



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Carnegie Center, Auditorium

1101 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Bill Engler (Chair), George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman, Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Joe Woods, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Lynn Larson, Pam Stevenson, Karen Yearwood.

Council Members Missing

Lynn Adler, Kati Bates, Marilyn Johnson, Simone Kelsh, Barry Spiker.

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa and Claire Parriott.

Guests Present

Eileen Colleran

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Bill Engler called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the July 9, 2009 meeting were reviewed. *Bernadine Hoffmann made a motion to approve the minutes as written and George Evanoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

A brief history of the Carnegie Center, location of today's meeting, was shared by Committee Chair Bill Engler.

Updates

2010 Budget:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa provided a brief overview of the recent 2010 budget actions stating the Governor's line item veto in HB 2006 resulted in elimination of further cuts to DES. Ms. De Lisa reminded the group that the budget bills of the Third Special Session can be accessed at the third session link provided in the Council's *Legislative Update* or the Arizona State Legislature's website. The Governor's transmittal letters as well as her statement regarding the signing of bills and veto actions can be found at the Governor's website. Ms. De Lisa stated the *Legislative Update* will be provided monthly now unless a special session is called prior to January 2010.

Sunset Review:

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa updated the committee on the status of the Council's sunset review. Ms. De Lisa reported that she received a letter from Representative Nancy Barto, Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference outlining questions to be answered and information to be submitted to the committee by August 31, 2009. Council

staff worked carefully to meet that dateline. Ms. De Lisa reported that she has been told by the Committee Research Analyst that the Council would be contacted in October regarding the scheduling of hearings. It is unknown at this time if the hearings will impact the scheduled November Council meetings or the December Planning Meeting, and Ms. De Lisa stated she would keep the Council updated, accordingly.

Transit Presentation

Eileen Colleran, Federal Policy Advisor for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), provided a presentation on what Arizona is doing with the economic recovery funds. Among the highlights:

- \$353,884,000 in highway projects
- \$176,232,000 for Greater Arizona
- 57 highway and bridge projects, 40 contracted, 17 under construction, two completed; increased competitive bids and lower costs for materials have resulting in \$60 million in savings to fund additional projects across the state
- 14 transit projects – rural transit agencies have been funded
- ARRA funding includes rail, aviation, as well as highway and transit
- ADOT has five reporting responsibilities that include Federal Government Accounting Office (GAO), US DOT, Federal Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the State GAO
- Tax dollars (gas and vehicle license tax) are trending downward or being swept to the general fund leaving projects underfunded or without required match funds for federal funding.
- By 2015, Arizona could be in maintenance, only mode if the trend continues.
- 14 agencies – rural transit – that assist seniors have been funded.
- New authorization bill expires in September. ADOT has asked for flexibility in spending to let the communities help decide what they need. ADOT is also supporting the inclusion of operating costs for transit in the upcoming bill.

Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Pam Stevenson, Council Liaison from the Attorney General's Office, distributed flyers for the Senior Anti-Crime University. The free classes, being offered in partnership with local police forces, focus on helping seniors avoid scams, prevent fraud and stay safe. The first program is scheduled on September 29, 2009 at Friendship Village in Tempe with others scheduled around the state in the months ahead. A copy of the flyer is available for review through the Council office. Ms. Stevenson also indicated the latest scam reported to their office targets veterans who are asked for credit card information to process payment for medications.

Lynn Larson from the DES/Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) indicated DES does not have a budget to date and that once a budget is in place, DES anticipates additional reductions.

Christine Bryson-Lazo, of Verde Valley Seniors in Action Coalition, stated her group is advocating for an educational dialogue on health care reform in that area of the state.

Call to the Public

No input from the public received.

Action Items

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa will update the Council on the sunset review process and any impact to scheduled Council meetings.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Finkelstein and seconded by George Evanoff; the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Bill Engler at 11:17 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee will be November 5, 2009 at a location to be announced. These meetings are open to the public.