



## SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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### AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday January 11, 2017  
Carnelian Room  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**Present:** Sumedha Khanna, MD, Peter Holewinski, Bob Picker, Jim Redding, Ruth Robeson, Rabon Saip, Hav Staggs

**Absent:** Alain Serkissian, Don Streeper

**Guests:** Melissa Apuya (Assemblymember Marc Levine), Crista Chelemedos (Senior Advocacy Services), Kerrie Lindecker (Senator McGuire), Logan Pitts (Senator Bill Dodd), Ed Sheffield (Assemblymember Jim Wood)

**Staff:** Rhiannon Coxon, Victoria Gonzalez-Allen

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** (Picker) the meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. all were welcomed and introductions were made.
2. **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2016 MINUTES** (Picker) Motion to approve the November 9, meeting minutes. Saip/Khanna, (MSC) to approve as presented; motion passed unanimously.
3. **CHAIR REPORT** (Picker)
  - The committee has selected 8 topic areas. Each committee member will select one topic and report on it. After each topic has been discussed the committee will select the top three to present to AC to advocate/lobby for.
    - *Elder Abuse Prevention*
    - *Mental Health for Seniors*
    - *“Hidden Epidemic” of Opioid Misuse*
    - *Senior Homeless Prevention*
    - *Ombudsman Services*
    - *Assisted Living Waiver Program*
    - *Delivery of Long Term Care Services*
    - *Advocating for alternate sources of funding*
  - Picker stated the committee will provide background on all 8 topics and try to address 3 that are determined highest priority
  - Staggs has volunteered to be the legislative resource person
  - The March meeting was rescheduled to March 15, 2017 from 10:30 – 12:00pm
  - Aging Network Advocacy Update (Coxon) – AAA is part of multiple advocacy networks CWDA, C4A, N4A, NCOA
    - Coxon reported Congress has started the repeal process for ACA; senior health programs affected are Medi-Cal, Medicare, SNAP-Ed.
    - Coxon will forward to the committee letters from agencies who are requesting help with advocacy.
  - Coxon announced Diane Kaljian was promoted to Assistant Director of Human Services Department. Gary Fontenot is the interim Division Director for Adult & Aging.

#### 4. **LEGISLATIVE TOPIC PRESENTATION:** Senior Mental Health (Picker)

- Prop 63 - Mental Health Act, 2014-2017 is up for renewal next year, this proposition is funded by 1% income tax. The proposition required every county to formulate a 3 year plan. The Legislative Committee should look at areas that need to be addressed for next cycle. Lindecker (Senator McGuire) advised that the county's 3 year plan will expire soon but the funding is not. The county needs to create a new 3 year plan to continue to receive the funding.
- Lindecker (Senator McGuire) advised Senator McGuire has had conversations with Supervisor Zane; mental health is an issue Supervisor Zane is focused on. There are many resources that provide services for mental health but the aging population is not specifically addressed or has not been reached out to.
- Holewinski suggested outreach to NAMI to find out how they are reaching out to seniors for mental health issues.
- Chelemedos will email information regarding centers that provide outpatient services to seniors who are on Medicare. Chelemedos suggested a presentation from those centers to advise how they target programs for seniors.
- Holewinski advises that most programs are unavailable to seniors who have been diagnosed with dementia. This creates a big gap as most seniors with dementia diagnosis also have mental health issues.
- Chelemedos reminded the committee that our topics need to be presented to the legislative aides with solutions – not just the problem.
- Sheffield (Assemblymember Wood) advised that within a few days they will be presenting their legislative agenda which will impact the next 2 years. He stated timing is critical; proposals of solutions are needed in November. Sheffield also suggested outreach to NAMI to partner with them; find out what their legislative platform is and what type of commitment this would entail.

#### 5. **REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE TOPICS** (All)

- Year of The Senior, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors accepted/approved the plan presented by the Economic Development Board on 1/10/2017. The plan will broaden our exposure. Robeson explained the plan encourages seniors to be more engaged and productive throughout the community
- Saip reported that he has reached out to 8 county agencies and has received no support for the Opioid Hidden Epidemic issues he is working on.
  - Sheffield advised there is a State Task Force in Health Services addressing this issue. Assemblymember Wood is trying to work with the State Task Force on this issue. Sheffield advised Saip to send his ideas/program to him so that he can bring to Assemblymember Wood. Chelemedos suggested that the appropriate audience would be to take this to the county level first.
- Pitts (Senator Dodd) State budget requires constant advocacy; legislation is on a two year cycle. In September of an even year the committee should ask for legislation they are interested in and in January of the odd year the legislators take legislation to the state.

#### 6. **LEGISLATIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES** (Legislative Aides)

- Individual legislation and initiatives
  - State Budget
    - Sheffield (Assemblymember Wood) advised that California Legislature hired on retainer previous U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to assist with legal challenges posed by policy conflicts with the Trump administration.

Priorities are Affordable Care Act and immigration. Medi-Cal alone will suffer a \$20 billion dollar hit at the state level if dismantled. The Governor's budget proposal is conservative at a 5% change from last year.

- Pitts (Senator Dodd) advised that also in the Governor's budget Human Services will see a small increase from federal portion of grants. SSI/SSP also increases. More investment in senior nutrition program. Overall Health & Human Services has a three percent cut. The budget will have to be approved by June 15. In the Governor's budget there is a proposal to cut the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) due to not meeting the goals or required savings; this will affect local IHSS. In December income tax was down 13% from projected levels.
- Kerrie (Senator McGuire) stated one-time-only funds for nutrition and APS training are also eliminated.
- Sheffield (Assemblymember Wood) advised that as soon as budget is out is when lobbying will need to start.
- Chelemedos (Senior Advocacy Services) is working on policy bill to change language for the Ombudsman program, to change the formula for base funding to increase from \$35,000 a year to \$100,000. There is a new state regulation mandating that all Skilled Nursing Facilities notify the Ombudsman of every discharge.

7. **ADJOURN** (Picker) Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday February 8, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.**

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Adult and Aging Office, 3725 Westwind Blvd, #101, Santa Rosa*