



Human Services Department

COUNTY OF SONOMA

SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Carnelian Room
10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Sumedha Khanna, Bonnie Koagedal, Bob Picker, Jim Redding, Rabon Saip, Alain Serkissian

Guest: Laura Beltran (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry), Crista Chelemedos (Senior Advocacy Services), Chad Graham (North Bay Regional Center), Melissa Apuya (Assemblymember Levine)

Absent: Judith Eisen, Peter Holewinski, Sumedha Khanna, Ruth Robeson, Jani Sheppard, Hav Staggs, Don Streeper, Laurie White

Staff: Rhiannon Coxon, Tracy Repp

Minutes: Victoria González-Allen

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS (Picker) - meeting called to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE - LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: (Picker) (**ACTION**) - motion to approve the June 14, 2017, meeting minutes. Saip/Khanna (MSC) to approve with a correction of the meeting date; motion approved with correction. AYE-5; Redding abstained.

3. CHAIR REPORT (Picker)

- Picker stated it is important that council members be active participants in the California Senior Legislature (CSL).
 - There are two vacancies, one in the Senior Senate and one in the Senior Assembly. The election will take place in May 2018. Robeson has volunteered to be one of the CSL representatives. Coxon reviewed responsibilities to serve on CSL. Robeson will call in to their November meeting during which CSL votes on priority legislative issues. Advisory Council members interested in being a CSL representative should contact Coxon.

Apuya joined the meeting

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON FOCUS AREA (ACTION) (Picker)

- Topics suggested last spring for potential focus area: Elder Abuse, Mental Health, Hidden Epidemic-Opioid Misuse, Senior Homeless Prevention, Ombudsman, Assisted Living Waiver, Delivery of Long Term Care Services, Related Advocacy and Legislation for alternate funding sources.
- The topic of the Hidden Epidemic – Opioid Misuse will be followed-up on by Saip independently and outside of a committee.
- Group discussion regarding advocacy and what topic would be best suited for the Legislative Committee to learn about and educate the local legislators.

- Beltran advised it is helpful to select one topic of focus. Check in with CSL for similar legislation, advocate with CSL, reach out to the representatives and appear in-person in Sacramento for advocacy.
- Apuya – when educating the assemblymembers be prepared to address how the specific legislation affects the community and advise level of local support.
- Khanna – the Assisted Living Waiver is a very specific topic, with the broader topic being Long Term Care (LTC). If choosing LTC, Assisted Living falls into that topic.
- Coxon confirmed that staff recommendation is for Long Term Care Services and Support to be the focus area. Assisted Living Waiver can be considered part of this topic.
- A suggested method of advocacy is to collaborate with other agencies outside of this committee who are advocating for the same topic.
- Motion by committee to select Delivery of Long Term Care for the topic for the next year. Saip second motion; AYE-5-; Redding abstained.

5. ADVOCACY UPDATE: (Coxon)

- Congressman Huffman – will be holding a town hall meeting in Sebastopol, on Tuesday 9/19 from 12pm to 1:30 at the Sebastopol Cultural Center. Coxon and Repp will attend the meeting.
- Distributed policy priorities from National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Coxon will also email.

6. LEGISLATIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES: (Legislative Aides)

- Apuya – reported there are three days left of this legislative year. There are about 300 bills in the senate and 600 in assembly. Still in process of deciding which bills will move forward. On 9-18-17, SB17 – Transparency in Pharmaceutical pricing passed the assembly with some amendments. Bill AB519-adding back the voluntary contribution designation on tax forms to fund CSL passed senate and assembly.
- Beltran – from today to end of Friday no additional amendments to the bills will be heard. AB40-Tele-pharmacy-has passed senate going through concurrence and assembly. AB1655 will bring in broad band internet service to rural areas is at senate board. A successful effort for Aguiar-Curry office.

7. UPDATE OF LEGISLATIVE TOPICS OF INTEREST

- Rabon requested updated of bill AB265: Passed senate
- Aides reminded committee of the two-year bill cycle and advised it is desired to get bills passed in the first year.
- Chelemedos AB940 – Long Term Care - Notice of Discharge – is being heard, waiting for signature. Chelemedos has been invited to be on the board of California Congress of Seniors (CCS) as current president of CLTCOA. Gary Passmore is the Executive Director of CCS, a non-profit organization.

8. ADJOURN (Picker): meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2017