

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

Meeting Date: Friday, July 19, 2013 **Time:** 10:00 am - Noon
Place: Veteran's Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please RSVP to Chair (235-5779) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

10:00 am Call for a Quorum

Call to Order

- Flag Salute
- Roll List (new Minute Taker sign up sheet)
- Approval of June Minutes [Anita Shower, July Minute Taker]
- Approval of Agenda
- Guest and Public Comment [2 minute limit]

Presentations:

- **Medicare & the Affordable Care Act: Latest News!**
Speaker, Buff Lawson, HICAP Registered Counselor

Introductions, Announcements and Updates: Member introductions. Take time needed for announcements, updates, comments on current senior issues.

Special Reports:

- Supervisor meeting: Alice York
- Transportation News: Myra Lathrop, Ride-On Open House. Kathleen Bellefontaine, Rideshare Mobility Management Summit

Unfinished Business:

- Continued discussion: anything that you would like the Commission to do differently?

Adjournment:

Next Meeting, August 16, 2013

SLO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Veterans Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo

Minutes for July 19, 2013

Members Present: Anita Shower, Alice York, Maryanne Zarycka, Judy Mishoulam, Gary Fowler, Kathleen Bellefontaine, Marie Pounders, Marilyn Hamilton, Myra Lathrop, Carol Schmidt, Julie Macedo, Elias Nimeh, Kelley Sexton, Deborah Bayles

Absent: Jo Dennison, Diane Maiorano, Cindy Deibert, Rosa Hernandez

Guests: Buff Lawson, Mary Linda Kincaid, Noel King, Karen Beatty, Jan Harper, Stephanie Barclay, Hannah Miller, Cherie Aispuro, Ronald Traynor

Quorum established.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. Flag Salute

Circulation of roll list

Minutes from last month accepted as written.

Approval of Agenda – accepted as written.

Guest comments:

Stephanie Barclay—new Director of Senior Legal Services -- gave brief description of assistance available to those seniors most in need related to issues such as: elder abuse, insurance matters, landlord-tenant complaints, Powers of Attorney and health care directives. Phone number is: 805/543-5140. Senior Legal Services also sends out attorney volunteers to Paso Robles, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo and Nipomo Senior Centers once a month. Call center to set up an appointment.

Karen Beatty: Insurance Chair for California Retired Teacher's Association.

Presentation: Medicare & the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Buff Lawson, HICAP Registered Counselor Buff spoke about the purpose of HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. Besides assisting Medicare recipients with questions and problem solving related to Medicare, this program provides Community education (such as this presentation) and Long-term care counseling. Best part is this is free. Buff's power point reviewed Medicare basics and then covered the changes that have already and will occur due to ACA. Primary goal of ACA is to increase rate of health care coverage to all Americans, to reduce overall medical costs and extend the solvency of Medicare to at least 2026.

Buff explained that Medicare Part C refers to the Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans sponsored by Medicare. These are also known as HMO's and PPO's. In SLO County only two plans are available and only if you live south of the grade.

ACA started affecting seniors in 2011 with increased coverage for drugs for those reaching the donut hole, coverage of preventative services including wellness exams and screenings for cancer, cardiovascular issues and other conditions. Prescription Drug plan premiums have been increased for higher income wage earners; \$85,000 single and \$170,000 couple (IRMAA income related monthly adjustment amount)[additions made by Chair]

Future changes will close the donut hole by 2020; Medicare Advantage Plans will have to use at least 85% of their income to provide medical services to their clients while administrative costs and profit cannot exceed 15%.

Buff's spoke about many web sites for getting the facts: www.medicare.gov www.healthcare.gov www.NCOA.org and www.KFF.org . www.centerforhealthreporting.org = 'Ask Emily' in the Trib can be found here. www.coveredca.com = set up to list insurance rates for people who want to get insurance. Doesn't apply to Medicare recipients. Telephone: 1-800-975-1142. This is a consortium of insurance agencies that will help people sign up.

Introductions: Members encouraged to add announcements and updates to giving their name and position on the Commission. Members introduced themselves as usual. Members' additional comments are listed:

Kathleen Bellefontaine reported on presentation of the SLOCOA Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors, July 16, which included commentary from co-vice chair, Alice York, and alternate member at large, Carol Schmidt. Kathleen distributed

that Report to members along with other handouts: updated BOS contact numbers, updated Flowchart, CA Elder Economic Index for this County, Noor Clinic Brochures.

Marie Pounders, member –at-large, representing Affordable Housing and Mobile Home Parks, reported on the **Home and Jobs Act, SB 391**, which will create a permanent source of money for affordable housing statewide to replace depleted bond monies from 2002 and 2006. SB 391 has passed the Senate and is headed for the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee in August. It now has an Urgency Clause attached to it which means that if it passes, it will take effect immediately, no having to wait till Jan 2014. We have sent our COA support letter to Katcho because he is our Assemblyperson. We also sent the letter to the BOS as well as to the author of the bill, Senator Mark DeSaulnier.

