



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

2:30 p.m.

DHS State Lab Conference Room

250 N. 17th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman, Simone Kelsh, Doyle Meredith (Chair), Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Linda Anderson, Michelle Barth, Anissa Blair, David Besst, Mary Busch, Dr. Robert Birdwell, Dr. Jerry Caniglia, Chad Corbett, Jay Crosby, Susan Cypert, Gwen Dean, Dan Fern, Michele Michaels, Julie Ngiriye, Phillip Moreno, Karen Richards, James Vargas, and Diana Toussaint.

Council Members missing

Lynn Adler, and Kati Bates

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa, Claire Parriott, and Shawn Trobia.

Guests Present

Mike Connolly, Karen Yearwood, Michelle Panico

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Draft minutes from the January 8, 2009 SHAC meeting were reviewed. Michele Michaels from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) offered a correction of the minutes stating Bill Schafer is a Commissioner not a Chair. *Bill Engler made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections as stated. Motion seconded by George Evanoff. Motion passed unanimously.* The Hearing Loss Sub-Committee draft minutes of February 5, 2009 were reviewed. *Bill Engler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Michele Michaels. Motion passed unanimously.* The Oral Health Sub-Committee minutes of February 5, 2009 were reviewed. *Bill Engler made a motion to accept as presented. Motion seconded by Diana Toussaint. Motion carried unanimously.*

Updates

Arizona Caregiver Coalition: David Besst updated the committee on the status of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition reporting that a full coalition meeting date is in the works. According to Mr. Best, out of the four sub-committees launched under the acronym CARE, the respite sub-group has been actively involved with lifespan respite efforts. Mr. Besst reported that although the funding to lifespan respite has been cut, the statutory language remains keeping the program eligible for potential federal funding.

AZ Links Program Director, Valerie Fifield provided a handout updating the committee on the status of AZ Links.

- Maricopa and Mohave counties are currently on the AZ Links website.
- Training programs have been condensed from ten (10) meetings to three (3).
- Inter-tribal Council of Arizona's introductory meeting is scheduled for March 11th.
- Pima roll-out is almost complete.
- Pinal-Gila first roll-out meeting is scheduled in April.
- Scheduling of Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Navajo are pending
- Plans are underway to schedule the southeast region once the other sites are finished.
- Members can view more information at the website: www.azlinks.gov.

A copy of the AZ Links handout is available through the Council office.

Breakout Discussion by Sub-Committees

The Oral Health Sub-Committee and Hearing Loss Sub-Committee met in their individual groups for approximately one hour.

Report out on SHAC Projects

Hearing Loss

Co-Chair Michele Michaels reported that the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee's priority was to create a fact sheet for Senior Action day that could be approved by the Council at their next meeting. Co-Chair Bill Engler reported that the group had developed two fact sheets - one for legislators and one for consumers/advocates. Mr. Engler made a motion that the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee approve the two fact sheets as modified, for legislators and advocates for Senior Action Day. Motion was seconded by David Besst. Motion carried unanimously.

Oral Health

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reported that the Oral Health Sub-Committee will reconvene to move forward with the objectives discussed at this meeting. GACA staff will coordinate plans with C J O'Connor, Oral Health Sub-Committee Work Plan Development facilitator.

Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements

- Michele Michaels reported that more than 100 seniors without hearing recently met at a deaf conference. According to Ms. Michaels, the group is still working on Apache Trails - housing for deaf seniors in Tempe Arizona and that the group would like to work with the Area Agencies on Aging, AARP, and other groups to help them become deaf friendly. A discussion ensued about coordinating access and dealing with budget cuts and deficits.
- Committee Chair Doyle Meredith asked that committee members begin bringing their own agendas to the meetings as a cost saving measure.
- Committee Chair Doyle Meredith passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for Senior Action Day.
- Council member Bill Engler encouraged the committee members to consider possible new member applicants for the Council from areas of the state not represented.

Action Items

- Committee Chair Doyle Meredith will carry forward the motion to approve the two Hearing Loss fact sheets as modified, for legislators and advocates for Senior Action Day to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging at their next meeting.
- GACA staff will coordinate plans with C J O'Connor, Oral Health Sub-Committee Work Plan Development facilitator, to reconvene the Work Plan group.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Doyle Meredith at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's Social, Health, & Alzheimer's Committee will be April 2, 2009 at a location to be announced. These meetings are open to the public.