

**AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday March 9, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.
3725 Westwind Blvd, Suite 101, Santa Rosa - Carnelian Room

Attendees: Colleen Campbell, Don Streeper, Jim Redding, Joy Lovinger, Robert Picker, Ruth Robeson, Sumedha Mona Khanna, MD, Roseanne Ibarra (Congressman Huffman), Logan Pitts (Assemblymember Bill Dodd), Ed Sheffield (Assemblymember Jim Wood), Alain Serkissian, Crista Chelemedos (Senior Advocacy Services)

Absent: Bonnie Lasky

Staff: Rhiannon Coxon, Victoria González-Allen

1. **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** (Campbell): The Meeting was opened with a welcome to all and introductions were made.
2. **Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2016** (Campbell): Robeson/Lovinger MSC
3. **Chair Report** (Campbell) – Campbell announced her resignation from the AAA Advisory Council telling the group what a pleasure it has been working with everyone – Mr. Picker will be taking over as Chair of Legislative Committee.

Robeson – thanked Campbell for her work with AC as a very passionate advocate.

4. **Topic Presentation:**

a. Senior Health Promotion (Khanna) – interesting, challenging and educational exercise

- i. The word *senior* does not readily appear in legislative bills; the term *older adults* more easily found.
- ii. Health Promotion appears under many things such as arthritis or children, but not necessarily specific to seniors/older adults.
- iii. Healthy States Initiative – incredible website, fairly new, a lot of information and overview on actions with state legislation including “Promote Healthy Aging”.
- iv. CA Legislative Information part 4 is for Older Adults, Chapter 1 is on Aging, Chapter 2 on Preventive Health Care for the Aging, Chapter 3 on Geriatrics Education, program details.
 1. Chapter 2 marked as “reserved” and unable to be accessed online.
 2. **ACTION:** (Pitts) will find out what the term means, but as a chapter is state law.
- v. Bills under Older Adult Health Promotion include:
 1. Arthritis Awareness Month May 2015
 - a. Campbell advised though there is awareness month, there may not be any promotion.
 2. AB135-Promote Health - mostly regarding children, not much on aging.

- vi. (Campbell) Committee can advocate for seniors to be added to existing health promotion programs that may have a current focus on children.
- b. Next Month Presentation: Health Care Facilities (Picker)

5. Other Legislation or Topic Updates (Committee Members)

- a. (Lovinger) – update: senior housing regulations for HUD housing only, no requirements for public senior housing.
- b. (Lovinger) Assisted Living Waiver Program (ALW) – a lot of confusion with the program, providers even confused. Program should be recreated, modified or reformed.
 - i. (Lovinger) Advised there is limited assisted living housing available in Sonoma County. There is only one low income/lower cost in Sonoma County, and it has a list of citations/complaints.
 - ii. (Serkissian) Program was being implemented county-by-county to introduce it slowly. (Serkissian) met with McGuire to address issues with ALW program.
 - iii. (Logan - Dodd) Advised that AAA Legislative Committee should advance a legislative proposal, or a budget issue.
 - iv. (Sheffield -Wood) Added to Logan – Dodd that a two-fold approach has been in existence – either legislative or budget reform. Positive to have Sen. McGuire’s support. Advises to suggest solutions when communicating to legislators.

6. C4A Capitol Day February 25, 2016 Overview (Robeson, Coxon)

- a. (Robeson) Saip, Coxon, Robeson – Traveled to Sacramento, to meet one-on-one with legislators.
 - i. Legislative Aides – educated Robeson on workings of capitol.
 - ii. C4A submitted budget request for a \$5.4 million budget augmentation for Senior Nutrition programs.
 - iii. Policy analysts presented in the morning and stated interest in completing site visits.
 - iv. (Coxon) C4A representatives said this year legislative request focused only on Senior Nutrition, due to budgetary concerns.
 - v. (Coxon) Thanks to legislative aides: allowed group the ability to organize visits very well due to connections with local aides.

7. Legislative Field Representative Updates (Legislative Aides)

- a. (Pitts - Dodd) Bill Dodd is now on the Agriculture Committee.
 - i. Budget hearings are starting with governor’s budget revision in May to follow. Passed out list of bills Dodd is proposing and reviewed bills relevant to seniors and of interest to the committee.
 - ii. (Sheffield-Wood) last month was the deadline of introduction of bills; Sen. Wood has 19 and will bring finalized list at next meeting.
 - 1. AB1977 Opioid Abuse Act – Requires education to prescriber of disposal, dosage, the potential harm, and substance abuse. Not enough education from doctor to patient; can lead to substance abuse.
 - 2. Anthony Rendon sworn in as new speaker to the Assembly.

3. Managed Care Option Tax (ABX2 1 & 2) passed, which is a tax on companies that do not accept Medi-Cal.
- iii. (Chelemedos) There are 23 bills Ombudsman legislative group is supporting.
 1. Will be testifying on AB1655 (Dodd) - Medi-Cal contribution for personal needs to increase from \$35 to \$80.
 2. "Clean up language bill" on elder abuse bill to allow judges to have the discretion to send defendant to state prison instead of jail. SB924 – Reform bill to limit seniors buying annuities.
 3. Chelemedos will provide list of bills group is supporting to committee and legislative aides.
 - iv. (Ibarra – Huffman) Letter for reauthorization of Older Americans Act. Senate has already passed.
 1. Ibarra would like to know how Huffman can assist at federal level regarding ALW.
 - a. (Serkissian) reimbursement is key, also reform on application process and billing process. Roseanne will talk with staff.
 - b. Group discussed ways to follow up with legislators on ALW issue including writing a letter and visiting the legislators.
 - c. Legislative Info: www.leginfo.ca.gov;
<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> <http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/about/>
or www.aroundthecapital.com

8. Adjourn at: 11:46AM

Next Meeting:
Wednesday April 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.