



TACC – Triple-A Council of California
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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – Pending Approval
Vagabond Inn, 909 3rd Street. Sacramento, CA
September 28-29, 2005

- I. Call to Order: The general meeting of the Triple-A Council of California (TACC) was called to order by President Havard Staggs at 9:03 am, September 28, 2005
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Joe Cox.
- III. Roll Call: – A quorum was established. Those present were:

PSA 1 Thea Gast	PSA 19 Patricia Wilson, Alternate
PSA 3 Sharon Thrall	PSA 20 David Wilder
PSA 4 Jacque Brown	PSA 21 Barbara Affolter
PSA 5 Roberta H. Romeo	PSA 22 Dee Erman
PSA 6 Bill Hollabaugh, Alternate	PSA 23 Doris Payne-Camp, Alternate
PSA 7 Vernon Jones	PSA 25 Edward Woods
PSA 10 Anne Mack, Alternate	PSA 26 Roberta King
PSA 12 Joan Bowen	PSA 28 Richard Lundin
PSA 12 Havard Staggs, Alternate	PSA 31 Joseph A. Cox
PSA 13 George “Bud” Winslow	PSA 32 Robert Petty, Alternate
PSA 16 Kathryn Williams	PSA 33 Margaret A. Mooney
PSA 18 Don Hunt, Alternate	
- IV. Introductions, Announcements:

Guests present were Jim Romeo and Lee Thrall.
Richard Lundin is now a member of the California Commission on Aging.
- V. Approve Agenda: Moved by Romeo, seconded by King: unanimous.
- VI. Approve Minutes of July 27-28, 2005: Moved by Winslow, seconded by Woods: one abstention.
- VII. Correspondence: None.

PSA Reports:

PSA 20: Wilder reported that the new AAA Director is Coleen Krygier. A new building is to be built. The nutrition provider quit; looking for a permanent replacement.

PSA 25: Woods reported that the committee structure of the Advisory Council has been revised to fit the Area Plan; staff and contractors are included in the committee membership.

PSA 19: Wilson reported that Advisory Council committees include members of the public.

PSA 1: Gast reported that a Transportation Committee has been established. A program of Senior Bus Days educates people on the use of buses, encouraging the use thereof, with a brochure on the subject.

PSA 28: Lundin reported that they have a roaming class on transportation without cars.

PSA 13: Winslow spoke of the value of cars with a feature that the headlights go on when the windshield wipers are activated.

PSA 10: Wilson raised the issue of hardship faced by people who drive to the DMV and fail the driving test, then have no way to get home. She also spoke of the Health Fair held in Santa Clara County.

PSA 18: Hunt reported on the restructuring of the home delivered meal program wherein food except for salad and fruit is delivered frozen.

VIII. Overview of Medicare Part D presented by Bonnie Burns, Training and Policy Specialist, California Health Advocates (CHA)

Ms. Burns, of California Health Advocates, provided considerable detail on Medicare Part D, the new prescription drug benefit program which starts January 1, 2006 with a sign-up period beginning 11/15/2005 and ending 5/15/2006.

There will be many approved plans both by Preferred Provider Organizations and also in the form of Private Fee for Service Plans. These differ in cost – premiums, deductibles and copayments – and drug formularies. There are Medicare Advantage plans including a category of Special Needs Plans. There is a Low Income Subsidy component, as well.

Everyone eligible for Medicare needs to evaluate the need to participate in the program even if not using prescription drugs because there is a penalty for signing up after 5/15/2006.

People with existing prescription drug plans should be hearing from their providers regarding any changes to their plan as a consequence of Medicare Part D; in particular, some should not sign up for Part D.

What was very clear from Ms. Burns presentation is that Medicare Part D is very complex, and that the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will play a very important role in helping people make decisions around this new benefit.

IX. PSA Reports were scattered through the meeting as time permitted.

X. Committee Reports

Wilder reported that the Legislative Committee asks that a list of bills considered by TACC be posted to the web site. Wilder moved that a letter be sent to the Governor in support of AB 778 (Mullin) which prevents auto insurance carriers from treating use of autos in providing in-home supportive services as common-carrier services; Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The committee also suggested that having a legislative analyst as a participant at local legislative committee meetings can be very useful.

Hunt reported in writing for the SB910 LRSPA Monitoring Update Committee; the report is made a part of these Minutes. He also noted that the California Commission on Aging web site is very out-of-date so that it is hard to know about this activity.

King reported that there is no information from the Older Californians Act Implementation Committee.

XI. Older Adult Traffic & Safety Task Force Report – Roberta King

King spoke about the three-tier driving test that started with Governor Davis and was extended under the leadership of the CHP.

XII. California Senior Legislature Report – Ed Woods

Woods reported that the Annual Session is on track. The CSL has its own office at 1020 N Street, Suite 513. CSL is still negotiating with the State Controller regarding fiscal management of the CSL. There is considerable concern that the CSL may not meeting the minimum contribution level required to maintain its state income tax check-off (line 54), and is asking for a one-year extension.

