



# Human Services Department

COUNTY OF SONOMA

SONOMA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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"Empower, Support, Protect"

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## AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Carnelian Room

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**Present:** Crista Chelemedos, Joy Lovinger, Bob Picker, Jim Redding, Ruth Robeson, Rabon Saip, Alain Serkissian, Hav Staggs

**Absent:** Judith Eisen, Peter Holewinski, Jani Sheppard, Don Streeper

**Guests:** Ed Sheffield (Assemblymember Jim Wood), Chad Graham (North Bay Regional Center), Eloise Tweeten (Tweeten Elder Care Advisors)

**Staff:** Rhiannon Coxon

**Minutes:** Victoria González-Allen

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** (Robeson) – meeting called to order at 10:36 am, all welcomed and introductions made.
2. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES (ACTION)** – a motion to approve the January 10, 2018, Legislative Committee minutes. Picker/Redding (MSC) to approve minutes as presented; motion approved by majority. AYES-6, NOES-0, no abstentions.
3. **CHAIR REPORT** (Robeson):
  - Distributed the California Senior Legislature (CSL) Top Legislative Priorities for 2018 document and gave a synopsis. Advised of the CSL 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Session 2018 Priority Proposals (document will be emailed to those interested).
  - Long Term Care System Improvement is on the CSL top 10 list which is aligned with the Legislative Committee priorities for support, included with this topic is improvements to the Assisted Living Waivers (ALW).
  - Capitol Day in Sacramento is February 22, 2018. Coxon can drive a carpool.
  - CSL is partnering with California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a) will know more about this partnership at next meeting.
  - The committee will focus advocacy with the guidance of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the CSL/c4a items as they relate to the Legislative Committee selected topics.

*Serkissian and Tweeten joined the meeting 10:41 am*

4. **ADVOCACY UPDATE** (Coxon)
  - California Senior Legislature (CSL) is continuing to work with California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a) to have a common ground for advocacy. CSL representation election is in May for two representatives from Sonoma County. CSL will be changing their application process to be more streamlined.
  - February 21, 2018 – Federal Policy Update from the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy from National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) at the Advisory Council monthly meeting.

- February 22, 2018 – C4A Capitol day will be attended by Coxon, Chelemedos, Repp and Robeson.
- Senior Rally Day (by Seniors Count Coalition) is on May 11, 2018 in Sacramento, Coxon will set up carpool.

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

- Sheffield – Staff have been working on legislative packet related to fires. The Legislature is in the second year of a 2-year bill cycle. Assemblymember Wood has many 2-year bills so these bills will be discontinued if they are not passed in early fall. Deadline for introducing bills in this 2-year cycle is February 16.
- Fire related legislation:
  - Some fire related bills are retroactive, to cover last year. If it is an emergency bill it will require a 2/3 vote to pass
  - Asm Wood is working with the State Insurance Commissioner's office and the Governor's office to introduce fire relief and recovery bills for both Northern and Southern California Counties affected by wildfires. Senator McGuire, Dodd and Hill authored: SB 833 - Red Alert System – to have a state wide protocol that will notify any impacted area in a disaster. Nixel alert system is a text message and did not provide adequate notification during the fires. The proposed state-wide alert system will provide a landline and smart phone notification.

*Chelemedos/Serkissian left the meeting 10:58 am*

- Senator Dodd has introduced a bill that would require a back-up battery for automatic garage doors in the case of a power outage.
  - Other proposed bills related to the fires include – Powerline clearance regulation for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), subsidizing school funding loss due to shut downs. Many of the bills are related to insurance and safety of the community. One fire related bill is to speed up the permit process to help with the rebuild.
- Sheffield distributed Asm Wood's Legislative Accomplishment sheet and provided highlights of some Bills:
  - AB662 Ban of Smoking Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes in all public housing or buildings which contain public housing as well as a 20' away from buildings, this bill is moving forward as a two year bill.
  - AB315 – Requires Oversight of Pharmaceutical Benefit Managers (PBMs) to be licensed and regulated.
  - AB595 – Regulation of Health Plan Mergers and Acquisitions
  - AB845 – Epilepsy Cannabis Prescription Bill, cannabidiol found in cannabis shows significant benefit to children and adults with epilepsy.
  - AB1953 – Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) requirement of disclosure if an operator of a SNF has a 5% or more interest in the company that operates the SNF so that investors are transparent.
- The Presidents proposed budget can potentially impact Older Americans Act, approximately 6 million dollars for Title III nutrition. Programs proposed for elimination include HICAP/SHIP, Senior Community Services Employment Program, Senior Core Programs including Foster Grandparents, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Community and Social Services Block Grants and Elder Protection funding.
- Sheffield shared that in his 10 years working in State Legislature he has never seen a Governor's budget that has so much funding for Social Services, education and the Rainy Day Fund. Given that we are in an election year for Governor, candidates will want to

continue addressing the neglected needs since the recession such as Seniors, Health & Human Services, Women, Children and Education.

- Funding for the Maintenance of Effort funding for In-Home Support Services is part of Governor's budget; plan to extend the term and state responsibility for funding.

*Sheffield exited the meeting*

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

- Robeson - next step for committee is to extract from Sheffield's report, use Sonoma County's legislative platform and focus on the legislation which relates to the Committee's focus area.
- Committee was asked to look at topics that interest them.
- Saip – on March 28 he will be meeting with Prevention Partnership, a county wide collaborative focused on systems change and environment. Goals are to educate and inform community on alcohol, marijuana, and opioids. Saip will need an Advisory Council partner to make the presentation.
- Robeson – suggestion to create a speaker's bureau to talk to the community about Area Agency on Aging and Advisory Council, using the talking points.
- Coxon – State of County Breakfast had discussions of Watershed, Housing, Safety Net and Infrastructure. There will be all day workshops on each topic. Coxon will be attending Housing workshop.
- Sonoma County Legislative Platform is formed by County Administrator's Office (CAO) with input from Adult & Aging.
- Coxon to provide more info on "A Shattered System," a report on the state issues with Long Term Care Services system and recommendations for improvement.

## **7. Adjourn (Robeson) – meeting adjourned 11:58 a.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday March 14, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.