



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2010

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Executive Tower, Grand Canyon Room
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Kati Bates, Bill Engler (Chair), George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman, Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Joe Woods, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Lynn Larson, Don Ritchie, Ritch Steven, Pam Stevenson, and Karen Yearwood

Council Members Missing

Lynn Adler, Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh, and Barry Spiker

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa and Claire Parriott

Guests Present

Tammy Frazee

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Bill Engler called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the September 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Joyce Finkelstein made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Joe Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Current Event Updates & Discussion

2010 Budget:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa updated the Committee on the status of the FY 2010 budget. A portion of the budget shortfall is still unresolved following the Fifth Special Session and passage of SB1001. Since the Council on Aging is funded through DES, the impact to the Council budget will be proportionate to further cuts at DES. The Governor's Office on Aging and the Council on Aging have taken cost effective measures by not filling the Executive Director vacancy, staff furloughs, reducing Council travel, and reducing other office expenses.

HB 2026:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa informed the Committee that Representative Nancy Barto introduced HB 2026 that extends the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging until July 1, 2020. This follows the Committee of Reference recommendation that the Council be continued for another ten years. Wednesday, January 13, 2010, the House Committee on Health and Human Services will review and vote on the Committee of Reference recommendations. Ms. De Lisa indicated that persons wishing to register a position or request to speak in support of the Council need to first register at the kiosks located in the House or Senate and once a password is

received, they can then do so remotely at the Arizona State Legislature's website. A copy of *HB 2026* is available through the Council on Aging Office.

Council on Aging Legislative Tracking List:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa handed out a list of the legislative bills currently being tracked by the Council for the new legislative session. Ms. De Lisa stated she welcomes having committee members share information on new legislation with her. A copy of the Council on Aging's legislative tracking list is available through the Council on Aging Office.

Recommendations from GACA Ad Hoc Planning Committee

Committee Chair Bill Engler asked the committee members to review the Ad Hoc Planning Committee recommendations provided to them. The Ad Hoc Planning Committee recommendations for LPCC are:

1. LPCC be given the responsibility to build awareness of the Council's continuation legislation being introduced and dates of the public hearing meetings
2. LPCC clarifies the current Committee membership
3. LPCC explores membership expansion

A copy of the *Ad Hoc Planning Committee Recommendations to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging for 2010* is available through the Council on Aging Office.

Following discussion, some groups that were recommended for membership include:

- Centers for law in the public interest
- Social justice groups from around the state
- East Valley Council on Aging
- Municipal commissions on aging
- Arizona Association of Senior Centers
- Retiree organizations (i.e. all Arizona school retirees)

Ritch Steven suggested that LPCC brainstorm on additional memberships after the next meeting as the session will be in full swing and more will be known about what groups have legislation to track. Mr. Steven also suggested using a mechanism like the Legislative Update as a way to keep constituents informed and involved wherever they live.

State Agency & Advocacy Groups' 2010 Legislative Platforms & Priorities Presentations & Discussion

Department of Economic Security (DES)

Lynn Larson, of the Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DES/DAAS) reported to the Committee that SB 1001 reductions are currently being put into effect, and she had no legislative priorities to report at this time.

American Association of Retired People (AARP)

Ritch Steven informed the Committee that AARP's focus will include a defensive posture on the budget, work to ensure the payday loan sunset, the ballot resolution on medical choice and the taxpayer bill of rights from four years ago. AARP plans to watch for striker amendments that could result in quick legislation passage.

Attorney General's Office (AG)

Pam Stevenson reported that the AG's office plans to introduce or be a part of reverse mortgage legislation again this session. Other legislative priorities include monitoring striker bills, payday loan sunset, the vulnerable adult bill, and disclosures regarding mortgage payments. Other priorities include consumer fraud legislation and watching for scams related to the U.S. Census.

Lutheran Social Services

Karen Yearwood informed the Committee that budget concerns about home and community based services loom large for her agency this year.

Northern Arizona Seniors in Action Coalition (NAZSAC)

Christine Bryson- Lazo reported to the Committee that NAZSAC is expanding outreach of senior advocacy from the Verde Valley to include Prescott and Flagstaff.

Senior Medicare Patrol Discussion

Pam Stevenson, liaison from the Attorney General's Office, spoke to the Committee about the Senior Medicare Patrol program (SMP). Started in 1995, it is a federal program that is administered in the states through DES/DAAS, and the local Area Agencies on Aging. In collaboration with the Senior Sleuth Program, SMP presents volunteer-led classes at each Anti-Crime University teaching seniors to protect their Medicare number the same as they would their credit card number and to monitor their medical bills. SMP needs more publicity and the AG's Office is getting a good response through the Anti-Crime University. Ms. Stevenson stated she would be willing to present further information on SMP in cooperation with DES/DAAS and show the AG's new video on scams to the Committee at a future date. A copy of the Arizona Senior Medicare Patrol project handout is available through the Council on Aging Office.

Announcements

- Council Member, Joyce Finkelstein informed the Committee that the Census forms are coming out in March in anticipation of Census Day on April 1, 2010. Census forms will be mailed to every residence. It is important that seniors fill out the form for Arizona as all federal monies and Congressional representation are based on the final Census data.
- Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa announced that Teresa Brice from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) will present transit updates to the Committee at the March 4, 2010 meeting.
- Lynn Larson, DES/DAAS, announced that the Peoria Community Senior Center will hold a Scam Jam Shred-a-thon on March 3, 2010 from 9-1 p.m. There will be several different presentations on topics such as identification theft, home repair, medical fraud, and a presentation by Attorney General Terry Goddard.
- Tammy Frazee, DES/DAAS, announced that DAAS has entered the next cycle of the State Plan on Aging and that they will present the Plan to the Council at the next Council meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George Evanoff and seconded by Joyce Finkelstein; the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Bill Engler at 11:22 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee will be March 4, 2010 in the Executive Tower First Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.