



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

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Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2009

9:00 a.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Lynn Adler (telephonic), Kati Bates, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein (Chair), Bernadine Hoffman (telephonic), Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh (telephonic), Doyle Meredith, Jr. (Vice-Chair), Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Barry Spiker, Gregg Kiely, Alan Oppenheim (for Ramona Rusinak), P.J. Schoenstene, Melanie Starns, and Pam Stevenson.

Council Members missing

Dana Campbell Saylor, Michael Davidson, and Bill Engler.

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

Michele Michaels and Scott Ritchey, Justa Center.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the April 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Marilyn Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Noreen Nickerson-Cruz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chair Report – Discussion and Voting

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein presented to the Council the two revisions to the By Laws proposed by the Council at the December Planning Meeting and informed the Council that the draft revision of the By Laws has been posted publicly at the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's (GACA) website for more than 120 days. By Law IX-A was changed to reflect that the Council will meet four times per fiscal year and IX-O was changed to reflect that the annual planning meeting will be held in November or December of each year. Following a brief discussion, George Evanoff made a motion to revise the Council By Laws as presented. Lynn Adler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Director's Report

Deputy Director, Cathy De Lisa provided an update on the actions of the Third Special Session pertaining to the 2010 budget, and reported that due to the extent of work still pending to balance the deficit, the impact to the Office on Aging and the Council on Aging is unknown at this time.

Ms. De Lisa shared that the Office on Aging and the Council will sustain a percentage of any cuts to DES/Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Ms. De Lisa also reported that two new members have been appointed by the Governor to the Council. Mike Davidson from Huachuca City and Dana Campbell Saylor of Phoenix have been appointed and are now full voting members.

As part of the Office on Aging's updates, Shawn Trobia shared information related to the Mature Workforce Initiative reminding the Council that the Executive Summary for the Mature Workforce Initiative included a recommendation to develop training and technical assistance for employers and job-seekers. Ms. Trobia informed the Council that Maricopa and Pima Community Colleges have partnered with the Governor's Office on Aging and established three desired outcomes for the Initiative: to develop uniform training for the recertifying employers, to establish employer training for any employer in the state including the certified employers, and to provide training opportunities for job seekers

Ms. De Lisa reported that the Falls Prevention Coalition is moving forward through the work of three teams: Medication Management, Physical Activity, and Home Modification following efforts of the Steering Committee to define Coalition milestones and timelines.

Ms. De Lisa also informed the Council that she is exploring potential partnerships for the 2010 Governor's Conference on Aging in lieu of the FY 2010 budget deficit.

Council members and liaisons were reminded of the remaining 2009 meeting schedule dates as provided via email by Ms. De Lisa. Potential dates for the December Planning Meeting announced by Ms. De Lisa include December 3 - 4, 2009 or December 10 - 11, 2009.

Committee Reports & Voting on Committee Motions

The committee chairs reported on any actions taken by their committees since the last GACA meeting.

Executive Committee – Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein reported that the Executive Committee discussed:

- The Sunset Review process for the Council (sunsets July 2010), the need for advocacy, potential sponsorship of legislation to extend the Council, and coordinating Council efforts through LPCC.
- Potential dates for the December Planning Meeting.

No motions came out of the Executive Committee

Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee – Marilyn Johnson, Acting Chair, informed the Council that no motions came out of the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee (LPCC). The Committee discussed the Sunset Review process for the Council, the pending 2010 budget, and the need to encourage seniors to fully participate in the 2010 Census. Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein has offered to provide LPCC with a draft copy of the 2010 Census questionnaire.

Mature Workforce Committee – Barry Spiker, Committee Chair reported to the Council on the activities of the Mature Workforce Committee. In the last committee meeting members:

- Watched a demonstration by AARP Foundation on use of their skills assessment and job search tool which can be found at www.aarpworksearch.org
- Received an update on 'When Work Works' campaign from Charlotte Hodel of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- Heard an update on the Mature Worker Website, hosted by Jobing.com, which has had more than 100,000 visitors and over 500,000 page views since the first of this year.
- Learned about the current Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification application process.

