



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE (SHAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 4, 2010**

**2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

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

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

Charles Brown, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadine Hoffman (Chair), Noreen Nickerson-Cruz, Joe Woods, Larry Woods, Linda Anderson, Karla Averill, Michelle Barth, David Besst, Mary Busch, Mary Cosaboom, Jay Crosby, Susan Cypert, Kim Kubsch, Steve Laughary, Leslie Leshner, Siobhan McCurdy, Michele Michaels, Julie Ngiriyee, Karen Richards, Diana Toussaint, and Emma Violante

**Council Members Absent**

Kati Bates and Simone Kelsh

**Council Staff Present**

Cathy De Lisa, Claire Parriott, and Shawn Trobia

**Guests Present**

Deborah Schaus, Cathy Griner, Mary McDonald, and Mary Jean Eggelston

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

Committee Chair Bernadine Hoffman called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. A welcome and introduction period followed. Draft minutes from the January 7, 2010 Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee (SHAC) meeting were reviewed. *Bill Engler made a motion to approve the minutes as written; George Evanoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Presentation – Update from the Alzheimer's Association – Desert Southwest Chapter**

Deborah Schaus, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association – Desert Southwest Chapter provided an update on trends and statistics with Alzheimer's at both the national and state level:

- 5.3 million people are diagnosed with the disease nationwide;
- Alzheimer's Disease is the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death nationwide and 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause for those 55 and older.
- Arizona had 78,000 people diagnosed with the disease in 2000 and currently has 97,000
- One in eight people 65 and older will be diagnosed with the disease and one half of those 85 years and older
- Those with Alzheimer's Disease are three times more likely to face hospitalization and eight times more likely to need skilled nursing care
- One fourth of all home care involves care for an Alzheimer's patient
- In 2008 – 40,000 Arizonans with Alzheimer's Disease resided in skilled nursing care

- 75% of care is provided by family caregivers. In 2009, there were 200,000 family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's in Arizona providing 228 million hours valued at \$2.6 billion dollars

Other highlights of the presentation included an overview of the work of the Chapter which encompasses all of Arizona and southern Nevada covering 160,000 square miles with offices in Tucson, Phoenix, Prescott, and Las Vegas. Committee members in attendance received the *Spring 2010 Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter newsletter* which announces the new Care Partners Reaching Out (CarePRO) program, references available support groups and provides a calendar of available education programs. Other resources shared with the group include the Chapter's brochure *Support Along the Way*, *Alzheimer's & the Law* booklet, the Chapter's *2010-2013 Strategic Plan*, and the Chapter's *2010 Calendar*. Ms. Schaus also referenced the national advocacy forum in Washington DC the third week of March, and the Safe Return program stating the Chapter has scholarship dollars to cover the \$50 fee for those in need.

Since David Jerman, Administrative Director of the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium, couldn't be in attendance; Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reminded those in attendance that the Governor's Office on Aging is partnering with the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium and the Alzheimer's Association to provide afternoon sessions at the 2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference. These sessions will be focused on caregivers, persons with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease and their advocates. Ms. De Lisa provided a brief overview of the planned sessions and encouraged those wishing to attend to register soon as the free event reached capacity quickly last year. Information for registering was provided via the 2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference flyer distributed to the group.

A copy of the Spring 2010 Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter newsletter, *Support Along the Way brochure*, *Alzheimer's & the Law* booklet, Chapter's *2010-2013 Strategic Plan*, Chapter's *2010 Calendar*, and the *2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference flyer* are available through the Council on Aging office.

### **Current Events – News on the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, Fall Prevention Coalition and Hearing Loss Initiative**

David Besst, Department of Economic Security/Division of Aging and Adult Services (DES/DAAS) updated the Committee on the status of the caregiving programs. In this fiscal year, DAAS has been awarded two grants totaling approximately \$1.5 million from the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP), which is funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging. Also, a third grant of \$200K for the Lifespan Respite Care Program was awarded in September 2009. The Arizona Caregiver Coalition has been nationally recognized for being a catalyst in these grant awards and for taking an active role in achieving the goals of the grant projects by participating with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) AZ Links project and developing a Caregiver Hotline that will be staffed by caregiver volunteers. Mr. Besst has been invited to speak at the National Alliance of Care Givers conference, March 15-19, 2010, about what has been accomplished in Arizona.

Michele Michaels, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, referencing the sunset of the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee, stated she brought copies of the *Hearing Loss Fast Resource and Fast Fact* sheets, which are being distributed throughout the state. Ms. Michaels thanked the members of the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee for their help in the creation and

distribution of the sheets. A copy of the *Hearing Loss Fast Resource* and the *Fast Fact* sheet are available at the Council on Aging Office.

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa informed the Committee that the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition is continuing with the guidance and support of the Area Agency on Aging, Region One. The next Coalition meeting is April 1, 2010 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Region One office, 1366 E. Thomas Road in Phoenix AZ. The Coalition is launching a website and once that occurs, Ms. De Lisa will get the website address to the Committee.

### **Sub Committee Break-Out Discussion**

The Oral Health Sub-Committee broke into their group for discussion.

### **Report Back**

#### **Oral Health Sub Committee**

Cathy De Lisa reported back that the Oral Health Sub-Committee met, approved the February 18, 2010 Sub-Committee minutes which will be presented to SHAC at the May meeting. In addition, the group discussed the year one goals, provided updates on those goals, and determined that GACA Staff would coordinate another Sub-Committee meeting providing an opportunity for the two of the teams - those working on Goal #2 - 2.2 - the roll-out of the caregiver training from Washington State and Goal #2 - 2.3 - the Fact Sheet and collection of written materials on oral health - to meet and keep efforts/momentum going. The Oral Health Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled before the next SHAC meeting.

### **Announcements**

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa announced that 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.

Ms. De Lisa reminded members that those nonprofit and faith-based organizations interested in participating on the Governor's newly-formed *ArizonaSERVES* taskforce can learn more at the Arizona Services website: [www.ArizonaSERVES.gov](http://www.ArizonaSERVES.gov)

### **Next Steps:**

- GACA staff will provide updates to the Council and the Committee on the progress of HB 2026
- GACA staff will coordinate an Oral Health Sub-Committee prior to the May SHAC meeting
- Cathy De Lisa will provide the Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition website to the group

### **Adjournment**

*Committee Chair Bernadine Hoffman adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.*

### **Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's Social, Health, & Alzheimer's Committee will be on May 6, 2010 in the Grand Canyon Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.**