



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Vagabond Inn, 909 3rd Street, Sacramento, CA

April 30 – May 1, 2008

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

1. Call to Order

President Schofield called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum

Present:

PSA 1 – Jeff Davis	PSA 13 – Bud Winslow
PSA 4 – Mary Jane Large	PSA 15 – Sharon Lamagno
PSA 4 – Jacque Brown	PSA 17 – Martin Tucker
PSA 5 – Patricia Lewis	PSA 18 – Tony Bellasalma
PSA 6 – George Schofield	PSA 20 – Walter Johnson, Jr.
PSA 7 – Gerald Richards	PSA 21 – Erwin Fromm
PSA 8 – May Nichols	PSA 26 – Patricia Jauregui-Darland
PSA 10 – Anne Mack	PSA 30 – Billie Taylor
PSA 11 – Joe Murphy	PSA 31 – Rick Dahlgren
PSA 12 – Marge Depew	PSA 33 – Marti Overfield

Guests: Carrie Lopez, Allison Ruff, Paul Downey, Gary Passmore

Staff: Sandi Fitzpatrick, Marcella Lopez, Carol Sewell.

A quorum was established.

4. Introductions, Announcements

Attendees introduced themselves. Marge Depew suggested a sympathy card be sent to former TACC member Mary Van Loon.

5. Approve Agenda

The TACC Agenda for April 30 – May 1, 2008 was reviewed. Large moved; Lewis seconded the motion to approve the April 30 -May 1, 2008 agenda. Motion approved.

6. Approve Minutes of January 23-24, 2008 Meeting

The TACC minutes from January 23 - 24, 2008 were reviewed. Lewis moved; Overfield seconded the motion to approve the January 23 - 24, 2008 minutes. Motion approved with one abstention.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Executive Committee Report

President Schofield announced the appointment of Sharon Lamagno to fill a vacancy on the Nominating Committee.

9. Senior Legal Hotline – Request for Support

President Schofield presented a letter requesting support for full funding for the Senior Legal Hotline. Winslow moved; Mack seconded the motion to support the Senior Legal Hotline's funding request. Motion approved with two abstentions.

10. Treasurer's Report/Fiscal Update

Tucker distributed the California Seniors Special Fund tax check-off report through March. Fitzpatrick reported that the TACC balance in the California Foundation on Aging was overstated by \$1,000. Tucker noted concerns that TACC's carryover balance would soon be depleted. There is no money left to spend on meetings this year other than to continue using carry over funds. TACC meetings average about \$5,000 a meeting. Tucker reported the current balance is \$71,000.

Lewis and Mack reported their tax contributions to the tax check-off were returned.

Bud Winslow moved/Rick Dahlgren seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

11. TACC Budget Projections 2008-2009 and Financial Realities - Sandra Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick suggested three options for TACC's viability: legislative change, increase revenues and/or decrease costs. One cost-saving option is to hold fewer meetings. TACC members discussed alternative meeting formats, meeting content, and revenue generation. Discussion was tabled until later in the meeting.

12. TACC Meeting Schedule 2008-2009

The TACC meeting schedule for 2008-2009 was reviewed. TACC members proposed holding four meetings per year to accommodate budget constraints. Tucker moved/Fromm seconded the motion to reduce TACC's yearly meetings to four.

13. California Commission on Aging Report

Fitzpatrick provided an update on CCoA activities, reporting on CCoA's coordination with the State Independent Living Council on a meeting in February and a public hearing on accessible housing in April.

14. California Senior Legislature Report

Dahlgren reported on CSL activities, including the new CSL newsletter and work of the Fundraising Committee. Mack reported on CSL supported legislation.

15. Legislative Committee of the Whole

Large reviewed TACC's legislative packet and reported her findings that changing the State's practice of withholding federal aging program funds until a budget is passed would require lobbying at the Congressional level, which would not be possible for TACC to organize on its own. Members were urged to ask their county supervisors to take up the issue.

