



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Vagabond Inn, Sacramento

February 8-9, 2012

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

I. Call to Order

President Marge Warner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Martin Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Introductions and Establish a Quorum

Present:

PSA 4	Albert Blum	PSA 33	Marti Overfield
PSA 31	Rick Dahlgren	PSA 22	Antonio Rodella
PSA 23	Jack Duff	PSA 6	Cathy Russo
PSA 21	Erwin Fromm	PSA 11	Terry Sonnefeld
PSA 18	June Glasmeier	PSA 17	Martin Tucker
PSA 26	Pat Grabham	PSA 12	Marge Warner
PSA 27	Rabia Hunter	PSA 19	Bernie Weintraub
PSA 7	Shirley Krohn	PSA 20	David Wilder
PSA 29	Vicki Ludwig	PSA 13	Sandra Williams
PSA 2	Alan Masden	PSA 25	Amos Fried

Guests: Bert Bettis, Margaret Reilly, Derrell Kelch, Ed Long, Marilyn Fried, Katie Gronsky, Claudine Duff, Dee Erman, Nneenah Frazier

Staff: Sandra Fitzpatrick, Marcella Lopez, Carol Sewell

A quorum was present

President Warner asked that each TACC member introduce themselves and talk about what they do or did for a living.

IV. Welcome to new TACC members: Jack Duff (PSA 23), Bob Lindley (PSA 10), and David Wilder (PSA 20)

President Warner welcomed new and returning TACC members Jack Duff (PSA 23), David Wilder (PSA 20) and Amos Fried (PSA 5). Bob Lindley was not in attendance.

V. Approve Agenda

The February 8-9, 2012 TACC Agenda was reviewed and adopted as distributed.

M/S/C (Rodella/Overfield)
Approved

VI. Approve Minutes of November 15, 2011 Meeting

The minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed and adopted as distributed.

M/S/C (Rodella/Dalhgren)
Approved
Wilder abstained

VII. Public Comment

Overfield reported that TACC received a certificate of recognition for their advocacy efforts on behalf of older Californians and disability rights communities at the recently held California Senior Legislature (CSL) conference. Rodella will be accepting a senior leadership award that will be presented at the Waterfront Plaza Hotel. Katie Gronsky, Community Outreach Coordinator with Fresh Approach, provided information about their Farmer's Market. Fresh Approach is a sister company to Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association in the Bay Area.

VIII. Remarks from Marge Warner, TACC President

President Warner reminded TACC members the purpose of PSA reports is to share, learn and discuss new and innovative ideas and practices occurring at their respective AAA's. She also reminded members that although it is important to support the California Senior Legislature (CSL), to please not provide CSL reports in place of or as part of PSA reports.

IX. Treasurer's Report – Antonio Rodella

Rodella provided current financial information and hand out. TACC is funded by donations to the California Seniors Special Fund Tax check-off. Mr. Rodella reminded TACC members when doing their taxes to check box 400 on their income tax form in order to make a contribution to TACC.

X. Remarks from new California Commission on Aging Chair – Bert Bettis

Ms. Bettis thanked President Warner and TACC for contributing to a successful November 2011 Senior Center Forum. She stressed the importance of ongoing advocacy for older adults and noted the value of partnerships with other organizations when advocating for seniors because it provides an opportunity to learn and share information. Mrs. Bettis commended TACC members for their continued efforts as leaders and chairs of their AAA Advisory Councils representing thousands of older adults throughout the state.

XI. What's on the Horizon for Medicare

Margaret Reilly, Program Manager, HICAP Services of Northern California

Ms. Reilly reviewed Medicare and Affordable Healthcare Act benefits and their effects on HICAP services, a federally funded health insurance counseling and advocacy program administered by the California Department of Aging (CDA). There are 24 HICAP organizations in California, in which 60 registered counselors advocate, educate and maintain staff to serve Medicare recipients. She commented on important changes from the Affordable Care Act and the work of HICAP volunteers to help seniors understand the benefits.

PSA 22 Antonio Rodella announced a housing seminar is being provided by District 4 supervisor. The seminar assists people in applying for Section 8 housing. The advisory council will be signing up veterans and seniors with disabilities for the Section 8 list. In the past Orange County has been successful in placing those on the list within a year. Supervisors are able to obtain sponsors and vendors to pay for a senior summit. The meals on wheels program provides breakfast for free. The summit is well attended and received.

