



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2015

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

Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower

Third Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Council Members, Liaisons, and Participants Present

Becky Brimhall-Lepire (Chair), Charles Brown, Deborah Hankerd, Diane Joens, Teresa Ramirez Lopez, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill, Melinda Preston, Trudy Schuett, Tonya Watson (Vice Chair), C.T. Wright, Cydney DeModica, Jay Dunkleberger, Kristin Fray, Dena R. Benjamin for Amilyn Pierce, and Cindy Saverino

Council Members Absent

Andrew Compton, Patsy Gillis, Deborah Lavinsky, and Allison Perrin

Council Staff Present

Cathy De Lisa, Carolyn Sigler

Guests Present and Signing In

David Besst, Rhonda Coates, and Pat Irwin

Call to Order & Welcome, Review and Approval of June 1, 2015 Draft Meeting Minutes

Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. with a welcome and introductions then called for a review of the June 1, 2015 draft meeting minutes. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to approve the draft minutes; Deborah Hankerd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Introduction of DES Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS) leadership

The Council Chair welcomed DES Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS) Assistant Director Lynn Larson who provided a brief update on DAAS, thanked the Council for their support of the State Plan on Aging, and introduced Rhonda Coates, Deputy Assistant Director of DAAS. According to Ms. Larson, Ms. Coates is focusing on Adult Protective Services at this time and will expand focus in time.

State Plan on Aging 2015-2018 Report Presentation and Discussion

Cindy Saverino, Independent Living Supports Administrator and David Besst, Program Services Manager at DAAS provided an overview and update on the State Plan on Aging 2015-2018.

According to Ms. Saverino and Mr. Besst, the four-year plan outlines the goals and objectives of DAAS, guides service delivery to the aging population in our state, and coordinates the aging network with other networks and resources. The eight (8) goals of the Plan correspond to the goals of Aging 2020. Ms. Saverino reported DES/DAAS is considering the feasibility of separate policies for the 18 tribes that DAAS assists.

A copy of the presentation is available from the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Liaison Reports

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Cydney Demodica reported the Medical Review Program has 30 new trainees to conduct road tests. These individuals received specialized training required for the medical drive evaluations. ADOT asked for a waiver per legislation for the Real ID that was denied. Moving forward, a request has been made for a federal extension to complete revisions.

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) – Olivia Guerrero was unable to attend and Cindy Saverino from DAAS provided copies of the written report from Olivia highlighting updates from Regions II, III, IV, V, and VI. Some of the updates included the impact of funding cuts to programs and staffing at Pima Council on Aging, the announcement of Mary Beals-Luedtka, Area Agency on Aging Northern Arizona Council of Governments invitation to attend the White House Conference on Aging and her role as First Vice President of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Elisa Davis' departure from Western Arizona Council of Governments and the appointment of Gina Whittington as Interim Director, and staffing changes at SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization, Area Agency on Aging. The full written report from the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

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

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

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

Veteran Employment - the Roadmap to Employment continues, implemented by PBS and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. One final training is scheduled for July 21 in the East Valley. In addition, the Veterans Economic Communities Initiative is being led by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with ADVS and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. This initiative promotes employment and economic success for veterans.

Arizona State Veteran Homes - both the Phoenix and Tucson Veteran Home continue to engage with service organizations in the Veteran Community to provide unique and meaningful programming for the veterans in the home. The Phoenix Veterans Home has been expanding their therapeutic gardening program, while the Tucson Veteran Home is adding Music Therapy services once weekly. Plans continue to develop for the future Yuma Veteran Home.

Veterans Cemeteries - these continue to be on schedule for completion in 2016, and the SAVMC is taking applications for Burial Determination for these facilities.

- Dedication for the Marana Cemetery is March 19, 2016
- Dedication for the Northern Arizona Veteran Cemetery at Camp Navajo is June 4, 2016

Past and Future Events

- May 9 – Butterfly Release at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery
- May 25 – Memorial Day Observances at the National Cemetery, Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and the Arizona State Veteran Home
- July 4 – Independence Day Celebration at the ASVH – P included a Flag Raising Ceremony, a Pancake Breakfast, Concerts, and fireworks viewing
- August 16 – International Tribute for the Spirit of 45 Commemoration, marking the 70th Anniversary of the End of WWII
- October 24 – Missing in America Project – internment of remains of unclaimed veterans

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) – Jay Dunkleberger reported updates on Arizona Long Term Care System/ALTCS. According to Mr. Dunkleberger, efforts to update the Olmstead Work Plan have included the Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and AHCCCS. Hearings regarding the revisions will be conducted by AHCCCS in the fall. AHCCCS has conducted preliminary assessments of the home and community based services (HCBS) included under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) final rules. AHCCCS will host a round of public forums throughout the state in August 2015 regarding the HCBS final rules. U.S. Department of Labor has issued clarification on companion exemptions; guidelines expand the role of persons working as companion workers.

