



TACC – Triple-A Council of California
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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Vagabond Inn, 909 3rd Street. Sacramento, CA
January 25-26, 2006

- I. Call to Order: The general meeting of the Triple-A Council of California (TACC) was called to order by President Havard Staggs at 9:00 am, January 25, 2006
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Lundin.
- III. Roll Call: – A quorum was established. Those present were:

PSA 3 Sharon Thrall	PSA 17 Martin Tucker, Alternate
PSA 5 Roberta H. Romeo	PSA 18 Arnold Robles
PSA 6 Bill Hollabaugh, Alternate	PSA 18 Don Hunt, Alternate
PSA 7 Joanna Kim-Selby, Alternate	PSA 19 Peter McGrath
PSA 8 Arline Elliott	PSA 20 David Wilder
PSA 10 Anne Mack	PSA 22 Dee Erman
PSA 11 Terry Sonnefield	PSA 23 Jack Duff
PSA 12 Joan Bowen	PSA 25 Edward Woods
PSA 12 Havard Staggs, Alternate	PSA 28 Richard Lundin
PSA 13 George “Bud” Winslow	PSA 31 Joseph A. Cox, Alternate
PSA 15 Suzann Wray	PSA 32 Robert Petty, Alternate
PSA 15 Leonard Smith, Alternate	PSA 33 Margaret A. Mooney
PSA 16 Kathryn Williams	
- IV. Introductions, Announcements:

Wilder was elected to a two-year term as Chairman of his Advisory Council.

Lundin called attention to the hearing to be held in San Francisco by the California Commission on Aging on the subject “Disaster Preparedness”.

Erman was reelected Chair of her Advisory Council.

Wilder spoke about the recommendations of the State Independent Living Council for change to Medical waiver laws.

Staggs announced that dinner would be at the Clarion.
- V. Approve Agenda: Moved by Romeo, seconded by Williams: unanimous.
- VI. Approve Minutes of November 17-18, 2005: Moved by Duff, seconded by Robles: two abstentions.
- VII. Correspondence: None.
- VIII. SB840: As a follow up to the September presentation favoring this legislation, Tim Conaghan, Health Consultant to the State Senate Republican Caucus presented an opposing perspective.

He argued that philosophically it leads to more government involvement and that pragmatically it just won’t work.

For the patient: there would be less incentive to reduce costs through preventive care measures; people need to have greater financial responsibility for their own care. There would be fewer choices as government would attempt to control costs. Also, California could become a magnet for people from other states needing health care.

For the providers: there would be less incentive to undertake healthcare as a profession

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because fees would probably be capped.

All private health insurance would end. With rates being capped, there would be less incentive for investment in new healthcare solutions.

The bill is opposed by CMS, the Republican Caucus, and health care plans. Hospitals favor the bill.

IX. California Commission on Aging:

Sandi Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the California Commission on Aging, presented the Commission's Operational Plan for 2006-2007. This six-page document is available from the Commission, and describes for major objectives for the period: to update administrative procedures, to advocate for the implementation of the SB 910 Strategic Plan, to organize the California delegation to the December 2005 White House Conference on Aging, and to rejuvenate the coordinated advocacy activity with TACC and C4A.

Lundin provided more comment on the upcoming San Francisco meeting of the Commission. The transition of the California Senior Legislature required by 7/1/06 is still to happen; there is no agreement with the State Controller to take on the task of CSL management yet. The annual CSL legislative session may be redesigned to reduce expense. There is also a potential worker's compensation claim against the CSL which is self-covered.

CSL elections are to be held in April, with the same money available to the AAA's as in prior years. The term of office of CSL members will now be four years.

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided handouts of the budget/expenses showing that TACC is operating within its budget. Also distributed was a report on the contributions to the California Special Fund (line 52 of the California tax return) showing that contributions were down by about 3.6% for 2005 compared to 2004.

Mileage rate for auto travel is now 34¢ per mile.

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided a list of the 73 resolutions passed by the White House Conference on Aging; the web site lists the top ten issues.

- X. Treasurer's Report: this was covered during the report of Sandi Fitzpatrick. Mooney drew attention to some details of the report.
- XI. California Senior Legislature Report: Cox reported for Ed Woods that the CSL visited every legislator passing out books with proposals that were passed in the October session. The CSL is also concentrating on raising money.
- XII. Older Adult Traffic & Safety Task Force Report: Staggs was not able to attend the last task force meeting. Mack reported that the CHP has a program for older adults.
- XIII. Discussion of SB 840 Presentation: This discussion continued after the presentation with the general sentiment being that the presenter had not made a strong case for his point of view.
- XIV. Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

The Legislative committee had met prior to the meeting, and considered a number bills currently in the legislature on which TACC could take a position. The Committee's recommendations, presented by Wilder, and TACC's actions:

1. AB10 (Daucher) Appropriate facility placement standards. Recommend watch, with TACC agreeing.
2. AB53 (McLeod) Regulatory programs: boards and commissions. Recommend watch with

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TACC agreeing.

