



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Department of Environmental Quality Room 250

1110 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Bill Engler (Chair), George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh, Doyle Meredith, Jr., Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Barry Spiker, Christine Bryson-Lazo, John Linda, Don Ritchie, Ritch Steven, and Pam Stevenson.

Council Members Missing

Lynn Adler and Kati Bates.

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

Chris Long, Joel Millman, Peter Polk, Erin Raden, Krysten Sweet, and Emma Violante.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Bill Engler called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the March 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Doyle Meredith, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes as written and George Evanoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Senior Action day Debriefing Discussion

Committee Chair Bill Engler informed the committee that the Council will be preparing a report on the events at Senior Action Day for Governor Brewer. A discussion of the event followed.

Positive observations shared:

- Attendance of seniors and aging advocates
- Numbers of those 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 provided by Division of Aging and Adult Services

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

Council member George Evanoff asked that the Council try to discover how the impression that Senior Action Day was only about the budget was created.

Updates

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reported to the committee that there has not been a lot of action on any bills being tracked by the Council and reminded those in attendance that they can monitor the actions taken on these bills through the link provided in the Legislative Update. According to Ms. De Lisa, while the legislature deals with the budget, about one bill per week is moving forward. Action this week involved companion bills Senate Bill 1185 and House Bill 2802 which could potentially help avoid an additional deficit for the state budget based on the new federal tax withholding policy change. Mrs. De Lisa informed the committee that the House Democrats released a budget plan on Tuesday, 3/31/09.

Legislative Updates

Pam Stevenson, of the Attorney General’s office, addressed the committee regarding three major bills being tracked by the Attorney General’s Office. According to Ms. Stevenson:

- The reverse mortgage bill continues to move through the House with bi-partisan support.
- The bill addressing financial abuse of incapacitated adults is waiting to be heard in the House
- The small loan bill was defeated in committee but it may be revived once the 2010 budget is addressed.
- The enhanced sentencing bill looks to be dead but the Senate still needs to take action on it.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Joel Millman, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), informed the committee that almost \$2 million in stimulus money may be coming for home delivered meals and senior community centers. DAAS is seeking clarification on any matching requirements tied to the funds. John Linda, Arizona Health Care Association, reported to the committee that Arizona is one of four states that have been chosen to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing demonstration program that will assess the performance of participating nursing homes based on selected quality measures. CMS will then make incentive payment awards to those nursing homes that perform the best or improve the most in terms of quality and their ability to reduce transfer rates to and from hospitals. This is a three year program and if successful, it will be rolled out nationwide. Ritch Steven announced that Lupe Solis would be retiring from AARP and that he would share more details about plans to honor Lupe with LPCC via Cathy De Lisa. LPCC Chair, Bill Engler announced that Council Member Marilyn Johnson would be chairing the July LPCC meeting in his absence.

Call to the Public

Members of the public addressed the committee. Emma Violante, Arizona State Dental Hygienist Association (ASDHA), informed the committee that ASDHA is trying to remove the age restriction of those served under the Dental Hygienist Affiliated Practice through SB 1400. According to Ms. Violante, the main benefit of the removal of the age restriction is the ability to

care for adults including seniors. Erin Raden, Arizona Dental Association (ADA), informed the committee that ADA has some reservations about the bill but they are working closely with ASDHA to try and resolve the differences.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Bill Engler at 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee will be July 9, 2009 at a location to be announced. These meetings are open to the public.

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