

ADULT SERVICES POLICY COUNCIL

Working together to meet the health and human service needs of adults and seniors.

Our vision is safe and supported adults & seniors with access to a full continuum of resources & independence wherever they reside.

Members

Boards, Commissions and Community Groups

Adult Abuse Prevention Council
Commission on Aging
County Board of Supervisors
Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board
Health Commission
Mental Health Advisory Board
SLO Supportive Housing Consortium

Non-Profit Agencies

211 SLO Hotline
AIDS Support Network & SLO Hep C Project
Alzheimer's Association
Area Agency on Aging
CenCal Health
Coast Caregiver Resource Center
Community Action Partnership of SLO County
Community Health Centers / Services of the Central Coast
Hospice of San Luis Obispo County
Independent Living Resource Center
Linkages Care Management
LTC Ombudsman Services of SLO County
North County Connection
Peoples' Self Help Housing
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Ride-On Transportation
Senior Legal Services Project
Senior Nutrition Program
Transitions/Mental Health Association
Tri-Counties Regional Center
United Cerebral Palsy
United Way of San Luis Obispo County
Wilshire Community Services / Caring Callers / Creative Mediation / Senior Peer Counseling

Private Organizations

Bates Care Management
Client Care Consultants
Family Home Care
Morris & Garritano Insurance
Sierra Vista Medical Center
Trio

Public Agencies

San Luis Coastal Adult School
San Luis Obispo County Departments of:
District Attorney / Victim Witness Assistance
Health Agency: Public Health / Public Guardian / Medical Services/ Behavioral Health
Probation Department
Sheriff
Department of Social Services / Adult Services
Veteran's Services

www.slocounty.ca.gov/ASPC

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Co-Chair: Mark Shaffer (805) 541-8751, shafmt@aol.com
Co-Vice Chair: Suzanne McFarlane, (805)710-4845, mcfarlanesuz@gmail.com
Co-Vice Chair: Marie Brinkmeyer, (805) 544-8740, rspslo@svolunteer.org

AGENDA **January 7, 2011** **9:00 am – 11:00 am**

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

(New developments for the population, agency or program changes that affect other agencies or programs)

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minutes or less)

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

Bruce Gibson, County Board of Supervisors
Geoff O'Quest, County of SLO, Administrative Offices
Julia Miller, DSS, Opportunity Conference

CORRECTIONS / ADDITIONS TO THE SYNOPSIS

ACTION ITEMS:

COMMITTEE UPDATES AS NEEDED: (10 minutes or less)

- **IHSS Update**
- **Good Neighbor**
- **POLST Follow up**

MEETING LOCATION:

Department of Social Services
2975 McMillan Road, San Luis Obispo
Suite 164 (Big Conference Room)

NEXT MEETING: February 4, 2010

ASPC Meeting January 7, 2011
Chaired by Gail Tutino

Attendees

Edie Kahn, AIDS Support Network/SLO HepC
Sara Bartlett, Alzheimer's Association
joyce ellen lippman, Area Agency on Aging
Janet Amanzio, Behavioral Health/Mental Health
Suzanne McFarlane, Non-Profit/Event Consultant
Krista Morley, CenCal Health
Kathleen Bellefontaine, Commission on Aging
Gail Tutino, Community Health Centers
Pam Munson, Community Representative
Julia Miller, Department of Social Services
Sandra Pendell, Department of Social Services
Cindy Marie Absey, District Attorney/Victim
Witness Assistance
Jason Reed, Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board
Jean Raymond, French Hospital
Kathleen Karle, Health Agency/Health Promotion
Jessica Devereaux, Lifesteps Foundation
Jim Healey, People's Self-Help Housing
Marsha Bollinger, Public Health

Marie Brinkmeyer, RSVP
Mark Shaffer, Ride-On Transportation/UPC
Elias Nimeh, Senior Nutrition Program
Michelle Cole, Sheriff's Department
Barry Johnson, Transitions- Mental Health
Association
Pam Crabaugh, Tri-Counties Regional Center
Kara Edwell, United Way of SLO
Bruce Gibson, SLO County Board of Supervisors
Greg Halfman, Adult School
Charmaine Petersen, CSA, Senior Living
Consultants
Martin Meltz, Volunteer
Ila Murr, IHSS Advisory Council
Alice York, Commission on Aging
Angela Viles, District Attorney, Victim/Witness
Geoff O'Quest, County of SLO Administration
Betsy Whitaker, Santa Maria Wisdom Center
Jorge Rodriguez, SLO Vet Center

Introductions and Announcements

Gail Tutino reported that CHC will be hiring additional providers for SLO County. More info will be provided at the next meeting.