Mack reported that five bills attributed to CSL proposals have been passed by the legislature, and that SB1018 (Simitian) mandating elder financial abuse reporting and AB205 (Ruskin) requiring denture identification have been signed by the Governor.

XIII. California Commission on Aging Report

Lundin, as a new Commissioner, will be able to report in the future.

XIV. PSA Reports:

PSA 4: Brown reported that funding in her 7-county area has been cut as a consequence of population shifts in California, with a 28% budget cut; rural counties are being hit too hard. King suggested bringing this to the attention of the California department of Aging.

PSA 13: Winslow reported that one contractor is celebrating 40 years of service. The County is asking for an increase in Medicare reimbursements.

PSA 16: Williams reported that her PSA is also being hit by reduced funding due to population shifts.

PSA 21: Affolter reported that she, too, feels that adding staff and the public to committees helps. Her Advisory Council has created a policy and procedures handbook.

XV. Discussion and possible action regarding California Attorney General's Opinion 05-501 led by Allison Ruff, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care

Ms. Ruff as well as the Chair of the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, Assemblywoman Patty Berg, have worked in area agencies on aging and with that background want to be sure that Advisory Councils can do their task of advocacy as specified in California statute.

Wilder commented that in San Bernardino County the Board of Supervisors has decided that BOS approval is required before the Council can advocate on legislation. The BOS doesn't want the Council to advocate for anything that would cost the County money. It helped to bring the legislative analyst into the process with the Council.

Payne suggested that the process in San Diego is similar, and that the process can be lengthy, such that the issue may be dead before approval is granted. There is an "approved list" that can speed up the process.

Hollabaugh noted that in San Francisco the process depends on politics of the day.

Winslow said that in Santa Clara there are no restrictions.

Wilson suggested that when Council members are appointed by the supervisors, they may become bound thereby.

Staggs reminded the group that the issue arose when in Orange County the Board of Supervisors refused to take a position on SB1018 because "it wasn't core County business".

Wilder said that in San Bernardino County the Board of Supervisors controls with whom you can advocate, not on what subject.

Sandi Fitzpatrick weighed in with the question of the definition of advocacy – it is education? Is it legislative support?

Ms. Ruff suggested that the best solution is to involve the governing board in working with the council.

Petty and Payne both had positive results after establishing more visibility with their boards of supervisors.

Staggs reported from Assembly Member Chuck DeVore that a verbal opinion is that TACC has the right to do legislative advocacy.

XVI. Financial Report – Margaret Mooney, Treasurer

Report given following Executive Director's report.

XVII. Executive Director's Report – Sandi Fitzpatrick

Ms. Fitzpatrick presented to Hollabaugh a gavel mounted on a plaque in appreciation of his service as President of TACC. Bill was suitably overwhelmed.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported on several items. The California Commission on Aging meets in San Diego for one final hearing before the White House Conference on Aging. With the impending departure of the CSL from the CCoA Office, there will be some cleaning up to do with respect to staff and assignments thereto. The resulting staff will be four people, with one vacancy at this time.

There are changes with the California Commission on Aging – Mary Dennison and Barbara Lundeen are leaving, and Richard Lundin (Napa), Karen Josephson (Long Beach), and Cheryl Phillips (Carmichael) are joining.

Delegate training for the White House Conference on Aging is Monday, November 7. Unfortunately, there's not enough money to do the job properly. Kim Belshe (Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency) and Dorcas Hardy (Chairman of WHCOA Policy Committee) will participate. This conference is more controlled than previous conferences. There will be a caucus of the California delegation Sunday before the Conference.

Six topics of the Conference are being reviewed by the California delegation:

- Economic security
- Our community
- Workforce of the future
- Health and long term living
- Social engagement
- Volunteerism

CSL is having its 25th Annual Session next month. CSL faces some serious challenges: its funding through the FTB is in question, and while CSL has accepted the Controller's proposal for fiscal management, the Controller has not yet agreed.

(XVI.) Treasurer's report – Margaret Mooney

Income is still less than last year, although with the carry-over from the previous year TACC is generally OK. Romeo moved to accept the report, Lundin seconded, and the motion passed.

XVIII. Presentation on SB840, Single-payer Health Care Coverage, by Sara Elizabeth Rogers, Health Consultant, Office of CA State Senator Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles

Ms. Rogers spoke about the provisions of SB 840 (Kuehl), the single-payer health insurance initiative, for seniors, children, everyone. Current problems include such as the fact that signing up for Medicare Part D can cause loss of HMO coverage; government procedures seem more designed to prevent coverage than to help people; we are the only industrialized country not providing health care for all; employers often can't afford coverage; health care costs are rising about twice as fast as the economy.

We still spend twice as much per person as any other country; no other country allows health care costs to cause people to go bankrupt. We talk only about who pays, not why costs are not controlled. A spending level of \$184 billion per year could cover everyone. Our health care is actually substandard – we are not getting the best care in the world. Our emergency services wait times exceed those of other countries.

