



**Human Services Department**  
 COUNTY OF SONOMA  
 SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
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**AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
 Carnelian Room  
 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Judith Eisen, Crista Chelemedos, Bob Picker, Jim Redding, Ruth Robeson, Alain Serkissian, Hav Staggs, Don Streeper  
**Absent:** Peter Holewinski, Sumedha Mona Khanna, Joy Lovinger, Rabon Saip, Jani Sheppard  
**Guest:** Melissa Apuya (Assemblymember Marc Levine), Danielle Bradley (Senator Mike McGuire), Ellisa Reiff (North Bay Regional Center)  
**Staff:** Rhiannon Coxon  
**Minutes:** Victoria González-Allen

1. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS** (Robeson) - meeting called to order 10:33 a.m. All welcomed and introductions made.
2. **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES:** (Picker) (**ACTION**) - a motion to approve the November 08, 2017, Legislative Committee minutes. Picker/Streeper (MSC) to approve minutes as presented; motion approved by majority. AYES – 5, NOES – 0, abstention from Redding.
3. **CHAIR REPORT** (Robeson)
  - California Senior Legislature (CSL) meetings - difficulty in connecting to conference calls. Coxon will follow-up with CSL staff person Janice regarding difficulty in connecting to meetings. Apuya will check with office to see if they've received CSL priority list.
  - Distributed Senior Rally Day legislative priorities. Senior Rally Day is organized by the group Seniors Count Coalition which includes CSL members. Committee was asked to review and highlight items of interest and bring to attention of committee chair or staff. Long Term Care was selected by committee; will advocate with CSL and Senior Count Coalition on Senior Rally Day; Long Term Care is on their priority list.
  - At November 8, 2017 committee meeting Sheffield (Assemblymember Jim Wood) & Pitts (Senator Bill Dodd) aides advised to keep an eye out for emergency legislative proposals for fire recovery.
  - Advisory Council does not have a representative to participate in CSL. Elections are in May.
  - Robeson is interested in what legislation the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) are supporting so Legislative Committee members can advocate and support them. Robeson would also like to know BOS direction as it relates to seniors and fire victim recovery.

*Serkissian joined the meeting 10:38*  
*Bradley joined the meeting 10:39*

**4. ADVOCACY UPDATE (ACTION)** (Coxon)

- Events: February 21, 2018 meeting for Advisory Council will have a federal policy update from National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a) Capitol Day is February 22, 2018. Senior Rally Day, May 11, 2018. Coxon will set up meetings with representatives on Capitol Day and Senior Rally Day. Advisory Council members are encouraged to attend these events in Sacramento.

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

- Apuya (Assemblymember Levine) – finalizing bill package. Insurance items being worked on with Department of Insurance and private stakeholders. Office researching policy on legislation specific to seniors and disaster preparedness. A question was brought up if Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) are aware of a state legislation regarding evacuation seniors, no one in the committee was aware of law. Apuya to share results, and specific written code.
- Bradley (Senator McGuire)–
  - Many insurance companies are cancelling policies in this area when policies are up for renewal. North Bay Coalition of Legislators may put forward legislation regarding itemization requirement from insurance companies to reimburse homeowners for loss of personal property in the fires. SB833-Emergency Alert System will require every county in California to adopt an emergency alert system with trained operators; standards set when to enact the system, and notifications to wireless phones and landlines.
  - Senator McGuire working with 4 counties and the governor’s office, for budget of \$23.7 million for property tax back fill from general fund. Actual losses due to fire is not known, but have asked the counties to estimate financial need. Congressmen Thompson and Huffman, Senators McGuire and Dodd, and Assemblymembers Levine, Aguiar-Curry, and Wood, are hosting a Town Hall meeting at 10am on Saturday 1/13 at 10 a.m. at Santa Rosa High School.
  - A bill passed senate elections committee to notify voters when their mail-in ballots are thrown out due to signatures not matching; California Secretary State Alex Padilla is supporting this bill. In California 25,000 ballots thrown out for signatures not matching.

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

- Opioid Epidemic update from Saip will be presented to Advisory Council. Attempting to create an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) type of committee to support the seniors who are addicted.
- Serkissian nursing home license issuance and penalty fees.
- Chelemedos – AB55 to change baseline funding for Ombudsman from \$35,000 per year to \$75,000 has been change to a two year bill. Chelemedos will serve on the California Congress of Seniors and will be sworn in next month. Chelemedos is still President at CALTCOA for one more year. Assemblymember Ash Kalra reached out to CALTCOA to work on assisted living waiver. Senior Advocacy Services is making a proposal for protection of seniors being exposed on social media.
- Question to aides where cannabis tax revenue money is going, money stays at the county level, focused on Public Health Department and Law Enforcement.

*Bradley left the meeting 11:32am*

## **7. DISCUSS TALKING POINTS FOR LEGISLATOR VISITS** (Robeson & Coxon)

- The Committee chose Long Term Care Service and Supports as our focus area. With upcoming legislator visits at the Capitol, the committee and staff will work on creating talking points for these meetings.

## **8. ADJOURN** (Robeson): meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, February 14, 2018**