Mark Shaffer reminded the group that senior transportation is available and caretakers accompanying a senior can ride for free.

Edie Kahn reported that a fundraiser will be held for SLO HepC at the Palm Theater on 1/28/2011.

Marie Brinkmeyer reported that on 1/19/2011, New Frontiers will be donating a portion of sales to RSVP.

joyce ellen lippman reported that the Area Agency on Aging will be holding "Listening Sessions" on 1/18 and 1/19/2011 for Senior Friendly Communities discussions.

Jessica Devereaux reported that LifeSteps received funding for respite care in the City of San Luis Obispo and Northern San Luis Obispo County.

Angela Viles, Victim/Witness, announced the implementation of the Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Project's training program. Victim/Witness will tailor training programs for specific groups.

Sara Bartlett, AA, distributed the Alzheimer's Association current newsletter. She reported that a brown bag seminar will be held at their office on 1/20/2011. Additional brown bag seminars will be held at a variety of locations. A professional caregiver training will be held on 1/19/2011. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association is recruiting for a full-time bilingual person with strong social services background to work in the Santa Maria office.

Cindy Marie Absey, Victim/Witness, reported that grant funding from the State is to be used specifically on elder abuse.

Greg Halfman, Adult School, reminds the group that a variety of classes are available and people can register online.

Betsy Whitaker, LifeSteps Foundation, program director at Santa Maria Wisdom Center introduced herself. The Wisdom Center provides adult daycare services for otherwise institutionalized individuals. She stated that funding may be available for Continuum of Services. She stated that she would like to connect with an ASPC Case Management subcommittee. The Wisdom Center has a grant writer and would like feedback from ASPC. She requested that this matter be put on ASPC's February agenda.

Barry Johnson reported that T-MHA will present "Journey of Hope" on 1/28/11. The speaker will be Kevin Hines, a survivor of a suicide attempt. There will be a panel discussion on suicide issues and resources. Representative and resource information will also be provided at a health fair held earlier in the day

Jason Reed reported that the Drug and Alcohol Advisory board is recruiting for a new board member. The board meets monthly in San Luis Obispo and an application is available online.

Michelle Cole reported that the re-entry facility will be completed by 2014. The Sheriff's Department will be going in front of the Board of Supervisors in February to discuss alternatives to incarceration and efforts to reduce recidivism.

Martin Meltz reminded the group that the 2011 Enumeration project will be on February 26 and that the project is seeking volunteers.

George Rodriguez, Veterans Affairs, reported that the organization offers services to vets and is temporarily located at the Grand Avenue Veterans Building in San Luis Obispo. They will be getting their own office soon and will provide services from Paso Robles to Santa Maria.

Julia Miller noted that there is a mandatory training at CAPSLO on 1/13/11 for Enumeration volunteers. Enumeration results impact HUD funding to SLO County, including housing for CAPSLO and Transitions Mental Health. The Enumeration is required every two years. Information will be used for HUD grants and local advocacy planning.

Edie Kahn reported that a free clinic is opening and ASPC needs additional information. It was agreed that efforts would be made to get speaker from French Hospital to discuss this topic.

Public Comment:

Sara Bartlett, Alzheimer's Association, reported that the federal National Alzheimer's Act did pass. This is the first federal legislation to specifically address Alzheimer's. It will create a federal action plan with a bipartisan panel to promote research and other activities.