This bill would consolidate and streamline procedures. Managed care has resulted in huge administrative costs – physicians can do a better job. 30% of health care expense goes to administrative costs! The bill is expected to save \$20 billion in the first year. A report from the Lewin Group confirms this.

SB840 would encourage investment in preventive care; such is not found in the HMO care plans. Kaiser does much better than other in preventive care, and VA is the best care system in the world presently. Private insurers have no incentive to cover preventive care.

The proposed system would consolidate all health care money to the state which then would become the insurer. You could use any physician. It would be a public system with transparency through a state health care advisory board.

The bill is currently in the State Assembly as a two-year bill. It offers coverage based on residency; premiums based on income or payroll; no copay or deductible in the first two years; and better payments to physicians. Care at home is covered. Doctors' costs go down because there is less paperwork and a single formulary.

There's more at <http://www.healthcareforall.org>. Ms. Rogers can be reached at sara.rogers@sen.ca.gov.

XIX. Communication with TACC Members

The objective is to use electronic communications by fax or email wherever possible, as a cost-saving measure. Staggs will send a letter explaining this to all members.

XX. Public Comment

Erman asked how many directors serve a one year term – a straw poll showed six.

Brown asked if we will have the opportunity to hear about opposition to SB840 – it was agreed that the answer is yes.

Staggs recognized Roberta King for her service to TACC as she leaves.

XXI. PSA Reports

PSA 23: Payne spoke of concerns in her area: housing, particularly reduction to Section 8 housing; condo conversions; condo conversions. Prop 46 was supposed to help with affordable housing, but hasn't done so. Adult Day Health Care is short of money, especially in the mental health area.

PSA 3: Thrall reported that PSA 3 has a new Executive Director, Joe Cobery. They've had some success in getting mental health money for the Senior Companions program.

PSA 10: Mack reported on a Medicare Part D presentation. VA gets drugs for 50% less than Medicare. Network of Care web site has had over 10,000 hits.

PSA 32: Petty reported that the Director and Council members are doing a "World Tour" – visiting the county supervisors as well as the several city councils to explain the AAA and its work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hollabaugh, Recording Secretary

**Next Meetings: November 14-17, 2005 Irvine, CA
 Allied Conference, Irvine Marriott.
 TACC meeting scheduled for Nov 17, 2005**

January 25-26, Sacramento

Coordinated Leadership Conference is April 25-27.

9/20/2005

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LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN ON AGING COMMITTEE REPORT

The California Commission on Aging (CCOA) presented their progress report to the legislature on the implementation of the Long Range Strategic Plan On Aging (LRSPA) on June 21, 2005.

(Here is a brief overview of the purpose of the hearing)

Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care
Informational Hearing

Progress Report: The California Commission on Aging and the Long-Range Strategic Plan on Aging

In 1999, the Legislature passed SB 910 (Vasconcellos - Chapter 984, Statutes of 1999) which mandated that the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) develop a statewide strategic plan on aging for long-term planning purposes. To support the plan's development, SB 910 appropriated funding to the University of California to provide information and analysis - including a survey of existing statewide resources and programs, a composite profile of California's population, and a variety of working papers on certain issue areas.

HHSA began the plan development process in December of 2002 through the creation of a plan development task team to advise HHSA in the developing recommendations to be included in the strategic plan. The task team included a number of key stakeholders from the aging network. Over an eleven month period, the task team and experts developed 589 policy and action recommendations across multiple subject areas.

Throughout the development of the LRSPA, the California Commission on Aging was tasked with monitoring the plan and holding public hearings on the draft recommendations. SB 910 required that the Legislature be updated on the progress towards the development of the LRSPA. The informational hearing will provide an overview of the Commission's work to-date, and next steps.

Current status of the LRSPA process is:

The CCOA is evaluating their responsibility and role in the implementation and monitoring process of the LRSPA (SB910). They plan to continue their primary role of monitoring but with an expanded emphasis on consumer input.

9/20/2005

Some of the designated task teams are continuing to meet and function with staff assistance from the CCOA; these include:

Oral Health: Paul Glassman, meeting Friday, October 14, 10 to 3pm, @ Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento

Senior Financial / Investment Fraud: Dick Ryder, made presentation at July TACC meeting, presenting report to WHCOA in December

Transportation: Peter Steinert, split into sub-committees and meet monthly, using conference calling for those unable to attend meetings

Housing: Alisha Sanders, she has moved and her role will be filled by her replacement, using conference calling for those unable to attend meetings

Assistive Technology: Michael Sheffield, made presentation to TACC at previous meeting

Long Term Care: BethMann,

Mental Health: Maureen Price,

Wellness Prevention: Laurie Vazquez,

The task team chairs are planning to meet on a quarterly basis.

TACC's role in the future will be to participate with the CCOA and to provide input into the process, as noted above with the added emphasis on consume input.

The CCOA has indicated that they will be contacting and working with TACC in the future on various field hearings.

LRSPA Committee:

Bill Hollabaugh
Don Hunt
David Wilder