



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2009

9:30 a.m.

State Land Department, Room 215
1616 West Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Kati Bates, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Marilyn Johnson, (Acting Chair), Doyle Meredith, Jr., Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Gregg Kiely, Don Ritchie, Melanie Starns, Ritch Steven, and Pam Stevenson.

Council Members Missing

Lynn Adler, Dana Campbell Saylor, Michael Davidson, Bill Engler (Chair), Bernadine Hoffman, Simone Kelsh, and Barry Spiker.

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

Karen Yearwood.

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Acting Committee Chair Marilyn Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the April 2, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Joyce Finkelstein made a motion to approve the minutes as written and George Evanoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Sunset Review Discussion

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein led a discussion of the Sunset Review process for the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging outlining timelines, requesting advocacy support for continuation of the Council and stating notification of hearings would be shared, as received. Suggestions from members of the group for the Legislative and Policy Coordination Committee (LPCC) Chair and Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) Chair included quantifying the value of volunteer hours as well as outlining the value of Council initiatives for the Sunset Review process. Options for continuation of the Council on Aging as discussed included approval by the Legislature through Sunset legislation with sign off by the Governor, by Executive Order or through statute at the federal level.

Updates

Budget Discussion:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reported to the committee that the Third Special Session began on Monday, July 6th with the posting of 22 bills; four of those passed and were later signed by the Governor and that both the House and Senate adjourned until Monday, July 13, 2009 suggesting the 2010 budget process may extend for weeks. At present, the budget deficit is more than \$2 billion with continued loss of revenues. In response to questions about the impact of the 2010 budget deficit to the Council, an explanation of the funding process from DES through the Division of Aging and Adult Services to GACA was provided by Melanie Starns, Assistant Director, DES/Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). Through DAAS, the Council receives both federal and state dollars so any state budget cuts or impact to DAAS will be proportioned to the Office on Aging and the Council. Worst case scenario for the Council's continuation, per Ms. Starns might include continuation of GACA under DES but without any state funds.

Legislative Session:

213 bills from the 49th Regular Session of the Arizona State Legislature were forwarded to the Governor for signature. Highlights of the 74 bills on the Council's list tracked this session and discussed included HB2283 Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program, HB2344 Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation, HB 2399 Automated External Defibrillators, HB2616 Living Wills; Health Care Directives, and S1400 Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies.

Legislative Updates

Pam Stevenson, of the Attorney General's office shared:

- Those attorneys who helped draft the original version of H2344 are still reviewing the final version due to all the changes in the original language.
- H2616 requires guardians to notify families by certified mail of removal of life sustaining measures.
- The reverse mortgage bill got stuck in committee and since there are no existing regulations of this industry, the Attorney General's Office will continue to advocate for protection of seniors by working to introduce legislation again next session.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Council Chair Joyce Finkelstein reminded everyone in attendance of the importance of the 2010 Census which helps determine the level of Older Americans Act funding to Arizona based on both permanent and temporary residence of seniors throughout the state. Ms. Finkelstein offered to provide a sample form at the next LPCC meeting and encouraged Council members, advocates such as AARP, and others to help promote 100 percent participation in the next census.

Call to the Public

No input from public received.

Action Items

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Finkelstein and seconded by George Evanoff. The meeting was adjourned by Committee Vice-Chair Marilyn Johnson at 10:40 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee will be September 10, 2009 at a location to be announced. These meetings are open to the public.