PSA 6 Cathy Russo - No written report submitted.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:37 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

XII. TACC Roundtable Discussion: Exploring Advisory Council Bylaws and Standing Rules

TACC members shared different and similar responsibilities laid out in their respective advisory council bylaws. Differences were noted in legislative advocacy, participation in area plan development, relationship to AAA and county supervisors and role of CSL in councils.

XIII. Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2012-2013

Derrell Kelch, Executive Director, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Mr. Kelch discussed the Governor's proposed budget and the potential impact on seniors of cuts to IHSS, access to Medi-Cal benefits, and elimination of funding for the Caregiver Resource Centers.

XIV. California Commission on Aging Report

Sandi Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, CCoA

A. CCoA Update

Fitzpatrick provided a CCoA update. The next CCoA meeting will be February 21-22.

B. Older American Act Appropriations

Fitzpatrick reviewed the Older Americans Act appropriations and Older Americans Act 2011 amendments and provided handouts.

C. Top 6 Policy Issues Affecting Seniors in 2012

Fitzpatrick reviewed and provided a handout of the following top six policy issues affecting seniors in 2012: 1) Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization; 2) extensions of Medicare low-income protections and unemployment insurance; 3) senior program funding cuts; 4) long-term care; 5) access to preventative medicines; and 6) hunger and food insecurity.

D. General items of interest

Fitzpatrick discussed general items of interest.

XV. PSA Reports

Shirley Krohn– PSA 7 – October 2011 “Getting Around” Symposium drew County Supervisors’ recognition. Krohn is on Facebook and connected with legislators and a local political reporter from the Bay Area Newsgroup. The reporter and city planners will be brainstorming on housing for the aging in light of potential loss of redevelopment funds. Also, the CASE program (against financial crimes) educates seniors and is now focused on helping retired veterans get information on protecting themselves.

Rabia Hunter – PSA 27 The Advisory council participates with staff in the auditing of providers, and learning about the program and process. Hunter chairs the legislative committee which has a close relationship with state legislators and has at least 5-7 legislative staff (state and federal) at each meeting. New Family Law Center (FLC) enables elders or vulnerable individuals to go through FLC rather than usual courthouse. Elder abuse workshops are conducted and advisory council members trained to go into the community to hold peer groups, build awareness and identify who might need assistance.

David Wilder- PSA 20 – There have been recent resignations from CSL- both local CSL members have resigned. Terry Conaway is the new Senior Senator. Just sent out a program memo detailing programming and service numbers. Developed TRIP program to provide volunteer drivers to transport consumers to appointments across the county.

Erwin Fromm – PSA 21 reported the new Woman of the Year Awards being made. Also, county has brought in Benefits Banking to help with eligibility qualifications for all programs.

Martin Tucker – PSA 17 No written report submitted. Currently involved in elder abuse call to action request; urging communication with congress to fund the Elder Justice Act (EJA). The CarFit program is being expanded into retirement communities; public hearing drew 17 people. Advisory Council meetings are being held via closed-circuit TV to accommodate distance. Meetings in person occur twice a year.

Terry Sonnefeld - PSA 11 No written report submitted. Money, transportation & communication are the biggest problems. Working on AAA website; County is providing technical expertise and review. The website will be up and running in two months. Some program goals haven't been met – staff is questioning how specific goals should be addressed. Advisory council threatened to deny funding approval and disband; supervisors asked them not to.

Amos Fried – PSA 25 reported on the recent senior center Knowledge Fair attended by 127 center directors. The focus was on evidence based programs. There has been poor communication about events; the Department of Aging now publishes a calendar so the advisory council can track events and attend anything of interest. Working toward advisory council representatives working with contracting senior center directors to track concerns and strengthen partnerships.

Rick Dahlgren – PSA 31 reported the County Association of Governments has taken over the transportation division in the county; hoping to get a representative back to attending the meeting. Advisory council is in the process of amending bylaws. Cuts to the Redevelopment agency will impact community centers. Working on the fall prevention workshop.

Pat Grabham – PSA 26 reported the advisory council is trying to implement a pilot program for using food stamp cards for congregate meal voluntary contributions. Transfer of JPA from Mendocino to Lake is still in turmoil. The advisory council is doing everything with only one staff member left.

