

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
Probation Department
Sheriff
Department of Social Services / Adult Services
Veteran's Services

www.slocounty.ca.gov/ASPC

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Chair: Karen Jones (805) 785-0132, ltcombl7@kcbx.net

Coordinator: Julia Miller (805) 781-1704 jmiller@co.slo.ca.us

AGENDA

February 5, 2010

9:00 am – 11:00 am

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

20 min.

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

CORRECTIONS / ADDITIONS TO THE SYNOPSIS

1 min.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minutes or less)

10 min.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

60 min.

1. POLST Healthcare Directive – Jeanne West
2. Senate Report on Ombudsman & Elder Abuse
3. Older American's Act Re-Authorization Hearings
4. Poll: Speakers/discussion items for 2010

COMMITTEE UPDATES AS NEEDED: (10 minutes or less)

30 min.

- IHSS Update
- Domestic Violence Death & Elder Death Review Team
- Good Neighbors/Volunteer Army

MEETING LOCATION:

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

NEXT MEETING: March 5, 2010

ASPC Meeting February 5, 2010
Chaired by Karen Jones

Karen Jones, LTC Ombudsman Svcs
Edie Kahn, AIDS Support Network & SLO Hep
C Project
Sara Bartlett, Alzheimer's Association
Suzanne McFarlane, Caring Callers
Krista Morley, Cen Cal Health
Joyce Heddleson, Mental Health Board
Kathleen Bellafontaine, Commission on Aging
Julia Miller, DSS-Adult Programs/SLO
Supportive Housing Consortium
Pam Munson, Health Commission
Jessica Devereaux, Linkages Care Management
Marsha Bollinger, Public Health/Health Care
Services Division
Marie Brinkmeyer, RSVP- Senior Volunteer
Service
Karl Winkler, Ride-On Transportation/United
Cerebral Palsy
Elias Nimeh, Senior Nutrition Program

Carol Schmidt, Senior Peer Counseling
Barry Johnson, Transitions-Mental Health
Association
Pam Crabaugh, Tri-Counties Regional Center
Hans Poschman, Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
Cherie Aispuro, Aide to Supervisor Gibson
Lori Bernstein, DSS-IHSS Caregiver Registry
Jared Smith, DSS Adult Services Intern
Sandra Pendell, DSS Adult Services
Mara Witten, CAPSLO
joyce ellen lippman, AAA
Meredith Bates, Bates Care Management
Kathleen Bellafontaine, Commission on Aging
Raye Fleming, CAPSLO Health Services
Tracy Mello, Wilshire Foundation
Jean Raymond, French Hospital

Introductions and Announcements

Karen Jones reported that the Ombudsmen's office is very busy with a significant increase in financial abuse cases. Four facilities in San Luis Obispo and North County have closed recently due to financial problems, e.g., foreclosures, requiring residents to relocate on short notice. Karen suggested that members be aware of economic challenges facing facilities and the possibility of additional closures. She noted that facilities may be open to negotiating rates given the current economic climate.

joyce ellen lippman distributed flyers on the "Safeguarding Elders and Dependent Adults Against Abuse" seminar which will be held on May 25 in Santa Barbara.

Hans Poschman reminded members that the Governor's budget and the more easily comprehensible budget overview can be reviewed online at <http://www.lao.ca.gov> He noted the budget includes a report on IHSS.

Cherie Aispuro reported that Supervisor Gibson is interested in learning more about the groups and agencies involved in ASPC. As a result, she will be spending time with various ASPC agencies. She spent time with Senior Nutrition during the week of 1/25/2010 and will be meeting with Senior Peer Counseling during the week of 2/8/2010.

Carol Schmidt reported that Senior Peer Counseling is seeking volunteers to participate in a 12-week 72-hour training that commences mid-March. She noted that trainers are very qualified individuals including retired PhDs and university professors.

Tracy Mello reported that the Wilshire Foundation will be offering group therapy sessions for seniors starting in March 2010.

