



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board of Pharmacy Conference Room

State Land Building, Suite 120

1616 West Adams

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Becky Brimhall-Lepire (Chair), Charles Brown, Patsy Gillis (Secretary), Joy Grainger, Deborah Hankerd, Diane Joens, Deborah Lavinsky, Teresa Ramirez Lopez, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill, Allison Perrin, Melinda Preston, C.T. Wright, Cydney DeModica, Jay Dunkleberger, Kristin Fray, and Cynthia Saverino

Council Members Absent

Trudy Schuett and Tonya Watson

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa and Carolyn Sigler

Guests Present and Signing In

Christine Bryson-Lazo, Olivia Guerrero and Sevy Gambs

Call to Order & Welcome

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. with a welcome and introduction period.

Review & Approval of January 9, 2015, Draft Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from the January 9, 2015, meeting were reviewed. *Charles Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Deborah Hankerd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Changes

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reminded the group that the next GACA meeting is Friday, May 8, and is currently scheduled for the 2nd Floor Conference Room in the Executive Tower. Any changes necessary will be posted closer to the meeting date. The Council Chair also reminded the members to speak loudly enough to be heard.

Liaison Reports

Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS) – Cindy Saverino, Independent Living Supports Administrator reported:

- Tim Jeffries is the new DES Director; he started March 2, 2015 and the Division looks forward to learning more about his priorities.
- Independent Living Support begins their 5-year contract cycle on July 1.
- DAAS is still fine tuning the DAARS system with the Area Agencies on Aging.
- Melanie Starns has resigned as Assistant Director of DAAS; Lynn Larson is the Interim Assistant Director.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) – Kristin Fray, Admissions Coordinator, Arizona State Veterans' Home reported:

- The Arizona StandDown event occurred February 12-13 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The Maricopa County event is the largest in Arizona and served an estimated 1500 veterans.
- In February Rio Salado College was recognized as a Veteran Supportive Campus after meeting a number of requirements such as creating a student veteran orientation program and conducting awareness training on military and veteran culture.
- The Tucson Veteran Home is starting a Ham Radio Program for veterans who are interested in learning how to operate a ham radio.
- The Phoenix Veteran Home continues to experience success with their Therapeutic Gardening/Greenhouse program.
- The State Veterans' Cemeteries in Marana and Camp Navajo are projected to be completed by the end of 2015.
- The next Missing in America Project (MIAP) veteran recovery mission is scheduled for March 28.

Arizona Indian Council on Aging (AICOA) – Ronald Moore, President of the Arizona Indian Council on Aging was not in attendance.

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Cydney Demodica reported that ADOT has implemented the State Highway Safety Plan that includes the Age-Related Safety Task Force which encompasses both younger and older drivers. ADOT has determined that the recent wrong-way drivers have been impaired and the incidents were largely not age-related. ADOT is in the process of changing signage to try to combat the wrong-way driving issue.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) – Jay Dunkleberger reported that AHCCCS is on-track with their two strategic priorities of approving the Olmstead Act Work Plan co-authored with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Behavioral Health Division of Arizona Department of Health Services and preparing for updates to rules around community integration and member rights under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) waivers.

Arizona Department of Insurance (ADOI) – Steve Clutter was not in attendance.

Attorney General's Office (AG) – A liaison from the Attorney General's Office has not been assigned yet.

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) – Babak Nayeri was not in attendance.

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZAA) – Olivia Guerrero, CEO, Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens reported on behalf of Elisa Davis. Highlights of her report included:

- Region I – Region One Area Agency on Aging reports the Healing@Home program has been re-funded for the 4th year and received a program extension through January 2016.
- Region II – Pima Council on Aging reports they held their 4th Annual Age ‘n Stages Senior Expo in February with approximately 2,500 attendees.
- Region III – Area Agency on Aging - Northern Arizona Council of Governments/NACOG reported they recently added Kinship Support Groups to address grandparents and other older relatives raising children.
- Region IV – Western Arizona Council of Governments/WACOG Area Agency on Aging reported their Virtual Dementia Tour was a success at their Region IV Conference on Aging. The Virtual Dementia Tour is scheduled for the Age Friendly Network conference in Phoenix on May 6.
- Region V – Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens Area Agency on Aging reported partnering with the Pinal Hispanic Council and Community Action Human Resources to provide medication lock boxes to families where grandparents are raising grandchildren in Eloy and Arizona City.

The full written report from the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZAA) is available through the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging office.

Council Chair Report

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire reported that she has been advised of her reappointment as Council Chair for 2015.

Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire reported that the Executive Committee had two recommendations that they were bringing to the Council. First, the group recommended that Council members prepare for meetings by making copies or accessing the information emailed to them through their smart phones, iPads or laptops and by reviewing the materials ahead of the meeting to be prepared for engagement in the meeting discussions. According to the Council Chair, this recommendation would reduce the need for extensive use of resources, reduce time spent by staff preparing the meeting packets and help ensure full engagement by all the members. The second recommendation from the Executive Committee was to endorse support for the invitation from Amy St. Peter at Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) for the Council to be a sponsor of the Age-Friendly Network *Going Places* transportation conference scheduled for May 6. *Lisa O’Neill made a motion to endorse the conference; Doyle Meredith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.* Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire requested that the Executive Director share the endorsement by the Council for the conference with Ms. Peter and to let her know that members of the Council are willing to volunteer to work the event as well.