TACC reviewed the following legislation:

AB 1900- Nava
SB 977 - Correa
SB 2160 - Carter
SCR 112 - Padilla
SCR 77 – Lowenthal

Tucker moved to send letters of support on AB 1900, AB 2160, SCR 112 and SCR 77, with a "watch" position on SB 977/Mack seconded. Motion approved.

AB 2149 - Berg
AB 2150 - Berg
SB 1140 - Steinberg
AB 2100 - Wolk
AB 2105 - DeSaulnier
SB 1343 – Battin

Jauregui-Darland moved to send letters of support on AB 2149, AB 2150, and SB 1140, and to take a "watch" position on AB 2100, AB 2105, SB 1343/ Nichols seconded. Motion approved.

AB 2101 - Wolk
AB 2370 - Bass
AB 2598 - Leno

Tucker moved to support AB 2101 and AB 2370, and to watch AB 2598/ Fromm seconded. Motion approved.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

President Schofield reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

16. Carrie Lopez, Director, California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) DCA's Resources for Seniors

Director Lopez provided an overview of the Department of Consumer Affairs' mission and the range of services available to assist older consumers.

- DCA's Consumer Services Center (www.consumer-sc.ca.gov) provides regulation of and consumer information on a broad range of issues, including health professions, auto repair, cosmetology, financial issues, and consumer protection through 38 separate regulatory boards.
- Home mortgage foreclosures are a significant issue for Californians; information on loans/foreclosures and guidance is available at www.yourhome.ca.gov.
- General consumer questions answered at consumer hotline 1-800-952-5210.
- Emergency recovery and reconstruction information will soon be available through a hotline.
- Scam buster kits have been assembled by DCA and copies distributed.
- Renter's rights information is available through the department as well.

17. Setting the strategic and tactical TACC Direction and Focus for 2008-2009 following the information we have been provided

President Schofield led a discussion about budget constraints on the TACC meeting scheduling and the organization's goals. Fitzpatrick reviewed statutory definitions of the TACC and CSL and noted the statutory focus on the advisory councils' function at the local level. The group reviewed alternative meeting formats: one-day meetings versus 1 ½-day meetings, more focused PSA reports, coordinating TACC meetings with CSL meetings, and greater emphasis on member education and less on legislation. Because delayed passage of the State Budget was anticipated, staff recommended TACC meet in mid-late summer and that TACC meet again with C4A in November.

Overfield moved to have next meeting be 1 ½ days/Winslow seconded the motion. Motion approved with one opposed and two abstentions.

Winslow moved to schedule the upcoming TACC meeting for September 10-11/ Dahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposed and two abstentions.

Lewis moved to schedule a subsequent meeting for November 17 and 18 with the C4A meeting/Lamagno seconded. The motion was approved with one opposed.

Topic suggestions:

TACC members discussed the focus of future meetings, speaking in support of legislative review, educational speakers, and PSA reports as information exchange. Proposed presentation topics included:

- elder abuse
- paperwork reduction at PSA levels (vendor impacts)
- budget shortfall explanations
- fundraising and development for para-governmental organizations with communications limits
- Department of Motor Vehicles ombudsman
- tax check-off status
- disaster preparation for seniors
- follow-up legislative overview of budget outcomes
- Legislators on both sides debating options
- Assembly Member Wolk on elder abuse
- PSA4's Baby Boomer Research by Will Tift

The group agreed to devote a greater portion of meetings to PSA reports.

Large moved to allow each member to present a 10-minute long PSA report with hand-outs (if possible), reporting on one or two major non-budgetary problems and highlighting the top two activities offered within the service community/ Depew – seconded the motion. Approved with one 'No' vote. President Schofield offered to schedule time in November to review the budget for FY '08-'09 before planning the second half of the year's meetings.

18. Nominating Committee Report

Mack announced that the Nominating Committee will mail the proposed slate of officers at least 30 days prior to the next meeting.

19. PSA Reports

The following reports were presented before the Triple-A Council of California.