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

Attorney General's Office (AG) – Dena R. Benjamin, Chief Counsel of the Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section, attending on behalf of Amilyn Pierce, reported on the work of the Task Force Against Senior Abuse/TASA, outlined work being done to investigate all signs of abuse not just physical, discussed the Getting Arizonans Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) program, and shared outreach efforts including educational presentations and seminars in various parts of the state.

Discussion – Measurable Outcomes & 2015 Focus Areas

Vice Chair Tonya Watson provided a review of the dashboard created to track measurable outcomes of the GACA six areas of focus in 2015. According to the Vice Chair, color coding was added to clearly identify those areas completed (green) and those ongoing (blue) as part of the midyear review. The Vice Chair informed the GACA members that a simple, four-five question email survey would be forthcoming to help measure engagement, and a report out of the information would be provided at the September meeting. A copy of the dashboard is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Council Chair Report

Recommendations from the Executive Committee – the Council Chair provided a review of the seven Senior Action Day event dates and venues proposed:

September 18, 2015 - Tucson Medical Center Senior Services in Tucson

September 25, 201 - Apache Junction Multigenerational Center
September 29, 2015 - Verde Valley Senior Center, Cottonwood
October 5, 2015 - CASA Community Center, Prescott Valley
October 6, 2015 - Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, Kingman
October 6, 2015 - Sunsites Senior & Community Center, Sunsites
It was reported plans are also pending on a South Mountain event possibly at the South Mountain Community Center in Phoenix.

The Council Chair then called for a vote to approve. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to accept the dates and times as presented plus the remaining to be announced event. C.T. Wright seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.*

Review, Discussion and Action on By-Law Amendments – the Council Chair reported that the amended By-Laws had been issued and posted for a 30-day review period then called for a vote to approve. *Lisa O’Neill made a motion to approve the By-Laws as amended; Charles Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.* A copy of the approved By-Laws is available from the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging office.

September Meeting Date Discussion – The Council Chair reported concerns had been shared with staff that meeting attendance would be highly impacted if holding the GACA meetings on Friday, September 11 due to the number of memorial observations and emphasis on volunteerism that day. According to the Council Chair, staff had confirmed the third floor conference room was available on Thursday, September 10 as an alternative date. *Deborah Hankerd made a motion to change the meeting date to Thursday, 9/10 instead of 9/11. Lisa O’Neill seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

Due to the need for a quorum to call the meeting on the rescheduled date and having four absent GACA members at the time, the Council Chair requested the Executive Director poll the full membership and determine the best date.

Overview of Committee Discussion and Consensus on Work Moving Forward – Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire invited the group to provide feedback on the work of the committees and subcommittees and emphasized the importance of input ahead of the Annual Planning meeting in November.

Executive Director’s Office Updates

Executive Director Cathy De Lisa reminded the members that only one meeting remained ahead of the Annual Planning meeting where the group would determine priorities for the next year. Executive Director De Lisa reported a change in staffing due to Executive Assistant Carolyn Sigler’s acceptance of an opportunity outside of state government. Ms. De Lisa expressed appreciation for Ms. Sigler’s professionalism, support and fine quality of work during her time at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging, and stated she knew others joined her in wishing her the best. Ms. Sigler was presented with a card by the Council Chair from the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging.

Ms. De Lisa reported that the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging is authorized by statute through June 2020; she would be asking for consideration to submit justification to rehire.

Council Member Reporting & Sharing

Diane Joens reminded attendees of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments/NACOG annual conference on October 15 in Flagstaff.

Melinda Preston reported on her involvement with Justa Center, a homeless resource center for older adults located just blocks from the state capitol.

Deborah Hankerd reported on the Old Firehouse Senior Center in Tombstone and provided the latest newsletter for all in attendance.

Cathy De Lisa reported GACA staff planned to continue including the liaison agency websites as part of the meeting materials displayed at future meetings so GACA members would have the opportunity to become more familiar with their agencies and their work. Ms. De Lisa then provided a quick review of the White House Conference on Aging web link ahead of the Monday, July 13 conference, the Az Links relaunched website, the AHCCCS stakeholder forums list regarding the HCBS final rules discussed, and the Storybook Tour ITNAmerica website that shares stories being collected about the impact of transportation on the lives of older Americans.

Call to the Public

No input from the public received.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Council Chair Becky Brimhall-Lepire at 2:34 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is scheduled for September 11, 2015; date, 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.