



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 4, 2010**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room  
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present**

Charles Brown, Bill Engler (Chair), George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Joe Woods, Larry Woods, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Tammy Frazee, Don Ritchie, and Pam Stevenson

**Council Members Absent**

Kati Bates, Simone Kelsh, and Barry Spiker

**Council Staff Present**

Cathy De Lisa and Claire Parriott

**Guests Present**

Teresa Brice

**Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions Review & Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Bill Engler called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the January 7, 2010 meeting were reviewed. *Joyce Finkelstein made a motion to approve the 1.7.2010 minutes as written and Bernadine Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Current Event Updates & Discussion**

**Proposed Legislation, Council's Tracking List:**

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa handed out the current list of legislation being tracked by the Council for the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session noting that many of the bills have not seen action. According to Ms. De Lisa, HB 2026, the Council's continuation legislation, has passed the House and been assigned to the Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform Committee. However, this Committee and other Senate and House Committee meetings for the weeks of March 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> have been canceled in lieu of budget discussions. Ms. De Lisa indicated that persons wishing to register a position or request to speak regarding the Council need to first register at the kiosks located in the House or Senate and once a password is received, they can then do so remotely at the Arizona State Legislature's website. A copy of the Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session 2010 tracking list is available through the Council on Aging Office.

Pam Stevenson, of the Attorney General's Office, shared an update on the status of HB 2242: Reverse Mortgages; Regulations. Ms. Stevenson indicated the insurance industry may oppose the bill, and she emphasized to the Committee that the purpose of the bill is to align Arizona's

statues with federal regulations on reverse mortgages. Ms. De Lisa circulated a copy of the 02.17.2010 House Summary/Fact Sheet for HB 2242 posted at the Arizona State Legislature's website - <http://www.azleg.gov/>. A copy of that House Summary/Fact Sheet is available through the Council on Aging Office.

According to Ms. De Lisa, other bills on the Council's tracking list that have seen recent action include: HB 2348: Veterans; Disability Benefits, HB 2425: Vulnerable Adults; Attorney Fees, and H2469: Certified Medication Assistants. Ms. De Lisa stated she welcomes having Committee Members share information with her on any other legislation they feel potentially impacts older Arizonans.

#### State Budget Discussions:

Ms. De Lisa reiterated that Senate and House Committee meetings for the weeks of March 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> have been canceled in lieu of budget discussions. Tammy Frazee, Department of Economic Security/ Division of Aging and Adult Services (DES/DAAS), reported that DES is trying to anticipate further cuts to the budget and has outlined a budget proposal in anticipation of 15% cuts. The budget proposal with anticipated impact is posted on the DES website: [www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov). DAAS has already had a \$1.5 million cut across the department is working with the Area Agencies on Aging related to future impact on programs and services.

#### Presentation – Transit Coalition & Sustainable Communities

Teresa Brice, Executive Director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Phoenix, spoke about transit as it relates to sustainable communities. Ms. Brice said LISC started working with local groups in 2007 with a focus on growing sustainable communities through education and outreach and referenced the six principles found in *Making Sustainable Communities Happen in the Valley of the Sun* booklet she provided to the group. Ms. Brice indicated that such communities focus on mobility for all ages, and transit is a key factor to livable communities. According to Ms. Brice, collaborations with other coalitions and groups have resulted in combined efforts to inform and educate the electorate and encourage citizen input to the Arizona Department of Transportation quality transportation plan. Transportation has been a part of their work with the Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Town Hall, Valley Metro - Light Rail, AARP, Sonoran Institute, Arizona Transit Association, and Arizona Housing Alliance.

A copy of the *Making Sustainable Communities Happen in the Valley of the Sun* booklet is available through the Council on Aging office.

#### Discussion of LPCC Membership

Committee Chair Bill Engler opened to Committee Members a discussion about the future direction of committee membership. Christine Bryson-Lazo of Northern Arizona Seniors in Action Coalition and Seniors in Action Business Alliance suggested the Committee might invite the Coalition for Compassionate Justice to a meeting and provided contact information for the Coalition to the Council. Council Member Noreen Nickerson-Cruz suggested the Mature Worker Friendly Certified Employers might be invited to a future Council meeting. Ms. De Lisa thanked the Committee for their comments and suggestions.

#### Discussion re: Sharing Concerns with Congressional Members on Issues Affecting Arizona's Seniors

Council Chair George Evanoff stated that after having reviewed the statutory role of the Council, it has been determined that reporting concerns impacting older Arizonans directly to federal legislators is not a part of the Council's statutory mandate but alerting the Governor and state

legislators is part of the Council's statutory role. Council Member Marilyn Johnson stated Council Members may choose to write letters to Congressional Members and Arizona legislators as private citizens sharing individual opinions and encourage other seniors in their community to do the same. A discussion followed on the effectiveness of handwritten letters, emails, phone calls and in-person visits with mixed perspectives.

### **Announcements**

- Christine Bryson-Lazo updated the Committee about the activities of the Northern Arizona Seniors in Action Coalition (NAZAC) and provided a handout of NAZSAC 2010-2012 Initiatives. Ms. Bryson-Lazo also told the Committee that the Coalition is working to address the issue of seniors living in assisted care facilities being counted in the 2010 census. A copy of the NAZSAC 2010-2012 Initiatives is available from through the Council on Aging Office.
- Council Member Joyce Finkelstein urged those in attendance to fill out the census form as responses have a direct effect on resources that will be made available to communities at the local, state and federal level. She also shared that every county has a Complete Count Assistance Center and urged those in attendance to be aware that no citizen will receive an e-mail from the Census Bureau so such a scam should be reported to the Attorney General's office.

### **Next Steps**

- Council and Committee Members were encouraged to submit input for the next LPCC agenda on ballot initiatives and/or other legislative and policy issues to GACA staff.
- GACA staff will continue to update the Council and LPCC on progress related to HB2026.

### **Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Finkelstein and seconded by Bernadine Hoffman; the meeting was adjourned by Committee 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 May 6, 2010 in the Executive Tower Grand Canyon Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.**