Kathleen Bellafontaine announced that the Commission on Aging is advocating with SLOCOG for TDA monies for transport and transit programs in San Luis Obispo County. She also reported that HICAP has new brochures.

Jean Raymond introduced herself as a Geriatric Nurse with French Hospital. This is her first attendance at an ASPC meeting.

Julia Miller reported that DSS Adult Services continues to see a steady increase in APS and IHSS referrals. APS received 30+ reports of elder/dependent adult abuse during the week of 1/25/2010. IHSS applications are currently being handled within 30 days. She also noted that Action for Healthy Communities will be sending out surveys and contacting members for information in the near future.

Marsha Bollinger announced that CMSP has updated their brochures.

Barry Johnson provided information on SLOtheStigma.org which is designed to address the stigma around mental illness. A documentary and website have been produced. SLO Hotline will be providing mental health information and 24-hour confidential telephone services at 800-549-4499. Barry also announced that “Journey of Hope” presentation will be held at the BOS chambers on 2/26/2010 and will include a presentation of “The Shaken Tree.” The guest speaker at the event will be Kevin Hines who is a suicide survivor.

Mara Witten announced that CAPSLO will be holding their annual fundraiser “Trivia Brain Challenge” in March 2010.

Karl Winkler announced that Ride-On has hired mobility manager Jeannine Taylor. She will assist individuals who do not fit into existing programs, and do not have funds to pay normal Ride-On fees. She can be contacted by e-mail at mobility@ride-on.org. Karl also reported that United Cerebral Palsy will be holding the annual Life Without Limits celebration April 29 through May 8, 2010.

Sara Bartlett reported that respite grants for January 2010 were not used. She reminded members that the Alzheimer’s Association has two \$850 grants available each month. She noted that recent news articles regarding wandering had resulted in 30 calls by families wanting to register their loved ones in the Project Lifesaver. She noted that financial assistance is available for the program.

Corrections/Additions to the Synopsis

Joyce Heddleson indicated that the January synopsis needed to be corrected to show she is representing the Mental Health board and is no longer representing Caregiver’s Resource Center.

Discussion/Information Items

1. POLST Healthcare Directive – Jeanne West, Santa Barbara County POLST Coalition

The Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form is a pro-active document similar to an Advance Directive, but with important differences. It must be honored in all medical settings, including hospitals. Once it has been completed and signed by a physician, it becomes a doctor's order and must be honored. The document provides clear and specific information regarding the patient's wishes in regards to medical treatment options. The form is retained by the patient so that when a medical situation arises it will be immediately available. It is a bright pink color for easy identification and provides direction for a wide range of treatment. Medical providers and facilities can keep a copy of the form for their records.

The critical factor in POLST is "The Conversation. The form should be reviewed with the patient by their physician so that the patient can make an informed decision. The POLST form should be completed by any person who has been diagnosed with a serious or chronic progressive illness.

Ms. West presented a case study of an elderly gentleman who had an Advanced Health Directive, however a copy of the Directive was not retained by the SNF where he resided. He had a medical emergency which resulted in his being taken to an emergency room. His family members, who had the AHD, could not be located. As a result, the gentleman underwent treatment he specifically did not want and experienced unnecessary pain and suffering. Following his eventual release from the hospital, he completed a POLST form so that he would not go through such an experience again.

POLST was developed in Oregon in 1991. Twenty-three states now use POLST. Studies have shown that it is honored universally and effective. It is recognized as a legal document in California and is used throughout the state. Use of the POLST is not mandated, however honoring the POLST is mandated. The POLST does not replace the need for an AHD.

Discussion was held regarding the problem of non-medical people holding "The Conversation" with the patient without having the necessary knowledge to discuss various conditions, treatments and likely outcomes. In such a situation, the patient is not able to make an informed decision, and form is sent to the physician after it has already been completed..