3. AB63 (Strickland) Elderly and disabled home improvement program. Recommend watch, with TACC agreeing.
4. AB72 (Frommer, Chan) Prescription drugs: clinical trials. . Recommend watch, with TACC agreeing.
5. AB1112 (Cohn) Vehicles: disabled persons and disabled veterans: parking. . Recommend support, with TACC agreeing.
6. AJR40 (Chan) Medicare prescription drugs. . Recommend support, with TACC agreeing.
7. SB51 (Kuehl) Real property: rentals. Recommend watch, with TACC agreeing.
8. SB374 (Alquist) Residential care facilities for the elderly: evaluations. Amendment requested to require timely collection of fines and fees levied: passed with one abstention.

SB910 LRSPA Monitoring Update Committee

Hunt reported that the Transportation Task Team is working on change in funding for non-emergency medical transportation.

XV. PSA Reports:

Lundin, PSA 28 - AAA is running a successful ethnic feeding program. The Vallejo Roundtable is to bring a \$50,000 grant to FAST (Financial Abuse Specialist Team).

Wilder, PSA 20 - the distribution of shelf-stable meals has had considerable interest in his area.

Mack, PSA 10 spoke of a three-month trial program whereby seniors can ride free on public transportation during non-commute hours.

Romeo, PSA 8 reported that Home Depot provided 1000 back packs for disaster preparedness at their Senior Day. She described Jackie Speier's "Seniors on the Move" conference. Her AAA has a Network of Care web site.

Petty, PSA 32, distributed copies of his HICapsules newsletter. He reports that attendance at meal sites is declining.

Williams, PSA 16, addressed transportation issues.

XVI. Update on Medicare Modernization Act/HICAL Activities: Janet Nelson, Project Coordinator with California Health Advocates, addressed the group.

Medicare Part D is a disaster, particularly for the so-called medi-medi (Medicare/MediCal) eligible people. Not all were auto-enrolled as promised; many medications have not been covered; sometimes the local drug store can't be used. There have been computer failures. The 800 information number has given incorrect information. Pharmacists have been caught in the middle, and there are many tales of pharmacists providing drugs with assurance of reimbursement. There are no accommodations for non-English speakers. Emergency legislation to provide temporary assistance is underway in 20 states.

There are around a million medi-medi eligibles in California, with 1000 being added each month.

There are many horror stories. Many trips to the emergency room are made because people can't get medicine. Some plans are expected to drop out.

The meeting was suspended until Thursday, January 26, 9am.

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XVII. Public Comment

Mack has election letters addresses to AAA directors.

Wilder spoke of a ballot initiative that proposes an onerous procedure for complain about ADA access problems. The complainant must pay half the cost of an arbiter selected b the business.

Kim-Selby spoke of the need to dispose of hazardous substances properly.

XVIII. White House Conference on Aging: Hunt

Hunt listed participants who are also members of TACC: Winslow, Hunt, Mack, Jacque Brown, Kim-Selby, and Petty; as an alternate to the Conference, Lundin. The purpose of the Conference was to develop recommendations for the President. It was a smaller conference than in the past. For the first time, there were commercial exhibitors; it was also the first time the Conference was not attended by the President. 73 resolutions were considered of which 50 were approved.

Winslow commented that the 73 resolutions were sent out the day before the Conference leaving little time for studying them. The meeting was totally controlled, with no discussion of the proposals.

Petty reported on the small group discussions on implementation which did get down to specifics. There was emphasis on integration of services.

Kim-Selby reported that there was significant discussion of mental health issues.

The Kaiser Family Foundation has a video of the conference. [Go to www.kff.org and search for "whcoa"; links show up on right sidebar.]

Hunt said that there is a report due out in June with information from the break-out sessions.

XIX. PSA Reports:

McGrath, PSA 19 - Advisory Council has 75 to 100 with about 10 standing committees. A Nutrition Committee visits nutrition sites.

Cox, PSA 31, talked about a successful holiday event. Merced College has a Medicare Part D class to train people as Part D counselors without being ombudsmen. Advisory Council includes CSL members and regularly meets with state legislators and congress members.

Winslow, PSA 31 spoke about a new program to get surplus products from clothing stores, manufacturers, and other businesses for low-income people.

Kim-Selby, PSA 7 talked about a stroke education program on TV. She notes that AARP tax preparers are not keen on line 54, and pointed out that IRS regulations prohibit promoting individual lines.

Erman, PSA 22 - the advocacy problem that TACC worked on earlier still remains.

Staggs, PSA 12 - Alpine County wants to withdraw from their joint powers agreement.

Thrall, PSA 3, reports that hers is another AAA with five counties, has a new Director. Reorganization of the nutrition program has been assisted by a local hospital. Part D issues are hard there, too.

Robles, PSA 18 – nutrition program revised because of high cost; they went to private vendors and have reduced the cost to \$4.50 to \$5.00 – a success. Pepperdine University students surveyed the AAA and suggested a program of outreach, as the AAA is unknown in the area.

Sonnefield, PSA 11, reported that they have no HICAP, as Sacramento gets all the money. Their ombudsman program is dying with bureaucratic problems.

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Mooney, PSA 33, reported that Debbie Stevenson is their new Director. They had a successful senior fair.

Hollabaugh, PSA 6, reported that the integration of the Department of Adult and Aging Services into the Human Services Agency seems to have had a positive effect.

XX. The meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Hollabaugh, Recording Secretary

**Next Meetings: March 15-16, 2006, Sacramento
Coordinated Leadership Conference is April 25-27 in Concord at the
Concord Hilton Hotel.**