Discussion/Information Items

Bruce Gibson, County Board of Supervisors and Geoff O'Quest, County of San Luis Obispo, Administration Office: Budget Update

County of San Luis Obispo Supervisor Bruce Gibson stated that the Board was waiting for details on the Governor's budget proposal which would be forthcoming on 1/10/11. He stated that CSAC participants generally seemed to feel that a different tack on the budget issue will be taken with new governor. It is expected that expenditure cuts will be significant, even with the possibility of increased revenue. SLO County has a budget gap of approximately \$9 million; this is less than in previous years. All departments have been apprised to identify cost cutting possibilities. Supervisor Gibson stated that he is advocating for health services. The County will have a proposed budget by May 2011. He noted that the Health Agency is very active in getting ready for national healthcare reform. He also reported that SLO County will not be able to continue to provide certain State mandated programs without funding.

The County continues to reach out to form collaborations with non-governmental groups. For example, the Friends of the Library is providing funds to expand library hours. County Parks and Recreation is reaching out to the Economic Development and tourism industry, etc. Continued efforts are being made to find creative ways to accomplish the things that need to be done, including a different approach to incarceration. Supervisor Gibson indicated that he expects changes with the new Sheriff. He stated the Board of Supervisors welcomes input from citizens and groups.

Geoff O'Quest reported that when AB3632 was blue-lined by Former Governor Schwarzenegger it relieved counties of their mandated role to provide certain mental health services. That action put the County in a tough situation. The County had been providing funding to group homes, but when it was no longer mandated questions arose regarding the correctness in continuing to do so. The Board of Supervisors has a long term policy of not backfilling services lost as a result of State budget cuts, and ultimately the policy was continued. Departmental budgets and cut lists are due in a month. Mr. O'Quest stated that \$3 million in cuts were expected to the Health Agency. There is currently a \$9 to \$15 million gap in the County budget.

It was noted that the State budget will be coming out at the same time County departments are finalizing their budgets. That creates challenges. The County ends up creating two budgets – an original budget based on current conditions, then a revised budget when State's budget is finally complete.

There is a \$6 billion gap in California's current fiscal year budget. A \$20 billion gap is projected for each of the next five fiscal years. It was noted that the State is talking about things like dismantling the State juvenile services and pushing that responsibility down to the counties.

Supervisor Gibson said that CSAC is somewhat optimistic regarding future relations with the State given that we have a new governor. Mr. O'Quest opined that Governor Brown has an understanding that passing responsibilities down to local government without commensurate funding doesn't work.

Mr. O'Quest stated that the Board of Supervisors has asked the County departments to include in writing the impact of potential cuts listed in prioritized order. He suggests that Jeff Hamm and Lee Collins be invited to come speak to ASPC at the February meeting regarding the impact of potential cuts to Health Agency and Social Services.

A question was asked by the membership regarding County reserve funds. Certain reserve funds can be accessed, while many reserve funds cannot. A one-time decision was made in a recent year not to put additional funds into Tax Reduction Reserve Fund and a decision was made to withdraw funds from it.

The Board of Supervisors wants to close 20% of the deficit gap in the upcoming budget. Mr. O'Quest stated that the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors is fiscally conservative. Reserves are being invested conservatively. A five year strategy has been expanded to become a seven year strategy. The State has a four-year plan now too. It was felt that San Luis Obispo County is ahead of the game when it comes to resolving budgetary issues.

Marsha Bollinger pointed out that CMSP is extremely expensive. Needs of the community have increased due to general problems with the economy, job loss, etc. CMSP is over budget; but is not allowed to turn people away. More and more people are coming in every day to request services. CMSP is looking to see if they can cut back on specific services as a method of decreasing overall expenses. Budget problems will increase with increased economic difficulties. Implementation of national healthcare reform in 2014 is requiring a great deal of planning.

Supervisor Gibson said he would be happy to come back to provide ASPC members with an update once he has more information. He stated he would accept inquiries through Mr. O'Quest.

It was noted that the January 18, 2011 Board of Supervisors' meeting would be looking at the impacts of the governor's budget locally. The meeting's agenda will be posted on website.