A POLST can be updated at any time by completing a new form, and crossing out the incorrect information on the outdated form and filing it.

2. Senate Report on Ombudsman & Elder Abuse – Karen Jones, Ombudsman Office
Discussions are currently being held at the Senate regarding the possibility of having the responsibility of investigations of abuse in care facilities being shifted from the Ombudsman's office to licensing agencies. Taking over the responsibilities would increase costs to the licensing agencies, and would increase their workloads, both of which would be a disincentive. It was noted that 70% of abuse in care facilities involve family members, which require special expertise. She expressed concern that it would

take some time for a new agency to acquire the knowledge, and establish procedure to effectively manage cases.

Karen Jones has held discussions with the legislative analysts regarding these concerns. She notes that the APS does not currently have the staff or experience needed to handle reports of abuse in care facilities. Karen asked that ASPC prepare a letter in support of the Ombudsman's office continuing investigation of abuse reports in care facilities.

Motion Made by Marsha Bollinger: "I move that this body write a letter supporting the Ombudsman's Office in continuing its investigative services"

Motion Seconded by: Joyce Heddleston

Point Of Action Called by Julia Miller, reminding the group that this would be considered an action item and should be put on next month's agenda for a vote.

Chairman acknowledged, no vote taken

Revised Motion made by Marsha Bollinger; "I move that we call for a consensus that we write a letter of support for the Ombudsman's office retaining the responsibility of investigation of abuse reports in care facilities."

Motion Seconded by: Joyce Heddleston.

Oral Vote Taken and passed unanimously.

Item to be put on the March 5th 2010 agenda as an Action Item.

Kathleen Bellafontaine reminded the group that members can also write letters of support as individuals. This matter will be put on the agenda for the 3/5/2010 meeting.

3. Older Americans' Act Re-Authorization Hearings – joyce ellen lippman

The Older Americans' Act is a federal document that created many senior services as provided by ASPC agencies. Reauthorization hearings are scheduled for 3/3/2010 in San Francisco. At the hearings, it is expected that organizations will ask that the Older Americans' Act be changed to allow the Ombudsman offices to take action for incapacitated/unrepresented individuals. If approved, the Act would apply to all U.S. states and territories.

The local AAA's position is that the Ombudsman office and each state's AAA needs to develop a system that works in their own state. The local AAA also feels that changes are needed in regards to respite care. Currently respite care is limited to intermittent and temporary assistance and cannot be provided on a regular basis. joyce ellen lippman asks that ASPC support changes to the Older Americans' Act as discussed. She noted that individuals can make comments online.

Elias Nemeh pointed out that currently in California, federal funds cannot be released until the state budget has been released. There is an expectation that existing providers will close if the California state budget is delayed again this year. He noted that other states have legislation that allows the release of federal funds even if the State budget has not been released. Hans Poschman agreed to bring this matter to Assemblyman

Blakeslee's office. Mr. Nemeh also suggested that the SLO County Board of Supervisors support such legislation in California.

4. Poll: Speakers/discussion items for 2010.

The following recommendations for speakers and discussions were made by members:

- Trauma Center – Charlotte Alexander
- Legislative Advocacy – Hans Poschman
- SLO County POLST Coalition development – Jean Raymond, French Hospital
- CMSP
- Public Health Department – Jeff Hamm
- Expedited SSI Application Process – Sandra Pendell
- Opportunity Conferences – Julia Miller
- SLO County Budget – Supervisor Bruce Gibson

Committee Updates

IHSS Update – Julia Miller continues to monitor situation. Court cases are still pending.

Domestic Violence Death & Elder Death Review Team (DVDEDRT)

The DVDEDRT Team will meet February 9, at 3pm, at the SLO Sheriff's Office conference room.

Good Neighbors / Volunteer Army

Group anticipates that services will begin in SLO County in Spring 2010..

The next meeting is March 5, 2010

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Department of Social Services

2975 McMillan Rd

San Luis Obispo