



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2009

9:00 a.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Lynn Adler, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein (Chair), Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh, Doyle Meredith (Vice-Chair), Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Barry Spiker, Gregg Kiely, Lynn Larson, and Pam Stevenson.

Council Members Missing

Kati Bates.

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

No guests present.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the March 6, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Bill Engler made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Bernie Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Overview of Senior Action Day

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein remarked that LPCC had a good discussion about Senior Action Day in committee. She asked for input from the Council regarding their impressions:

Positive observations shared:

- Attendance of seniors and aging advocates
- Numbers of seniors and advocates making appointments with legislators to share input in one-to-one meetings
- Opportunity for Council to provide "report back" to seniors on what was done with input collected at last Senior Action Days
- Participation by Attorney General
- Update and support provided by the Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Appreciation for Beth Kohler Lazare, Policy Advisor on Health & Human Services' attendance and participation on behalf of the Governor

Areas of concern shared:

- Lack of legislators in attendance despite responding “yes” to Council staff that they would attend either the Program or the Public Forum or both
- Misconception that the Program would be only about the budget
- Creative tension from advocacy groups with overlapping interests
- Poor communication between interest groups and Council

The Council discussed possible changes for future Senior Action Days including a different format and a name change.

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 for FY 09 and FY 10 are subject to change as those budgets adjust and that cost-saving measures in effect may not be enough to achieve desired outcome.

Committee Reports & Voting on Committee Motions

The committee chairs reported on action taken by their committees since the last GACA meeting. The Executive Committee extended their thanks to DES and the Division on Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) for all of their help with Senior Action Day. The Executive Committee also extended invitations to all committee chairs to continue in their roles through next year. All committee chairs accepted and will work on identifying a vice-chair. GACA staff is working on securing speakers for future meetings.

Committee Chair Bill Engler reported to the Council that the Legislative Policy & Coordinating Committee (LPCC) met on April 2, 2009 and discussed all bills being tracked by the Council on Aging and Senior Action Day. No action came out of the committee.

Committee Chair Barry Spiker reported on the Mature Workforce Committee (MWC). Mr. Spiker reported that the committee met on April 2, 2009 and heard from AARP Foundation on their new work search tool. The committee was excited to see it but there was a concern that the focus was solely on hourly workers. The committee also heard an update on the Mature Worker Website from Shawn Trobia. Mr. Spiker offered his congratulations on the quality of the website and acknowledged Jan Davy and Gateway Community College on their funding to train a new generation of caregivers. *George Evanoff moved that a technical cleanup of the Mature Workers logo be made, allowing the word ‘Arizona’ to be added. Bill Engler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith, Jr. provided an update to the Council on the Social, Health & Alzheimer Committee’s (SHAC) April 2, 2009 meeting. Committee Chair Meredith reported that Valerie Fifield presented a brief update on the March 12, 2009 Falls Prevention Coalition meeting, David Besst reported on the Lifespan Respite Program and the committee divided into the two Sub-Committees, Oral Health and Hearing Loss. No action came out of the Oral Health Sub-Committee. The Hearing Loss Sub-Committee requested the Council’s permission to meet at least once before July 9, 2009. *Committee Chair Meredith moved that the Council allow the Hearing Loss sub-committee to meet once before July 9, 2009. Bill Engler seconded the motion. Barry Spiker amended the motion to be ‘if staff is available.’ Mr. Meredith accepted the friendly*

amendment to the motion; Mr. Engler seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Department of Economic Security (DES) – Lynn Larson, on behalf of Melanie Starns, reported to the Council that the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) will receive \$315,000 in federal funds for the Senior Community Employment Program. The funding will provide additional training opportunities for approximately 35 seniors. DAAS received an additional \$1.9 million for congregate and home-delivered meals but this money does not offset cuts made to independent living programs due to FY 09 budget. She reported that there is still a proposed cut to independent living services for FY 10 budget.

Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Gregg Kiely reported to the Council that there is still a continuing resolution on the federal budget and only 41% of ADOT's budget has been approved. Additionally, there has not been a final figure set for stimulus dollars awarded to ADOT. However, he believes that the state stands to gain millions which will benefit seniors indirectly through improvements to other transportation systems.

Office of the Attorney General (AG) – Pam Stevenson reported to the Council that the AG's office has begun its Senior Sleuth program, designed to help fight scams and rip-offs targeting seniors. The kickoff of Senior Sleuths will coincide with Older Americans month and information about the program will be posted to the Attorney General's website. Ms. Stevenson passed out an informational flyer on Senior Sleuths to the Council. A copy of the flyer is available at the Council office. Ms. Stevenson also reported that the deadline for 'Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse' has passed and winners are expected to be announced before the end of the school year. Ms. Stevenson invited the Council to attend 'Break the Silence', a program on elder abuse featuring local writer Jana Boomersbach.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa announced that, with the completion of Senior Action Day, Council and Office on Aging staff will be shifting focus to projects placed on hold during preparations for that event. According to Ms. De Lisa, a few of those projects include updating the Senior Resource Guide and both the Governor's Office on Aging and Advisory Council on Aging websites.

Council member Doyle Meredith, Jr. made a motion to establish a task force to review the Council budget. Bill Engler seconded the motion. Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein expressed concern with naming particular people to the task force in the motion. The motion was defeated. Council member Doyle Meredith, Jr. moved that a committee be formed, with budget constraints at issue, to study the feasibility and viability for possible alternatives for the Governor's Conference on Aging. Bill Engler seconded the motion. Council member Doyle Meredith, Jr. amended the motion and moved that a committee be formed with budget constraints at issue, to study the feasibility and validity with recommendations of possible alternatives for the Governor's Conference on Aging, with no expense to the Council, and report out at the next Council meeting in July 2009. Bill Engler seconded the motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein requested that any Council members interested in being a part of the Ad Hoc Committee please see Mr. Meredith. Bill Engler moved that the Chair of the Council write a report to the Governor on Senior Action Day. Noreen Nickerson-Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bill Engler moved that a request be

forwarded to the Governor requesting that a liaison be assigned to the LPCC meetings and GACA meetings. Motion was seconded by Mr. Meredith. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: Following due diligence per Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 38-431.05, the motions presented and actions taken under this specific section of the agenda are determined null and void.

Action Items

- GACA staff will complete a technical cleanup of the Mature Workers logo be made, allowing the word 'Arizona' to be added.
- GACA staff will help coordinate a Hearing Loss Sub-Committee meeting prior to July 9, 2009.

Call to the Public

No comment/input received from the public.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Simone Kelsh and was seconded by Barry Spiker. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein at 11:42 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be July 10, 2009 at the Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.