PSA 33 –Overfield reported that the area plan was approved. Plans are underway for Kern County Commission on Aging Foundation Senior Celebration, funded through \$6,000 in solicitations community-wide. May 23 will hold the first of two annual "Injury-Speak" events to law enforcement and health providers on elder abuse. Commission's meetings are held at senior centers around the county. The Advisory Council is currently undertaking a big West Nile Virus prevention and education effort at all senior centers. The county had the highest WNV rates in 2007. The County Department of Aging is providing over 5,000 congregate meals per week with good meal site attendance. Preparations are underway for cooling centers; little need for warming centers last year. Invitations to county department heads to attend advisory council meetings have been accepted. Volunteers are being recognized at each center.

PSA 31 –Dahlgren announced the Advisory Council Chair Les Papazian had resigned. Dahlgren will run for Advisory Council chair at the next meeting. May 7th is the Senior Recognition luncheon. The council recently held a training session on Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act programs for seniors. A mold problem at a senior meeting site was quickly addressed by county staff. He reported the Area Agency was about to finalize the Area Plan Update.

PSA 13 –Winslow reported on a Solutions Summit that brought together 100 people from senior programs in Santa Cruz County to identify overlap and program shortfalls. The meeting involved workgroups to identify priorities and solutions along with implementation steps. The event had positive feedback from attendees and good coverage in the local newspaper. Priority concerns identified include Proposition 98's proposed elimination of rent control and aging in place. A senior citizen inventory and emergency contact plan for Capitola is under development. The emergency contact plan will be available to first responders and includes plans to assist remote residents and will address medication and physician access.

PSA 1 –Davis reported on the new Executive Director at Area 1 and the agency's plan to move to a new building. The board is considering re-naming the Area Agency. Davis sits on a senior center board in Del Norte County, where there is a need to increase meal allocations with no additional funding. The weatherization program is going well. A disaster preparedness presentation was offered by the county Emergency Services director, where the issues of reaching remote elders, where to take people, pandemics and other emergencies were raised.

PSA 30 –Taylor stated that Stanislaus County had attempted to pass a ¼ cent sales tax for transportation and senior services in 2006, which was defeated. The measure has been re-introduced this year without a senior component; an attempt by the AAA and AARP to reinstate the language revealed that election laws prevented amending the existing measure. The AAA had identified unspent funds that could be accessible for senior programs, and other fundraising efforts were underway. She reported that the advisory council was reviewing RFPs.

PSA 5 –Lewis shared the PSA's newsletter. A seminar on driver improvement and driving alternatives was offered by a driving rehabilitation counselor, a policeman, a social worker, and paratransit and shuttle service representatives. Forty-eight attended; the PSA plans to do three more in the coming year. A conference was planned for May.

PSA 26 –Jauregui-Darland said the Advisory Council continues to rebuild membership after the Area Agency’s structural change. With no Lake County representative, the chairmanship cannot alternate between counties as required on a yearly basis. The council is working on a payment source for shingles vaccinations; educating people about the virus and advocating for low cost clinics to provide vaccines. Transportation is a current issue under study in several coalition meetings. The AAA is partnering with Mendocino County Health to prepare ‘grab & go’ kits to keep seniors safe for 72 hours without assistance. Increasing mobile home park rents, land conversions, and redevelopment plans without senior housing makes senior housing a concern in the region. The Advisory Council has good opportunities for partnership and information gathering; the hope is to develop major initiatives in the coming year. Critical access hospital designation for two local hospitals has changed admission/discharge criteria, limiting access for many services. One senior nutrition program closed for non-compliance; AAA tried to assist but the provider was unable to fulfill the contract. Only one nutrition site remains open in Mendocino County.

PSA 4 –Large commented that her PSA has the most counties (7), the greatest demographic diversity in the state, and is fast growing. The Advisory Council is working on how to meet current senior needs and how to prepare for baby boomers. Many senior communities are under development in the region. The council has compiled information on numbers and demographics of what future senior populations will look like to help local governments prepare. The report preparation and printing was assisted by Eskaton and Hank Fischer Properties.

