



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

December 2-3, 2014

Vagabond Inn Sacramento

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014

- **Call to Order – Kathy Randall, TACC President**

President Randall called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

Randall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Welcome to new TACC members**

Randall welcomed new TACC members Kathy Schuda, PSA 10 who is serving her second term on the Advisory Council and Eileen Bostwick, PSA 26, who served older adults through the foster grandparents and senior companion programs.

- **Brief Self-Introductions**

TACC members introduced themselves.

- **Establish a Quorum**

TACC Members Present:

PSA 23 Kathy Randall

PSA 33 Marti Overfield

PSA 22 Antonio Rodella

PSA 12 Marge Warner

PSA 20 David Wilder

PSA 10 Kathy Schuda

PSA 26 Bostwick, Eileen

PSA 25 Amos Fried

PSA 19 Aida Villalobos

PSA 31 Rick Dahlgren

PSA 5 Sybil Boutilier

PSA 27 Judith Eisen

PSA 17 Martin Tucker

PSA 14 Minerva Garcia

PSA 11 Terry Sonnefeld

PSA 18 June Glasmeier

PSA 2 Alan Masden

PSA 30 Jeri Johnson

PSA 6 Cathy Russo

PSA 29 Vicki Ludwig

PSA 4 Gloria Plasencia

A quorum was established.

Staff Present: Sandi Fitzpatrick, Carol Sewell, Marcella Villanueva

Guests: Marilyn Fried, Susan DeMarois, Sarah Steenhausen, Denise Watt, Lorin Kline, Jennifer Anders-Gable, Eric Dowdy.

- **Approve Agenda**

The December 2-3, 2014 General Meeting agenda was approved as circulated.

M/S/C (Wilder/Glasmeier)

APPROVED

- **PSA Reports – TACC Members**

PSA 4 – Gloria Plasencia reported her Area Agency no longer has a place to have congregate meals and as a result move to the voucher program.

PSA 2 – Alan Masden reported the AAA is for the first time offering HICAP and ombudsman direct services.

PSA 27 – Judith Eisen shared the Area Agency’s annual report and provided a presentation promoting health directives.

PSA 6 – Cathy Russo reported on Senior Day Center conference which focused on seniors with dementia.

PSA 30 - Jeri Johnson has been involved in Stanislaus Senior Foundation which provides mp3 players to facilities with dementia patients.

PSA 11 – Terry Sonnefeld reported the Advisory Council met yesterday; were still looking to recruit new members.

PSA 31 – Rick Dahlgren reported two members of the board of supervisors attended a recent meeting to discuss growing concerns regarding groundwater and lack of local groundwater regulation.

PSA 29 – Vicki Ludwig reported the AAA “Senior Times” provided a guide for senior and health fairs in rural communities. Seniors are often exploited by businesses at senior fairs trying to sell them things they do not need.

PSA 26 – Eileen Bostwick reported that a number of Advisory Council members had resigned; currently running ads and campaigns to recruit new members.

PSA 5– Sybil Boutilier reported that Jim Monson submitted a written report. The family caregiver survey has been completed. The Commission retreat resulted in a desire to have a mentoring program with some of the alumni of the advisory council working with new members.

PSA 25 – Amos Fried announced there will be a Hunger Summit next year. Advisory Council is preparing for a budget hearing in the city council.

PSA 12 – Marge Warner reported that the seniors have gotten together to create a village in the community of Groveland. Services include senior center and transportation program.

- **Presentation: California State Alzheimer’s Policy Focus for 2015**

Susan DeMarois - State Public Policy Director, California Alzheimer’s Association, discussed the association’s mission to raise awareness, advance research, and advocate for those affected by the disease. Ms. DeMarois also discussed goals of the State Plan and Action Plan for 2011-2021: to eliminate stigma; ensure access to high quality coordinated care; establish a comprehensive approach to support family and caregivers; develop an Alzheimer’s proficient and culturally competent workforce; advance research; create a coordinated state infrastructure that enhances delivery of care.

Recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

- **Presentation: Working Together to Better Serve California Seniors: the Model Approaches Project**

Denise Watt, Senior Program Coordinator, Legal Aid Association of California, provided an overview of the Model Approaches project that began in 2009. Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) represents 100 legal service providers; training and coordination.