In addition, the committee reviewed several blogs that have been posted on Jobing.com in Phoenix, which is partnering with the Council and hosts the AZ Mature Worker Website. The most current blog that was posted was then provided to Jobing.com for inclusion in their electronic newsletter that was distributed to approximately 40,000 subscribers. The committee was also informed of an article in the AARP Bulletin, a national publication, which highlighted some of the work being done with regard to the mature workforce in Arizona. The Mature Worker Website was included in the article as a resource for Arizona job seekers. No motions came out of the committee.

Social Health and Alzheimer's Committee –Doyle Meredith, Jr., Committee Chair reported to the Council on the activities of the Committee. According to Mr. Meredith, the Hearing Loss and Oral Health Sub-Committees met in work groups in June to further their individual projects. The Oral Health Sub-Committee presented a motion to the Council to meet as a Sub-Committee before the September SHAC meeting. Committee Chair, Doyle Meredith, Jr. made a motion to allow the Oral Health Sub-Committee to meet prior to September. George Evanoff seconded the motion. George Evanoff asked for clarification that meeting as a Sub-committee would mean incurring expenses. Deputy Director, Cathy De Lisa confirmed that travel and teleconference expenses could be incurred since members of the Council serve on this Sub-Committee. Ms. De Lisa informed the Council that the reason for the Sub-Committees request was so that the Sub-Committee could finalize their work plan and be ready to present it at the SHAC and Council meetings in September. George Evanoff offered a friendly amendment to the motion that the Sub-committee be allowed to meet without reimbursement for travel expenses. Mr. Meredith accepted the friendly amendment to his motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Department of Economic Security (DES) – DAAS has experienced some recent staff loss with three resignations and a retirement having occurred in just one week. With the hiring freeze in place, the positions will remain unfilled. In lieu of these changes, DAAS is working hard to buoy morale. DAAS is also moving forward with some program analysis for Adult Protective Services which will include a work group to review existing policies and procedures and determine how to best modernize the program. DAAS staff have also been seeking additional revenue streams, with staff submitting 11 federal grants since May 2009. Ms. Starns announced that the Interagency Council on Long-Term Care requested, through Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa, to present to the Council in September their report due to the Legislature in November 2009. The State Plan on Aging, a federal responsibility of DAAS, is due next June. Ms. Starns indicated the plan may include authorization for Area Agencies to have case management as a direct service, require options for self-directed care, and incorporate the Aging and Disability Resource Centers more fully. The process involves input from the Area Agencies, public input and a presentation to the Council. DAAS has requested to present the plan to the Council in January or February of 2010.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) – P. J. Schoenstene presented a handout of the current enrollment information on the State’s comprehensive long-term care program, Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) stating this year, the program has grown a little bit. Ms. Schoenstene provided the Council with a summary sheet of the 2008 Survey on Satisfaction with Care and Services for ALTCS. According to Ms. Schoenstene, the survey had a little more than 3200 respondents who were members themselves or family members or others who had a significant role in managing the member’s healthcare and it was unique because it included long-term care and acute care. Topics covered included facilities (nursing and assisted living), facility staff and caregivers, home caregivers, personal doctors and nurse practitioners, case managers, transportation for medical services, and program contractors. A copy of the enrollment handout and the summary sheet are available for review through the Council office. Ms. Schoenstene stated the public can access the satisfaction survey report at www.azahcccs.gov and clicking on Oversight and Reporting then Research.

