



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

### SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES September 4, 2008

#### **Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present**

Doyle Meredith (Chair), Kati Bates, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Paul Herrmann, Marilyn Johnson, Sharon McKinley, Bernadette Polley, Barry Spiker, Linda Anderson, Karla Averill, David Besst, Chad Corbett, Gwen Dean, Paulette Fraenkel, Marc Katz, Archie Mariano, Michele Michaels, Sharyle Price, Diana Toussaint, Sherry Verges, Joan Zecherle

#### **Council Members Not Present**

Lynn Adler, Bernadine Hoffman

#### **Staff Present**

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff, Sylvia Chuka

#### **Guests Present**

Michele Barth, Mary Busch, Phillip Cardona, Jay Crosby, Susan Cypert, Daniel Fern, Victoria Furst, Conni Ingallina, Bob Mancini, Bianca McDermott, Karen Richards, Karen Sadler, Holli Sandeen, Roseann Schleifer, Keith Tanner

#### **Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the July 10, 2008 meeting were reviewed. *Marc Katz made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Bernadette Polley seconded the motion.* The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Updates**

##### ***Lifespan Respite Program***

Mr. David Besst of the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) provided an overview and description of the structure and history of the Division's Lifespan Respite Program, noting that the program receives \$500k in overall funding. Mr. Besst also noted that the program includes salary for one full time employee, but due to the state hiring freeze, the program has been unable to replace the outgoing Lifespan Respite Coordinator, who departed in February, 2008. Thus, Mr. Besst announced that Ms. Sharyle Price of DAAS will focus on the outreach portion of the program. Additionally, he discussed the role of the Arizona Agencies on Aging in delivering the services associated with this program, and he provided an explanation of respite care, and the other three work groups that have been established within the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, including collaboration, advocacy, and

education. Mr. Besst also stated that his agency will be issuing a Lifespan Respite Request for Proposals (RFP) in January, 2009, with the intent to award the program by April, 2009. Mr. Besst noted that the Lifespan Respite Advisory Committee and state legislation has called for an evaluation/assessment tool. This assessment tool, being authored by Dr. David Coon of Arizona State University, will help to evaluate current respite services through June 30, 2009. Copies of Mr. Besst's presentational handouts are available through the Council Office.

### ***Arizona Caregiver Coalition***

Mr. Besst discussed several updates within the websites [www.azcaregiver.org](http://www.azcaregiver.org), and [www.azrespite.org](http://www.azrespite.org), and noted that DAAS is utilizing the ASCAP assessment tool (geared to clients not caregivers) to offer respite in shorter amounts of time, allowing caregivers 8 hours of respite per week, and 40 hours per month, in order to keep respite "evidence based," and to better assess caregivers needs prior to their services being rendered. Additionally, Mr. Besst noted that the intake point for all respite services will be the Arizona Area Agencies on Aging. Copies of Mr. Besst's presentational handouts are available through the Council Office.

### **Presentation of Summary Information on Committee's Future Initiatives**

Ms. De Lisa provided an overview of the information provided and contact made related to the three priority topics discussed at the last Committee meeting. The three topics discussed were:

- Hearing Loss;
- Affordable Dental Care; and
- Senior Depression/Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse

As no input pertaining to Senior Depression/Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse was submitted and no contact made (as requested at the July 10, 2008 Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting and noted in the minutes for that meeting), that topic was subsequently released from the discussion.

### ***Hearing Loss***

Ms. Michele Michaels of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the state's only Hard of Hearing Specialist, delivered a presentation on the need to address the issue of hearing loss in Arizona. Specifically, Ms. Michaels provided an outline of suggestive strategies to accomplish the following goals:

- Raise awareness of the prevalence of hearing loss among older adults, and the treatment options available
- Increase information and education about accessible communication for the hard of hearing at senior centers, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, public libraries, parks and recreation activities, and cultural and sports facilities

Ms. Michaels also noted that the State of Arizona has approximately 704,000 residents who are afflicted with hearing loss, as well as 50,000 who are deaf. A discussion ensued, and Council Chair Paul Herrmann stated that he was inspired by Ms. Michaels' presentation, and that the suggestive strategies outlined within her handout coincide with the Council's mission to "enhance the quality of life for older Arizonans." Ms. De Lisa mentioned that Ms. Michaels had met with her, provided a tour of the Commission offices and equipment, and educated her on this

issue prior to the meeting, and that she was very excited about the prospects of pursuing this project. Furthermore, Ms. Michaels offered to take the lead on this effort as needed, and conduct train-the-trainer sessions. Ms. De Lisa noted that Ms. Michaels possesses a wealth of information, and that she will be an extremely valuable asset for the Council to draw upon. A copy of the Suggestive Strategies put forth by Ms. Michaels is available through the Council Office.

### ***Dental Care***

Ms. De Lisa provided an overview of the information collected and compiled on affordable dental care for older adults, specifically emphasizing the importance of dental care as a serious health issue that is linked to systemic diseases. Additionally, Ms. De Lisa noted the current status of, and need for affordable, accessible dental care in Arizona, and she discussed the corresponding shortage of dentists and other dental care providers within specific areas of the state. Ms. De Lisa also discussed:

- Related innovations in other states, including providing care to the underserved by expanding the roles of dental hygienists and/or dental assistants, utilizing nurses to provide oral health assessments, and the development of new solutions for oral health plans
- Potential future directions, such as educational campaigns, the implementation of a pilot program, expanding the duties of dental hygienists, and the promotion of dental care training and continuing education through distance learning options

Chair Doyle Meredith and Executive Director Melanie Starns stressed the importance of quality, affordable dental care, and noted that this was one of the priority issues raised by Arizona seniors throughout the state during the 2007 Senior Action Day events. Ms. De Lisa further mentioned that this initiative carries national implications for the Council to be a catalyst of change in the delivery of dental care to vulnerable populations. A copy of Ms. De Lisa's presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

### **Discussion and Voting on Recommendations for Committee's Future Initiatives**

A discussion of Ms. Michaels' and Ms. De Lisa's presentations ensued, and it was determined that both potential initiatives were equally important issues to pursue. *Ms. Joyce Finkelstein made a motion to split the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee into two separate work groups in order to pursue the initiatives of Dental Care and Hearing Loss. Mr. George Evanoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and this motion will be taken to the full Council for approval.* At this time, the Committee split into two discussion groups to brainstorm on possible ideas and suggestive strategies.

### **Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements**

- Ms. Karla Averill discussed the Matter of Balance Program, "Managing Concerns About Falls, An Assisted Living Train-The Trainer Workshop." A copy of the training flier is available through the Council Office.
- Mr. David Besst announced that Sunday, September 7, 2008 is Grandparents Day with the Phoenix Mercury basketball team at the US Airways Center in Phoenix, which will include a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AARP.

- Mr. Besst also noted that Saturday, September 13, 2008 is Grandparents Day with the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team at Chase Field in Phoenix, and that November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is the Kinship Care University. A copy the Kinship Caregiver event flier is available through the Council Office.
- Ms. Victoria Furst gave an overview of the Operation Christmas Child program, and distributed informational brochures to members of the Committee. A copy of Ms. Furst's brochure is available through the Council Office.

### **Action Items**

- The Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee will put forth their recommendation to the full Council that the Committee be split into two separate focus groups, to pursue the initiatives of dental care and hearing loss through a "two-pronged attack"

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Doyle Meredith at 4:28 p.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting will be October 2, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.