PSA 18 –Bellasalma reported that the State Budget has resulted in grant reductions. The PSA called a public meeting to inform and take input from providers. 40-50 people came; they are unable to answer many questions until a budget solution is proposed. The Advisory Council was recently reorganized, resulting in new bylaws and five committees that will report back to a full board. The Advisory Council is beginning the process of meeting in each city.

PSA 7 –Richards reported that quarterly community forums began this year. A Mental Health forum in January drew 150 people. The second was in April and focused on elder financial abuse and featured representatives from law enforcement, District Attorney’s Office, and a law school clinic that does Elder financial abuse. The Advisory Council’s Housing work group has developed guidelines for use in developing all new senior/multi-family housing projects. Health workgroup is developing its second program on strokes; focusing on prevention. The Transportation workgroup is waiting for a federal grant approval to develop a one-stop mobility management center for accessing transportation services. Local transit authorities are in support and Senior Legal Services is arbitrating the first planning session. The Legislative workgroup has two CSL members and actively supports CSL bills, with no restrictions imposed by the county supervisors to date. Scambuster kits were given to county supervisors, who were invited to a scam prevention forum. The council has disaster kits that are bucket/portable toilet filled with necessary supplies.

PSA 17 –Tucker reported on his area agency’s search for a contracts manager. A Medication Education RFP got no response, although the AAA is required to provide this service. A Caregiver Retreat sponsored by AARP and the AAA was successful. An aging symposium is being planned by a coalition including county supervisors, AARP, and a local foundation. CDA Director Daucher has been invited and the event will involve 140 stakeholders from the aging community, philanthropic organizations, etc., to help share information on program needs and funding concerns. The second annual Senior Prom - Alzheimer’s Foundation fundraiser is being planned. The “Step Aboard” senior transportation education program was developed to help seniors plan public transportation use. In 2007 began a “Safeguarding our Elders Against Abuse” seminar. Senior-friendly communities and aging-friendly community programs are being pursued. The council works with businesses about advertising themselves as ‘senior-friendly’ businesses; the promotion generates business and shares information on what makes senior communities friendly.

PSA 21 –Fromm attended a Falls Prevention program as TACC’s representative at the C4A coordinated leadership conference in April. The Riverside AAA was awarded a multi-year–CHHS grant for an Aging & Disability Resource Center. The grant runs through 2011 and creates a one-stop resource center. On July 1, Riverside will get bids for assistive devices through a federal program. The “Desert Women for Equality” program is making mammogram screening available for all uninsured and underinsured women.

The Office on Aging has open enrollment for SCECP retraining, to help older people return to the workplace.

PSA 11 –Murphy said his AAA had used elder abuse prevention funds to train fire department and first responders to detect signs of abuse. A PowerPoint on driver safety was developed. The program includes a ‘train the trainer’ component focused on outreach to seniors. The agency is providing support to an elder death review team in hopes of finding lessons learned. Seeking Wii video components under Title III funds to be paired with occupational therapy programs, as have been used successfully in rehabilitation centers. The council's aggressive advocacy committee is involved in legislative review and are advocating before the board of supervisors that senior issues are mandatory health and welfare issues and not discretionary. Annual senior awareness day is coming May 22nd. The council is looking into disaster preparedness issues; studying issues of moving, housing evacuees. The Transportation Committee coordinates with local Transportation Commission; Advisory Council meets regularly with congressional staff.

PSA 10 –Mack reported on recent Area Plan hearing and budget impacts. United Way has sold the building where Advisory Council has met and has cut all senior program funding. Advisory Council has appealed to United Way but received no response to date. A transportation program using volunteers is being developed for seniors who want to give up driving; the AAA is seeking grant funding to begin. The County Parks and Recreation gave a presentation on new senior-friendly parks.