The Council Chair reported she had assigned an Ad Hoc group consisting of the Council Chair, the Executive Director and Council Member Lisa O’Neill to review and propose final amendments to the current Council By-Laws at the meeting in May. According to Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire, this will provide ample time for review and discussion prior to any action being taken at the July GACA meeting.

Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire led a brief discussion on the 2015 measurable outcomes for the subcommittees and received reports from each subcommittee:

Joy Grainger reported the Legislative Tracking Subcommittee is working on being more proactive in establishing relationships with legislators, hearing from stakeholders and had discussed the potential of a bi-partisan Senior Caucus.

Diane Joens reported that the Senior Action Day Subcommittee wants to meet within the next 30 days with legislative leadership regarding dates for the 2015 Senior Action Day events. Once dates and locations have been confirmed the subcommittee will meet in April to finalize its recommendations and in July begin work on a media plan and sponsorship protocol.

Melinda Preston reported the Alzheimer's Subcommittee is focusing on more fully educating the committee and subcommittee members about dementia, identifying a vetted information sheet detailing various forms of dementia to disseminate to the subcommittee and possibly adding the Alzheimer's Association link on the GACA website. The long-term goal is to look at ways to increase public awareness of dementia and available resources.

Deborah Hankerd reported the Transportation Subcommittee received information and research on transportation collected by subcommittee members for further review, and the group advocated for the ADOT Mobility Manager to attend the May 8 GACA meeting and provide an update. According to Ms. Hankerd, the group hopes to develop a website toolkit on transportation resources and information and will explore possible partners to house and manage the community resource webpages.

Council Chair Brimhall-Lepire turned the floor over to Council Member Joy Grainger, who announced she is resigning from the Council effective March 7 due to her family's decision to move to South Carolina. The members and staff took time to express their appreciation for her service, to share how they would miss her, and wish her well

Greetings from the Governor's Office & Discussion on Advocacy Protocols

Christina Corieri, Health & Human Services Policy Advisor to Governor Doug Ducey, provided a greeting to the members from the Governor, shared information on her background and her responsibilities and discussed protocol for members when speaking to legislators. Ms. Corieri invited members of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging to email her with their input. Executive Director De Lisa was asked to share Ms. Corieri's email with the members of GACA.

Executive Director's Office Updates

Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reported on the office initiatives and shared the following:

The Governor's Office on Aging has been asked to co-sponsor the 2015 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference.

The Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium, The Alzheimer's Association, DES/DAAS and the Governor's Office on Aging are all working to finalize the Alzheimer's Task Force Plan and launch implementation starting with the new fiscal year in July.

The Governor's Office on Aging provided a grant letter of support for the Bureau of Tobacco and Chronic Disease at the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS).

Due to the hiring freeze, Ms. De Lisa reported the office is seeking volunteer assistance to help with special projects. Anyone interested will need to apply and be processed through the Governor's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships.

Staff members are preparing to use the dashboard for reporting progress on measurable outcomes of the committees and subcommittees of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

Executive Director De Lisa asked for a volunteer from the Council to work with her in planning a GACA social event in May.

Temperature Check & Progress Report – How Are We Doing With the 2015 Priorities?

The Council Chair asked for input from the members on changes made related to the 2015 priorities. Following a short discussion, positives noted were that Subcommittees are working toward objectives and Council Members have begun reaching out to legislators who are interested in engaging with the Council.

Council Member Reporting & Sharing

Council Members' Aging Related Updates

- Allison Perrin reported the Arizona Geriatrics Society 8th Annual Mental Health and Aging Conference will be held April 24 in Tucson.
- Diane Joens reported there are several upcoming Verde Valley events and she will forward information to GACA staff as it becomes available.
- Deborah Hankerd reported that the Old Firehouse Senior Center in Tombstone is the main senior center in Cochise County, serves lunch to 50-80 people each day and is run by one paid staff person and volunteers.
- Melinda Preston reported that she attended the Alzheimer's Association's Central Arizona Annual Education Conference on February 27.
- Joy Grainger reported the Arizona Housing Alliance will hold the Arizona Healthy Communities Conference in Mesa on March 25. Part of the conference will address new strategies for aging in place.

Call to the Public

Heidi Ross spoke about her role as a full-time caregiver, appreciating the Council's work and stated the Area Agencies on Aging and the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs/SHIP are really helping people in Arizona.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire at 2:21 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is scheduled for May 8, 2015; time and location to be confirmed and announced by public meeting notice posted at the GACA website: www.azgovernor.gov/gaca. These meetings are open to the public.