Julia Miller, DSS: SLO County Bridging Poverty Opportunity Conference

Ms. Miller made a report on the conference to be held on 2/26/2011. She noted that the Department of Social Service's website has info and publications on the conference. The conference will be held for individuals and families living in poverty and is intended to give them information and resources that will assist them in leaving poverty. The conference is based on

the work of Donna Beegle, who presented at Poverty 101. Ms. Beegle overcame generational poverty and is working to help others in doing so themselves. Ms. Miller explained that the upcoming conference is being held for people who themselves are living in poverty, not providers and not administrators. The purpose is to raise their understanding of poverty and how they became ensnared in it. Poverty generally is caused by societal issues, not by personal failings. The conference plan includes assignment of navigators to help in navigating systems (e.g., educational). Navigators will be available post-conference to answer questions, practice interview skills, help with research, etc. Ms. Miller stated that this is a great opportunity for participants and for providers. The group is planning on having 175 people attend this conference and needs a navigator for each attendee. Being a Navigator requires a six month commitment to meet with the assigned attendee one hour per week. Navigators will attend the afternoon conference on 2/26; there is a mandatory training for Navigators on 2/25. Navigators will work one-on-one with participants. Call Ms. Miller for more information at 781-1704.

There is a need for bilingual Navigators. One-day volunteers, for the conference day only, are also needed for childcare, youth services, asset development, logistics, transport, etc. The conference is open to anyone living in poverty; there is not a specific income level to be eligible to attend the conference.

Corrections/Additions to the Synopsis

Jean Raymond moves to approve the December 2010 synopsis as written; seconded by Kathleen Karle. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Action Items: There were no action items at this meeting.

Committee Updates:

IHSS Update –

Ila Murr, IHSS Advisory Council, reported that the Council is seeking members. Applications were provided at the meeting for people interested in becoming members. It was learned that 50% of IHSS Advisory Council must be disabled or a recipient of disabled services in the past. Volunteers meet monthly at the Department of Social Services. The Advisory Council provides support to the Public Authority and gives info regarding IHSS issues. A stipend is available as well as mileage reimbursement. The Council has four current members locally; and can have up to eleven. Caregivers, either currently or previous, are encouraged to join. Interested parties should contact Donna Clipperton at the Public Authority for more information, 781-1617. ASPC members also asked that electronic copies of the application and information be provided.

IHSS Update –

Julia Miller reported that all IHSS recipients will have a 3.6% reduction in services, except in Protective Supervision, effective 2/1/2011. Messages that were sent out by State have been very confusing. There will be new regulations in regards to provider background requirements effective 2/1/11, but no All County Letter has yet been issued to clarify the new regulations. Additional cuts seem likely when the new State budget is released.

Good Neighbor

Marie Brinkmeyer says new volunteers have completed training and that there has been a great response coming from community. RSVP is getting fewer requests for assistance and she thinks the reduction is due to the Good Neighbor Program. Discussion was held regarding how the program is being publicized. Wilshire Foundation will be asked to provide an update on how many people are now getting services through Good Neighbor. Pam Munson reported there were 18 new trainees in the past month and more volunteers are getting signed up for future trainings. It was noted that staff at DSS are making referrals. Mark Shaffer pointed out that ASPC needs to continue to support Good Neighbor in getting publicized and in getting new volunteers.

POLST Update –

Jean Raymond reports that the California HealthCare Foundation did not fund the grant request from the Central Coast Coalition for Compassionate Care (CCCCC). The funding agency stated that the money was given to larger population areas but suggested that the Central Coast Coalition submit requests for funding for individual programs. Additional flyers are available for the January 31st POLST Program at French Hospital Medical Center, however, there are already 30 people registered and space is limited. There will be another Coalition planning meeting 1/11/11 at Arroyo Grande Community Hospital - 3:30 to 5 P.M. All are welcome to attend. The CCCCC will be planning future programs in the community. There was a recent article in the local newspaper about the importance of healthcare providers having conversations about end of life care.

General Discussion –

Preventive Health Grant will be due this month. Kathleen Karle expects 5% cut minimum on Community Based Organization. Possible cuts to other funds as well; waiting for word from County Administration. Jesse heard up to 14% cut in Preventive Health.

**The next meeting is February 4, 2011
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Department of Social Services
2975 McMillan Rd
San Luis Obispo**