Jennifer Anders-Gable, LSNC Senior Legal Hotline, reviewed the role of senior legal services, which includes provide assistance with housing, eviction prevention, reasonable accommodations; public benefits access; health insurance and denials; preventative work and scams; elder abuse and restraining orders. There is a statewide hotline in place to provide access services.

Lorin Kline, Program Attorney, provided a listing of legal service providers and discussed Model Approaches Phase II, involving identification of ways to connect legal services to existing aging service network. New projects include cross-sector training to educate about senior legal services and to collect data on service coordination in all counties.

PSA Reports

PSA 14 - Minerva Garcia reported the Fresno-Madera Advisory Council established goals of cultural competency, civic engagement, and elder abuse prevention. Committee members are tracking local government issues hoping to bring back to the broader community.

PSA 19 – Aida Villalobos reported L.A. County council’s bylaws are based on LA County Ordinance that merged the county’s and city’s advisory councils in 2010. Revisions have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors in February. Hoping to amend term limits through the process, making it easier to get appointments filled.

PSA 22 - Antonio Rodella reported the health fair was a success, providing dental, vision, medical and pediatric care.

PSA 33 – Marti Overfield reported on the Area Agency’s successful harvest event. Provided free flu vaccinations; free rabies shots and licenses for attendees’ pets. Commission contributed \$1000 to Bakersfield for Christmas. Commission on Aging Foundation recently received 501(c) 3 status.

PSA 23 – Kathy Randall reported San Diego is working on RCFE reform.

- **Approve Minutes of August 12-13, 2014 TACC Meeting**

The August 12-13, 2014 General meeting minutes were deferred until the February meeting.

- **Public Comment**

None

- **President's Report**

None

- **CCoA Report**

Fitzpatrick reviewed CCoA's 2015 meeting schedule and priority topics from the Operational Plan. Fitzpatrick also reviewed the new integrated structure of the Administration for Community Living and discussed proposals to create a similar integrated structure in the state.

- **Presentation: Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long Term Care: UPDATE**

Sarah Steenhausen, Senior Policy Advisor, The SCAN Foundation, described the foundation's efforts to advance policies to improve the continuum of care. As assistant to the Senate Select Committee, Ms. Steenhausen worked with Select Committee staff to develop recommendations to implement comprehensive improvements to the long-term care system. Process involved public hearings, series of meetings, and publication of report that is hoped to serve as a living document/agenda for LTC in California.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

- **Executive Committee Report**

Randall reported that Executive Committee discussed possible changes to the PSA reports. Original template may be adjusted to identify more current and relevant activities.

- **2015 White House Conference on Aging (Randall/Fitzpatrick)**

TACC members discussed current knowledge of WHCoA plans. Randall reported on listening sessions held this year in California. Fitzpatrick reported there will be four regional conferences held in July, 2015; possibly one in Seattle, WA. Other organizations are holding listening sessions in order to assure their concerns are heard; local advisory councils are also welcome to hold sessions and submit their own comments.

- **TACC ROUNDTABLE: ADVISORY COUNCIL ADVOCACY**

President Randall moderated a roundtable discussion on advisory council advocacy.

1. ***What is your definition of advocacy?***

- *Eisen -Individual action to make advisory council or county aware of issue; letter-writing. Letter writing can be effective if well-researched and followed. When*

asked by County Supervisors to endorse an issue, the issue is vetted fully by the council members.

- *Boutilier – process of routing through approval process is too time-consuming and difficult. Hopes counties are developing policies; she will provide example of the county’s policy to be shared with TACC members.*
- *Ludwig – Advisory Council’s policy allows positions to be publicized and reviews the county park & recreation policies for anything that supports or hurts seniors.*
- *Fried - referenced OAA and Advisory Council role in area plans.*
- *L.A. County has to get CEO’s and legislative division’s approval. The policy assures that support for aging programs are included in the county’s policies*

2. *Is there an advocacy role spelled out in your Council Bylaws?*

TACC bylaws include advocacy on state and local planning processes.