Marie also described **mobile home parks bill SB 510** which clarifies existing law and enables MHP owners to have a say in whether their park should be forced to be subdivided. As of 3 weeks ago, the largest park in our county, Mesa Dunes, was notified they were going to be subdivided by law firm, Goldman, Ghilcrest and Rutters who were hired by the park owners. She explained that most people who live in MH parks are not able to afford to purchase their lot. 'Condoizing' or subdividing a park causes a loss of value to the homes and an inflated value to the lots. It also ends rent control with the first lot sold. SLOMAP is working with GSMOL to pass SB 510 to help preserve MH parks as a source of affordable housing.

Kathleen followed up on Marie's comments about SB 391– to clarify why SLOCOA supported that bill when the Supervisors did not. Since the Commission is an advisory board to the Supervisors, when there is a difference of opinion about State bills that affect our County Seniors, should we take action? The proper avenue would be to go to the Board first. But in this case, the Commission was not informed when this issue would be on the Agenda and missed being able to voice their advocacy.

Cherie Aispuro explained how AB391 was set on the BOS agenda with short notice and the reason for the vote.

Julie Macedo, Department of Mental Health Representative, reported that recent heat wave put several clients in the emergency room with one in the ICU. Heat waves affect many elders in San Luis Obispo, but particularly, the homeless.

Julie described another difficulty currently experienced that is the limited housing available for the elderly diagnosed with both mental health issues and medical problems. There appears to be no housing designated to accept both of these diagnoses and assist them in stabilization. Mental health professionals have discussed this issue and **it is hoped a dialogue with both mental and medical health providers** can be established to address this issue.

Alice York – Supervisor Gibson's representative spoke about Morro Bay Rite Aid making magnifying glasses available where medicines are located.

Cherie Aispuro, District 2 Legislative Assistant gave update on construction status of Atascadero and Cambria Libraries, and impending openings.

Hannah Miller—Adam Hill's Legislative Assistant—introduced herself.

Carol Schmidt -- alternate at large and Outreach Volunteer for Wilshire Health—informed members about name change from Wilshire Community Services to Wilshire Health which is a larger umbrella. She described all of their programs including Wilshire Home Health and Wilshire Hospice. Need volunteers all of the time.

Judy Mishoulam –Representative of Paul Teixeira (deceased) and will remain until 2014 unless someone replaces her.

Kelly Sexton --Victim Witness –reminded members that there are scams going on with affordable care. Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission.

Maryanne Zarycka – Supervisor Mecham's representative, reports that due to rigorous senior activity schedules, she has not been able to 'round up' enough seniors at one time to do a COA presentation. Director felt it would be more beneficial if she disseminated the COA information at times that made better sense to connect with the most seniors possible.

Deborah Bayles – independent geriatric care manager; explained how she serves our frail senior population.

Anita Shower – Adam Hill’s representative; is working with the 5Cities Homeless Coalition as is her new Eco Rotary Club; just became a member of the SLO County Commission on the Status of Women; recent graduate from Eastern Oregon University.

Unfinished business: Tabled due to lack of time.

Special reports:

Alice York: Meeting with Bruce Gibson to find out how SLOCOA can be better informed about agenda items that affect seniors. Mr. Gibson encouraged all representatives to have input with their supervisors. He suggested seeking out these agenda items by contact with Dan Buckshi, County Administrator. Alice asked for a stand for microphone in Vet’s Lounge. That has been arranged. Alice encourages members to give libraries notice of our meeting presentations/agenda as she has done at Morro Bay Library.

Myra Lathrop – attended open house sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy and Ride On, celebrating the latter’s 20th anniversary. She talked to Mark Schaffer. Clarified Ride On; social services part and then the general services’ part; funding is secure. Door to door service varies depending on availability; make appt in advance; wheelchair lifts. Have 100 vehicles; there is a VA express shuttle and all the way to Los Angeles; medical shuttle at no cost; AG van for ag. workers; other vans to socials; van pools for commuters; will train people to take others on errands. Run About: for disabled; appt in advance; need doctor’s certification of disability with application; Charge; Also, there is Dial-A-Ride, for intra-community use.

Rideshare mobility management summit:

Kathleen learned at the summit that Denver’s transit system has integrated their many systems in 8 Counties to the benefit of Riders. They even have a “Call In Service.” SLO transit agencies reported on great strides made in combining County’s various programs. RTA has electronic air box passes and Trip planning on “Google Transit,” SLO city transit has a “Bus Tracker” app on Smart Phone.

Robo Calls:

Chair asked Kelly, District Attorney’s Office representative, for advice about what to do about calls that keep coming even when you are registered on do not call.

Contacting FTC with as much info as you can give. Highly recommend screening calls. Giving the phone number to FTC may be a good idea but sometimes the number isn’t a real number.

Adjourned: Motion by Maryanne Zarycka with a second by Judy Mishoulam at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Shower
Reviewed & edited by Chair