledged Melanie Starns for all of her efforts and work on behalf of the Council. Members and visitors were invited to share their words of appreciation with Melanie.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein requested that Council members begin bringing e-mailed meeting materials to future meetings as a way to conserve paper and cut Council costs. Ms. Finkelstein also asked that Council members update their contact information with Council staff. As a follow-up to revisions proposed at the December planning meeting, Ms. Finkelstein reminded the draft of the revised Council bylaws is posted on the Council's website for public review. Ms. Finkelstein circulated a copy of the draft by-laws for those who may not have reviewed them reminding them that the revisions made include:

- The Council will convene in formal meetings at least four times during the fiscal year.
- An Annual Council Planning Meeting is held in November or December of each year

George Evanoff announced a Wellness Fair at Pima Community College on March 28th. Lynn Adler updated the Council on a May 1st Centenarian recognition in Tucson. Barry Spiker reminded the group of a Jazz Concert fundraiser on March 15th. The initial meeting of the Falls Prevention Coalition on March 12th was announced by Valerie Fifield. A copy of the application for the Attorney General's art contest entitled "Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?" was circulated by Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein. A copy of the art contest application is available through the Council office.

Call to the Public

No comment/input received from the public.

Action Items

- Council staff will provide an electronic copy to the Council members of the thank you letter sent to the Governor by the Executive Committee Chair.
- Council staff will provide Council members with contact information for state legislators.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein at 1:48 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be April 3, 2009 in the Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.