- *Wilder – There are conflicts with Santa Barbara County policies limiting positions to issues already acted upon by the county; that’s why a policy like Marin’s would be helpful.*
- *Overfield – individuals can speak at County Supervisors’ meetings. Found it difficult to get seniors to stay at COA’s meetings at the senior centers; couldn’t get department heads to attend meetings. Now have service provider reports (senior centers), so parks and recreation, public health, planning and community development department, veterans, Independent living centers, and others attend. Invite area supervisor to speak; encourages senior centers to stay and bring department heads.*
- *Sonnefeld – department employees are members of the Council on Aging; also, social security, HICAP, and housing agency representatives are members. Advocacy committee contacts legislative representative for sign-off. Have been able to do things the county didn’t approve. Got the county’s attention and expect a supervisor to attend their next meeting.*

3. *Are there restrictions placed on your Council’s advocacy efforts by Bylaws, AAA staff or Governing Board?*

(Already discussed)

4. *How does your AAA Advisory Council advocate?*

- *Bostwick- AAA directs SeniorCorps programs (foster grandparent, Senior Companion, senior volunteer and RSVP). President’s 2015 budget moved programs to Americorps and eliminating budget line and moving RSVP to another agency. Substantial outcry over proposal; don’t think President will suggest something similar again.*

- *Fried – The AAA’s 2005 – 2008 joint needs assessment done (county and city), but none of the priority issues made it into the area plan due to limited OAA funds; but issues remained priority needs. Decided to focus on one or two issues, targeting hunger in the community. Got AAA director’s support. Strategy is to focus the topic, get the person you want to change to buy-in to the solution. It was a long-term effort to make it happen.*
- *Johnson – RCFE reform bill package got strong response from council. County supervisor is also a member; legislative representatives attend meetings.*
- *Rodella –If the county doesn’t want to hear an issue, will move the public comment until after the issue has been heard. Take turns attending the meeting so that the full event is covered; county has now stopped the effort.*
- *Villalobos – LACOA discusses issues and legislation; legislative analyst provides updates. This year had proposal from legislative advocacy committee to advocate for three issues; elderly nutrition, APS training, and OAA funding. Need to track Governor’s budget and process; committee presented a detailed plan to follow. Didn’t have to get approval because was not policy; programs already in place.*
- *Boutilier – The benefit of a county policy is that they can also write in support.*
- *Marilyn Fried (public) – L.A. city legislative analyst had already approved the topics; issues already had their support.*
- *Sonnefeld – It’s effective to say no. The AAA won’t approve the area plan if it doesn’t include issues the council has identified. It helps get earlier access to draft plan so council can comment. If the legislative staff doesn’t attend; will go to their offices with our issues.*
- *Fried – Each AAA is different. There is no staff support for the hunger summit.*
- *Dahlgren – Advocacy can be on a lower level. Local Blue Skies program was a support group with county staff. County didn’t want to contribute; local college dean got support from the parks and recreation director.*
- *Tucker – The benefit of being a non-profit is having support for most anything you want to do.*
- *Wilder – DOA attended meetings of housing department; asked about senior housing and transportation needs. Were effective in getting “senior only” focus included in the plan.*
- *Warner – The Advisory Council writes the area plan with the planner. Have combined housing & transportation. The joint powers authority will review issues of concern.*

- *Garcia – Empower local seniors to get feedback on issues and actions.*

5. Share an example of one advocacy effort your Council undertook this past year.

- *Garcia – Hunger is a broad issue. Seniors on SSI can't get food stamps; how can we change that policy? More education is needed; some seniors are not aware of basic benefits.*
- *Russo – Gerontology community felt board of supervisors was ignoring seniors. City organization (coalition of agencies serving the elderly CASE) handled issues by busing seniors to a meeting; the group marched into city all and visited each supervisor's office. Looking for new plan at this time.*
- *Ludwig – The council does an annual report and presents it to the county supervisors. The report includes advocacy efforts and accomplishments. This has helped to elevate the county's view of the council.*
- *Overfield – Have asked for money from county Supervisor's discretionary fund for senior programs. Used to fund nutrition programs.*
- *Villalobos – How can we advocate as a group for OAA reauthorization?*
- *Masden – It's complex to know outcome of some issues. Information from presenters; getting chance to talk through issues of concern and take it back to the local level.*
- *Schuda – If volume is what matters, TACC members can take information back to local councils and get the support.*
- *Wilder – How can TACC advocate? TACC advocates every time they meet; discussions with presenters help to educate presenters.*

- **Presentation: Overview of RCFE Reform and Implications on Providers and Residents**

Eric Dowdy, MPPA, Vice President, Policy & Communications LeadingAge California, reviewed the purpose of LeadingAge CA, its mission, and reviewed the history and results of RCFE reform efforts in the state.

- **Next Meeting: February 24-25, 2014**

The next TACC meeting will be February 24-25, 2014 at the Vagabond Inn in Sacramento.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.