Sandy Williams – PSA 13 reported advisory representation from each city in Santa Cruz County, but no participation from San Benito. There has been poor participation from many politically-driven members; now requiring sub-committee membership and participation by members. Advisory council members are being represented at all meetings of local government bodies with printed brochure. Williams thanked the members personally for votes in support of aging programs during the meeting. She will continue attending and raising awareness about advisory council & AAA activities.

Marti Overfield – PSA 33 announced Kern's Commission on Aging will hold an annual elder abuse conference. Deputy District Attorney Paul Greenwood from San Diego will be a keynote speaker.

Bernie Weintraub – PSA 19 reported at the holiday party a commissioner donated gifts for grandparents, giving \$25 to each of them. The legislative committee can propose non-senior specific issues –There is a debate over whether or not benefit is adequate. The Advisory Council is developing a transportation 'buddy' system; will train seniors to use transit, routes, payment systems, etc. Currently working to fill CSL vacancies in time for upcoming training session. The housing committee goes to senior centers to identify concerns. The AAA is now being asked to self-fund senior recognition lunch which was previously funded by the county; working out conflicts over executive

committee membership, and holding focus groups as part of needs assessments via USC contract.

XVI. Recess until February 9, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting recessed at 4:26 p.m.

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Meeting reconvened at 8:36 a.m.

XVII. PSA Reports

XVIII. Fall Prevention Partnership of Solano County

Sharon Monck, General Manager, Merrill Gardens at North Bay and PSA 28 Representative

Ms. Monck provided a falls prevention DVD preview sponsored by Solano County. Ms. Monck stressed the importance of discussing the subject of falls and fall prevention of with a physician and provided important Solano County fall statistics. Fall prevention week is the first week of fall.

XXI. Adjourn

PSA Report

Al Blum - PSA 4 Blum reported a dormant period for the A4AA. The advisory council will meet on Thursday. Workshops will be held in each of the counties – working on preparing for the area plan. There are 36 members on the advisory council; 7 nutrition provider seats, 14 Commission on Aging seats and 15 appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Jack Duff – PSA 23 San Diego County has 30 members; 5 supervisors’ seats, 20 from the general public. Board of Supervisors suggested starting a program having to do with better health. San Diego was divided into four parts and allowed to progress on their own. Each of the four communities had to report what they did to improve health nutrition programs, including at schools. East County has a program called “Seniors and Students” where seniors walk students to school.

June Glasmeier - PSA 18 Glasmeier reported the advisory council’s Court Ad Hoc Committee which developed and published a document called Legal Information for Elders or “L.I.F.E.” Seniors must attend a two hour class to get a copy. Currently trying to raise funds for senior nutrition.

Vick Ludwig - PSA 29 reported that 50% of El Dorado County land is federal land. The county is unique in legal services because they have a full-time and part-time attorney to provide services, seminars and workshops and to work with senior clients to set up wills and trusts. The needs assessment is complete. There are currently four

vacancies on the Commission - looking to expand the Commission by adding alternates.

Sharon Monk- PSA 28

There is a local ordinance requiring IHSS applicants to be fingerprinted prior to receiving a provider permit. AAA is actually releasing these permits, doing the leg work. AAA is working on two programs, one dealing with early prevention behavioral health grant – free referrals for those individuals with mental health issues and chronic disease program – an evidence based program where the community is invited to take 6 week classes to learn how to manage their diseases. Offered in English and Spanish. Two seniors from Vacaville have been spotlighted after participating in Senior Idol, a competition showcasing senior talent.

Marge Warner - PSA 12

The AAA has a new executive director, Pauline White. A \$5,000 grant was received for walking program. The Arthritis Foundation is providing a physical therapist and outdoorsman familiar with trail hiking to assist seniors on their walks in the wilderness; teaching people to walk on uneven terrain.

XIX. Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) Implementation

Ed Long, Deputy Director, Long Term Care and Aging Services Division

Mr. Long reviewed the history of Adult Day Health Care services and the pending transition to the Community Based Adult Services Medicaid waiver program. He commended the Area Agencies on Aging, which have worked to identify alternate resources in communities where programs faced closure. He reported that the transition was currently under review by the courts, but would ultimately alter enrollment through stricter eligibility criteria.

XX. PSA Reports

XXI. Adjourn

Next meeting: TBD

The next TACC meeting will be in May. Currently the meeting dates are flexible.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.