

# 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](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/ASPC)

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Co-Chair Kathleen Karle, [kkarle@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:kkarle@co.slo.ca.us), (805) 781-4929  
Vice Chair: Marie Brinkmeyer, (805) 544-8740, [rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org](mailto:rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org)

## **AGENDA**

**4/6/2012**

**9.00 – 11.00 a.m.**

### **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:**

- Senior Advocacy Project Update – John Alongi, GALA
- Hearing Friendly Community: SLO County Commission on Aging and Central Coast Assistive Technology Center describe their latest contributions to SLO County Hearing Loss awareness and solutions – Kathleen Bellefontaine and Paul Mortola

### **CORRECTIONS / ADDITIONS TO THE SYNOPSIS**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Older American's Month Proclamation / Presentation to BOS

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES AS NEEDED: (10 minutes or less) 30 min.**

- **IHSS Update**
- **Good Neighbor**
- **POLST Follow up**
- **Continuum of Care**

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

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

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**5/4/2012**

**ASPC Meeting April 6, 2012**  
**Chaired by Marie Brinkmeyer**

**Attendees:**

Edie Kahn,

AIDS Support Network/SLO Hep C

joyce ellen lippman,

Area Agency on Aging

Kathleen Bellefontaine,

Commission on Aging

Sandra Pendell,

Department of Social Services

Jean Raymond,

French Hospital/Health Commission

Kathleen Karle, Public Health

Jerry Mihaic,

Independent Living Resource Center

Karen Jones,

Long Term Care Ombudsman Svcs

Marie Brinkmeyer, RSVP

Elias Nimeh, Senior Nutrition Program

Pam Crabaugh,

Tri-Counties Regional Center

Joe Hoeflich,

Tri-Counties Regional Center

Jessica Devereaux,

Wilshire Community Services

Kevin Drabinski,

Field Rep for Assemblyman Achadjian

Rich Smucker, Mariposa Music Therapy

Laura DeLoye, Mariposa Music Therapy

Heidi McNichols, SLO County Probation

Theresa Merkle, CenCal Health

Meredith Bates, Bates Care Management

Michelle Mason, Lifesteps Foundation

Susan Warren, North County Connection

Mark Shaffer,

Ride-On Transportation/UCP

Mike Bossenberry,

Transitions Mental Health/SLO Hotline

Hans Poschman,

Rep for Senator Blakeslee

Kathryn Aceto, Lifesteps Foundation

Alice York, Commission on Aging

**Introductions and Announcements**

Kathryn Aceto reported that Lifesteps Foundation was nearly ready to submit a collaborative grant proposal and invited members to contact her if they wished to join the collaborative.

Elias Nimeh, Senior Nutrition, reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Night of a Million Meals fundraiser would be held on 5/5/12 at Embassy Suites.

joyce ellen lippman reported that the Area Agency on Aging is still accepting nominations for Older Americans month. She noted that the new edition of Senior Information Guide is available and members could pick up copies after the meeting.

Kathleen Karle reported that the CBO/PHG County Grant committee had reviewed all applications and had made their recommendations for CBO/PHG awards.

Kathleen Bellefontaine introduced Alice York from the COA who, with Ms. Bellefontaine, is the co-chair of the COA.

Sue Warren, North County Connection, announced that a program called "Food for Health" will be held on April 16. It will provide information on how nutrients affect the

brain. On May 14 a training will be held promoting behavior health as part of primary care screenings. A nominal fee and CEUs will be available. A brief overview will be held at the Health Commission the evening before.

Meredith Bates announces that the kiosks that were previously available at the County Courts for families wanting to do background checks on potential caregivers had been closed. Families now must wait in long lines to obtain information. Ms. Bates explained that individuals who are paid data miners have made the lines unusually long .

Karen Jones, LTCO, reports that a 4/11 seminar will be held for disaster planning for agencies that provide services to special needs. She also reported that on May 4 the Adult Abuse Prevention Center will be holding their annual conference in Paso Robles; a variety of speakers will be presenting information. The conference will conflict with the ASPC meeting. She gave an update on the case of the medically fragile prisoner who was to be released to SLO County; ultimately the person will not be released to SLO County. A small group is working on the best process to handle such cases in the future as more releases of medically fragile prisoners are expected.

Mark Shaffer, UCP/Ride-On, reported that the UCP's Ability Fair will be held next Friday. There will be tables where brochures and materials can be displayed, even if agencies do not have staff available to attend the Fair. In addition he reported that a grant had been submitted by Ride-On on behalf of Good Neighbor Program. If approved the grant could provide up to 3 years funding. He stated the Senior Shuttle for 2012-2013 is also expected to be fully funded.

#### **Public Comment:**

Elias Nimeh reported that the wait list for the Senior Nutrition program has been completed. There is no longer a wait list.

#### **Discussion/Information Items**

**John Alongi of GALA** reported that over 120 managers and supervisors have been trained in providing culturally sensitive services to GLBT clients and are now ready to provide to direct care givers. He that aged GLBT seniors from the Stonewall Generation are now in need of services and are fearful of discrimination and abuse. The film "Gen Silent" is about six such individuals and will be shown in SLO on April 29 at 2.00 at the SLO County Library Community Room for \$10.00. Only 100 seats are available. He explained that this is not a fundraiser, but a community education program.