PSA 20 –Johnson serves as Vice Chair of the San Bernardino Senior Affairs Commission (SAC). San Bernardino is the largest county in U.S. and is divided in seven regional aging councils. Advisory Council Chair attends regional meetings and the regional council chairs come to SAC with concerns. They distribute informational sheets on senior topics of interest. Senior's Day attracts over 2000 people, including public officials and transportation provided. Regional events are being planned to reach more seniors. The council has four committees: legislative, intergenerational, housing, access and transportation. The council has partnered with local groups on senior housing projects to get city council approval. The County Department of Aging Services and county collaborate on fundraising.

PSA 8 –Nichols reported on ongoing recruiting for the Commission on Aging. Safe Driving program was offered by CHP volunteers with contributions from hospitals; held at senior centers at no cost. In May an affordable housing week will be held, focused on housing development for homeless adults with disabilities; low cost and accessibility. A caregiving with confidence project collaborates with public authority and health organizations. In May the council will be celebrating diversity. The council will be sponsoring 2020 demographics studies and will hold Livable Communities activities promoting transit-friendly development. June will be annual men's health fair.

PSA 6 –Schofield reported on Advisory Council site visits. The council includes a family caregiver and someone from for-profit business community. The council is establishing an elder abuse forensic center in cooperation with the San Francisco Police Department to give the council forensic capacity to identify types of abuses going on in the community.

PSA 15 –Lamagno reported on senior events in the coming months featuring vendors and entertainment. The council is working with nutrition sites to evaluate needs in preparation for budget cuts. The council is also seeking donations from service groups to keep nutrition sites open; difficult decisions will be made in coming months.

PSA 12 –Depew said the AAA was in its new, larger location, so no storage rental is required. The advisory council is reviewing contracts; planning Fall Prevention program in fall, a scams program with the District Attorney. The area plan was just submitted. The council had been visiting congregate sites. The region had just received a \$1.6 mill grant for broadband installation in; anticipated benefits to seniors.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 1, 2008

President Schofield reconvened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Gary Passmore, Congress of California Seniors, distributed invitations to the “Senior Voices 2008” state budget advocacy event on June 4, 2008.

20. Allison Ruff, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care State Budget Overview; Impacts on Aging Services

Allison Ruff provided an overview of proposed State Budget reductions to programs affecting older Californians. Ruff noted that under-funded programs are facing further cuts, including MSSP, In-Home Supportive Services and Adult Day Care programs.

Presentation Highlights

- Governor's 10 percent across-all department reduction translates to an 18 percent cut in ancillary services, such as meal preparation.
- The cumulative impacts of reductions in multiple programs could have significant impacts on individuals.
- An alternate budget proposal from the Legislative Analyst that does not propose cuts to Department of Aging is under review by the Legislature.
- A temporary shut-down could lead to permanent closure of some programs, such as adult day services.
- Low interest loans could sustain some programs, but when federal funds are released, that money would not be available for loan repayment.
- Broad-based coalitions are forming to address long-term and global effects.

21. Paul Downey, President/CEO, Senior Community Centers Elder Economic Security Initiative (EESI)

Paul Downey presented information on the Elder Economic Security Initiative, developed to show the true cost of living for older adults on a county-by-county basis. The EESI demonstrates the large gap between the basic living expenses and the federal poverty level, upon which current benefit levels are based. Detailed information on the EESI is available at www.insightccd.org

Elder Economic Security Initiative (EESI)

- Presents a baseline for older adults' actual living expenses on a county-by-county basis for California.
- Demonstrates the large gap between basic living expenses and assistance levels based on the federal poverty line.
- Developed by the Insight Center for Community Economic Security and UCLA Center for Health Policy.
- Can be used as a tool by local and state agencies to determine service needs for older adults.
- Information is available at no cost to agencies and service providers.
- Uses publicly available data, specific to retired adults with a focus on basic needs measurements.
- Hopes the standard will be adopted by the State of California and by the federal government in order to close the gap between elders' incomes and their living expenses.

22. PSA Reports

None.

23. Adjourn

May Nichols moved to adjourn/ Tucker seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.