Department of Economic Security (DES) – Melanie Starns reported that the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) has spent a great part of the last six months focused on the budget - either dealing with cuts or waiting on a consensus for 2010. Ms. Starns stated that since no FY 2010 budget has been passed, agencies and programs contracted with DAAS are using a portion of federal dollars to run in the interim. Due to uncertainty in state government employment, shifts in staff have been occurring; three resignations at DAAS have occurred in one week. In lieu of changes, DAAS is working hard to buoy morale. DAAS is also moving forward with some program changes for Adult Protective Services which may include a work group related to policy changes – the first since the 1980s. DAAS staff members have submitted 11 grants since May 2009, all of which are still in the approval process. DAAS is working with the Refugee Resettlement program to help infuse all DAAS programs with cultural competencies. Ms. Starns announced that the Interagency Council on Long-Term Care requested, through Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa, to present to the Council in September their report due to the Legislature in December 2009. The state plan on aging, a federal responsibility of DAAS, is due next June. Ms. Starns indicated the plan may include authorization for Area Agencies to have case management as direct services, require options for self-directed care in line with AHCCCS, and incorporate the Aging and Disability Resource Centers more fully. The process involves input from the Area Agencies, public input and a presentation to the Council. DAAS has requested to present the plan to the Council in January or February of 2010.

Department of Health Services (DHS) - Alan Oppenheim spoke to the Council, on behalf of Ramona Rusinak, about state licensing of 8,000 facilities or programs in Arizona and reminded the Council of the AzCareCheck website that provides information including facility survey results. At www.azcarecheck.com, the public can link to state licensed health provider information which now includes medical and behavioral health licensing. Mr. Oppenheim shared that DHS is setting up an online complaint system which will be available for reporting 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Traditionally, DHS has provided one-to-one interaction for reporting of complaints but the Department now receives up to 5,000 complaints annually due to growth in licensed businesses requiring an alternative reporting system. Mr. Oppenheim announced the Surveyor of the Day is still available for one-to-one assistance, that the Department has connected with Maricopa County Attorney’s Office to help curb elder abuse in licensing issues caused by individuals like licensing does with facilities. Mr. Oppenheim also reported that the federal government’s recent five-star rating system for nursing facilities may be an option to replace the state’s current rating system.

Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Gregg Kiely reported to the Council that the federal government finally passed the budget which alleviated some of the fears related to transportation; however final figures on awards to states had not yet been released; more details to be provided at the September Council meeting. The state has applied for \$14 million from the federal recovery act dollars for new capital projects in rural areas serving all populations which would include elderly and special need populations. This funding is in addition to \$3.9 million under current authorization and \$9 million from formula dollars.

Office of the Attorney General (AG) – Pam Stevenson reported to the Council that the office was disappointed that the Legislature did not pass some important legislation that affects seniors. Several bills championed by the Attorney General’s office died in committee and weren’t heard. A few bills now sit on the Governor’s desk awaiting signature. According to Ms. Stevenson,

- The reverse mortgage bill died despite efforts for the second year to try and get simple regulations of this element of the mortgage industry.
- Elder abuse continues to be an issue at the forefront of the Attorney General’s office as evidenced by the second annual Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June, the promotion of consumer protection programs such as the AZ Care Check website through the DHS and the Senior Sleuth program.
- Volunteer applications for the Senior Sleuths Program will soon be linked at the Mature Worker Website, hosted by Jobing.com.

Guest Presentation: Justa Center

Scott Ritchey of the Justa Center, a resource center for homeless seniors, spoke to the Council about the plight of homeless seniors. Many seniors that come to his center are could resolve their homelessness through help from other agencies. They may be veterans, probationers, mentally ill, or substance abusers who have not gotten the help they need. He asked the Council to be advocates on behalf of these Arizonans. Mr. Ritchey distributed an informational flyer about the Justa Center. A copy of the flyer is attached.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

George Evanoff announced to the Council that the Center on Aging will have another Wellness Fair at Pima Community College. Non-profits and agencies will have free tables available to them.

Call to the Public

No comment/input received from the public.

Action Items

- Provide the Council with a list of legislators willing to sponsor/cosponsor legislation for extension of Council along with the website link for the Arizona State Legislature.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein at 1:04 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging will be September 11, 2009 in the Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.