**Kathleen Bellefontaine, Commission on Aging** gave a presentation on the Commission's work to make San Luis Obispo County a "Hearing Friendly Community." The Commission has educated itself regarding hearing loss and has prepared materials to assist agencies in providing good service to individuals with hearing loss. In addition, materials have been prepared to encourage individuals with hearing loss to be open about their hearing loss and ask for clarification when they do not understand what is being said.

**Paul Mortola, Program Director for Central Coast Assistive Technology Center (CCATC)**, provided information about the agency. CCATC provides information about assistive technology, but does not sell assistive technology. He reported that the agency has an Assistive Device loan library which allows California residents to borrow various types of technology. Hearing aids don't work for a lot of people; the effectiveness of a hearing aid depends on the type of hearing loss the person has. A variety of alternative listening devices such as a pocket talker (an amplifier and an ear piece with a directional microphone) were demonstrated as a possible option or adjunct to hearing aids. The pocket talker device is relatively affordable and can be borrowed through the lending library for up to 30 days. Funding may be available through CCATC for low income people who wish to purchase an assistive device. Mr. Mortola demonstrated the use of more complicated devices that are also available through the lending library. He noted that California Telephone Access program offers free landline assistive telephones for those who need them. A simple application form must be completed and accessible phones are available for a variety of disabilities such as hearing loss, mobility issues, etc. The landlines telephones available through the California Telephone Access programs are free. Mr. Mortola reported that cell phones are a challenge for people with hearing loss due to the typically poor sound quality. However, the Jitterbug is an amplified cell phone for those with hearing loss. He also noted that Verizon offers the Haven phone which has large buttons and talking menus for those with vision difficulties. The CCATC will be at the Abilities Fair next week. They do not sell assistive devices, but can refer interested parties to vendors if they wish to purchase.

Jerry Mihaic, Independent Learning Resource Center, noted that ILRC will also be at the Abilities Fair and will have devices and services that they provide to hearing impaired. Mr. Mihaic noted that ILRC can provide American Sign Language interpreters when needed. He stated that American Sign Language is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common language.

A question was raised regarding who does hearing loss evaluations. Mr. Mortola reported that CCATC does not evaluate the level hearing loss, but evaluates what hearing devices would be most appropriate for the client. Marie Brinkmeyer noted that hearing devices may also be available through the Veterans Administration, even if the hearing loss was not a result of military service.

### **Corrections/Additions to the Synopsis**

Joyce Ellen moved that synopsis be approved with corrections as discussed. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Karle and passed unanimously by the group.

### **Action Items:**

Discussion held regarding the proclamation and talking points to the Board of Supervisors for Older Americans Month. The group agreed that additional information should be added to the talking point regarding the number of volunteer hours that are provided by seniors. It was noted that RSVP consists solely of seniors and provides services to a wide variety of agencies.

A motion to approve the Proclamation as presented, and talking points with recommended changes, was made by Kathleen Bellefontaine. The motion was seconded by Pamela Crabaugh and unanimously approved by the membership.

Kathleen Karle noted that the presentation to the Board of Supervisors will be made at on Tuesday, 5/1/12, in the Boards Chambers. An e-mail to the membership will be sent the week before and members will be encouraged to attend.

**Committee Updates:**

**IHSS Update** – Sandra Pendell, DSS, reported that DSS is continuing to monitor steps being made to move Dual Eligible people (those receiving both Medicare and Medi-Cal) into managed care.

**Good Neighbor** – Jessica Devereaux gave an update on upcoming trainings and current volunteers. Discussion was held on how volunteers are reimbursed for gas costs. There is minimal reimbursement (\$15 per month) available to volunteers through RSVP and gas cards are given to individuals who have driven more than 100 miles in their volunteer work. Mark Shaffer noted that Ride-On provides some funding for the Good Neighbor program and is able to bill the state for 50% of the funding costs.

**POLST Update** – POLST Update – The Central Coast Coalition for Compassionate Care (CCCCC) continues to plan future POLST programs in the community – a small group of members attended a meeting at the Long Term Care Ombudsman office 3/21. Twin Cities Hospital and Sierra Vista Hospital representatives called to say that they could not make the meeting but were still interested in the outcome of the meeting. French Hospital provided two programs for doctors healthcare providers – March 29 “The Discussion We Avoid, Addressing Advance Directives” and April 5 “What is in the Palliative Care Toolbox”. The last state coalition conference call took place 3/20/12 – there was a reminder that the latest POLST educational materials can be accessed at [www.caPOLST.org](http://www.caPOLST.org). In addition, there was a reminder that April 16<sup>th</sup> is National Healthcare Decision Day.

**Continuum of Care** – No update this month.

**The next meeting is May 4, 2012  
9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Department of Social Services  
2975 McMillan Rd  
San Luis Obispo**