



SONOMA COUNTY
AREA
AGENCY ON
AGING



Human Services Department

COUNTY OF SONOMA

SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

3725 Westwind Blvd., Ste. 101

Santa Rosa, CA 95403



"Empower, Support, Protect"

Karen Fies
Department Director

Diane Kaljian
Assistant Department Director
AAA Director

Ana P. Bagtas
Director, Adult & Aging Services Division

AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Carnelian Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Present: Sumedha Mona Khanna, Joy Lovinger, Bob Picker, Ruth Robeson, Rabon Saip, Alain Serkissian, Hav Staggs, Don Streeper

Absent: Judith Eisen, Peter Holewinski, Jim Redding, Jani Sheppard

Guest: Logan Pitts (Senator Bill Dodd), Ed Sheffield (Assemblymember Jim Wood)

Staff: Rhiannon Coxon

Minutes: Victoria González-Allen

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS (Robeson) meeting called to order 10:35 a.m. Welcome and introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: (Picker) (**ACTION**) a motion to approve the September 13, 2017, Legislative committee minutes. Khanna/Saip (MSC) to approve minutes as presented; motion approved by majority. AYES - 5, NOES - 0, Robeson and Staggs abstained.

3. CHAIR REPORT (Robeson)

- Long Term Care Services and Support will be the focus for the Legislative Committee (LC) for the following fiscal year, including the Assisted Living Waiver Program.
- Attended SCAN Foundation Summit in Sacramento – Distributed program agenda. Thumb drive with program materials is available for committee members.

Pitts joined the meeting

- Attended the Social Media boot camp, topics included, Facebook, tweeting, blogs, and intergenerational group discussions.
- Committee discussed use of social media. Pitts reports political social media is a very powerful tool. Sheffield explained that social media provides timely updates. As an example, during the recent fires there was no immediate media coverage other than social media.

Picker joined the meeting

- Robeson considered joining the California Senior Legislature (CSL) in September but couldn't meet the application deadline due to requirement of having to obtain 25 signatures from the public. Sonoma County AAA has two positions open for CSL representatives, will discuss at future meetings. The CSL met to determine their priorities for the next legislative cycle. There was not an option to call into the meeting. Coxon will distribute list of proposed bills to follow from CSL.

4. ADVOCACY UPDATE: (Coxon)

- Webinars from n4a - Advocacy tips from their staff; Stories from Capitol Hill Staffers/Advocacy; Coxon will summarize for using as best practices.
- On November 30, 2017 webinar scheduled; stories from Area Agencies on Aging around the country; what has been effective for them on advocacy; Coxon will email details.

- AB1200 supported by c4a to codify Aging and Disability Resource Connection Program (ADRC) passed. No funding is associated with passing of this bill; passing of this bill does allow for counties to work with their local Independent Living Center (ILC) to create an ADRC and seek reimbursement from Medi-Cal for services. Disability Services and Legal Center (DSLCL) is Sonoma County's ILC.
- Federal update: State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) (known as Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) in Sonoma County) provides Medicare Counseling services are in jeopardy of being eliminated.

5. **LEGISLATIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES:** (Legislative Aides)

- Sheffield – current focus is on emergency services and rebuilding communities. Emergency legislation can be introduced in January for Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Solano counties to assist with the construction and rebuilding process. In the first days of fire Sheffield visited many evacuation centers and shelters and noted that a majority of evacuees were older adults. The deadline for the Governor to sign bills that passed through both houses was week of October 2, 2017. Of the bills introduced by Assemblymember Wood, eight of the bills will be converted to two year bills voted on in 2018 and six bills were signed by the Governor.
 - Specific Bill Update: AB156-Individual Market Enrollment period - Covered California extended enrollment period for all of California October 15, 2018 to January 15, 2019. AB265 Prescription Drugs: Prohibition on Price Discount eliminates the coupon incentive to buy more expensive drug when less expensive are available. AB275 Long-Term Care facilities are required to give at least 60 days' notice of closure to family and residents and 60 day written notice to State Long-Term care Ombudsman. Group discussion on Single Payer bill status; Sheffield advised Assemblymember Wood formed a committee to discuss Single Payer and other insurance related healthcare issues. Healthcare is a priority for all gubernatorial candidates. Sheffield would like feedback from committee on healthcare issues.
- Fire related group discussion: Streeper suggests attending training at your local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in your city. Serkissian reported the Fire Department briefed Mirabel Lodge often of fire status. Assisted Living lost 108 beds. Majority of deaths were elders. Picker: Highway 12 is designated as a scenic highway, would like to support reclassification of this highway so it can be expanded to 4 lanes.
- Pitts – Fire updates, county debris removal specialists cleaning sites; first round is for all toxic clean-up, expected to be done by end of the month, debris removal will follow.

Lovinger exited the meeting

- Pitts – as of the date of this meeting 11/8/17; 600 people have requested housing assistance from FEMA. Homes need to be rebuilt to current code standards. Working on legislation that can be enacted in response to fires. Urgency legislation required 2/3 votes in each legislative house. Senator Dodd's legislative package results: 14 bills signed by the Governor, two converted to two year bills. Of bills signed into law, Pitts highlighted: SB147 -Mobile Homes Residency Law, SB218 – CalABLE disallows MediCal from recovering Medicaid related costs, SB33 Arbitration contracts, SB252 Groundwater Wells. Signing deadline was October 15 for Governor Brown. One year left on Governor Brown's term.

6. **UPDATE OF LEGISLATIVE TOPICS OF INTEREST** (Committee Members)

- Updated during chair report

7. **OTHER**

8. **ADJOURN** (Robeson): meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 10, 2018**