

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

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AGENDA

Meeting Date: Friday, March 20, 2015 **Time:** 10:00 am - Noon
Place: Veteran's Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please RSVP to Chair by email or 235-5779, if you are unable to attend this meeting.

10:00 am Call for a Quorum

Call to Order

- Flag Salute
- Roll Lists
- Approval of Feb Minutes (March Minute Taker, Marilyn)
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment (2 minutes)

Introductions: Guests & Members; Agency introductions & updates; Guest Comment (2 min)

Presentation: **Universal Design & Accessibility in Housing: How it relates to City/County Housing Elements.**” Speakers Prof. Paul Wolff, SLO Access for All; Susan Chandler, President, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc; and Tyler Corey, Housing Programs Manager for City of San Luis Obispo.

10:50am – Short break

11:00 am

Unfinished Business:

- Nominating Committee Announcement
- March 14th Senior Housing Tour--Report

New Business: ANNUAL REPORT

- Goals: Vote in April
- Member priority issues. How to present in April.
- Ranking process completed by May meeting

Member Reports/Updates

- Chair: Outreach since last meeting. White House Conference on Aging—Summer 2015
- Committees: Hearing, Speaker's Bureau
- Q&A re: Scams
- Other member reports (please arrange with Chair)

Concerns/Questions: Members and GUESTS

Other Announcements:

Next Meeting, April 17, 2015

SLO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Veterans Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo
Minutes, March 20, 2015

Members Present: Maryanne Zarycka, Anita Shower, Judy Mishoulam, Alice York, Kathleen Bellefontaine, Marilyn Hamilton, Myra Lathrop, Carol Schmidt, Esmeralda Garcia, Kelley Sexton, Karen Jones, Roger Randall, Leonard Milstein, Peta Rimington

Absent: Shirley Summers, Marie Pounders, Gari Cave, Elias Nimeh, Brittany Carraway

Guests: Jocelyn Brennan (Lynn Compton Legislative Asst), Carolie Coffey, Tom Cough, Louise Justice, Noni Smyth (HLAA), Tauria Linala and John Alongi (SLO Village), Buff Lawson (HICAP)

Quorum established. Call to Order: 10:02 a.m. **Flag Salute. February Minutes:** approved as written. **Agenda:** Approved as written. **Public Comment:** None.

Introductions of all members and guest: Updates and Guest comment: Chair introduced new SLOCOA member, Karen Jones, Long Term Care Ombudsman for SLO County.

Presentation: Universal Design & Accessibility in Housing: How it relates to City/County Housing Elements. **Professor Paul Wolff, SLO Access for All**, explaining that AFA advocates for access for all persons and to eliminate physical, attitudinal & communication barriers for persons with disabilities. The American with Disabilities Act was signed into law by George H.W. Bush in 1990 which states that there will be no individual discrimination on the basis of disability. There are two ways to achieve a barrier-free environment - either adapt the environment to fit the disability, or the individual adapts to fit the environment. Prof Wolff introduced **Universal Design** in his architecture classes and students were required to use wheelchairs during the quarter to understand firsthand the benefit of choosing products and services, easily usable by all people, in their designs. Accessible Design addresses elimination of physical barriers to *path of travel* that allow Getting in, Getting around, Getting to go (restroom), and Getting to function. Attitude barriers include prejudice, discrimination, ignorance, fear stereotypes, misconceptions, and avoidance. Words matter and the person comes first.

Susan Chandler, President for Californians for Disability Rights, described and circulated pictures of affordable adaptations that can be made in your own home to improve accessibility for the individual in a wheelchair. They showed improvements in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and modifications to doorway width, door jams and cupboard doors. Some helpful devices included rubber thresholds, roll-in showers, grab bars, a Hoyer Lift, and outside hinges on doors.

Tyler Corey, Housing Programs Mangers for the City of San Luis Obispo, described Senior Housing and Accessibility policies and programs included in the City's adopted Housing Element. He reminded members that the City does NOT directly develop housing, but encourages housing development that meets a variety of special needs, including disabled persons and the elderly, utilizing universal design. The City's Housing Major City Goal for the upcoming 2015-17 Financial Plan includes a work program aimed to implement ongoing and new Housing Element programs to facilitate the development of workforce, affordable, supportive and transitional housing options. The City also provides incentives for senior housing, including density bonuses, parking reductions, property development exceptions, waiver of application and development review processing fees, and grants and loans for rehabilitation and new construction. The grants and loans include CDBG, City Affordable Housing Funds, and City Grants-in-Aid. The City also has a Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance that allows for flexibility in the application of regulations to ensure equal access to housing and implements federal and state fair housing laws. *The Commission can support the City by publically supporting and advocating for projects that include universal design, accessible features, and senior housing.*

County Housing Element: Due to time constraints, the description of SLOCOA's representation in the Element process will be covered at the April meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Nominating Committee: Marilyn Hamilton announced that there are two vacant alternate member-at-large positions. The applications submitted so far will be considered in April and she encouraged any interested party to submit their application before the next meeting.

March 14 Senior Housing Tour: Marie Pounders will give the report on the visits to 4 Senior residences at the April meeting. The Chair explained that it has come to her attention that in the future, tours such as this, might require that participants to sign a Liability Waiver. Lee Collins, Director of DSS, will be consulted about this issue.

New Business: ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

- **Goals:** Kathleen sent out last year's Goals for review by members in preparation for updating this part of the Annual Report. Currently, the goals are: To collect information from seniors about issues and concerns; and to continue to provide timely and relevant information to the Board of Supervisors. Discussion ensued. Members suggested change to "address challenges & opportunities" Chair will revise and send out. Action Item will be on Apr agenda for vote.
- Member **Priority Issues** should be based on SLOCOA Areas of Concern: Senior housing, senior safety, affordable services, and senior isolation and depression. Members are asked to collect ideas about priority issues and these will be discussed at April's meeting.
- The ranking process will be completed by the May meeting.
- Annual summary for 2014-15 will be written by the Chair. Due date for complete report, July 1, 2015.

Member Reports:

Chair Report: Chair & Vice Chair met with new County Supervisor, Lynn Compton. Chair circulated flyers from meetings attended on behalf of SLOCOA: HLAA, "National Affordable Housing Changes" PSHH lecture: 40th Anniversary of Area Agency for Aging. Speaker at AAA event, Sandy Markwood reported that The Older Americans Act has not received additional funding for several years while the needs of our aging population have only grown. Encourages advocacy through our Representatives in DC.

Chair would like the Commission to submit a list of the top senior concerns in SLO County to Lois Capps who will be representing our County at the White House Conference on Aging this summer. There will be five forums in the Nation collecting ideas but none in California. The Chair presented examples from the priorities that SLOCOA has chosen over the years as a starter but needs help in writing. If members agree, please email their ideas or write up language for these examples to Kathleen before the next meeting (Apr 14). The Commission will vote on letter to Capps at the April meeting.

Chair of the Hearing Committee, Alice York, attended the Feb Hearing Loss Commission meeting about "Hospital Stays" when one is hearing impaired. Alice described the "hospital kits" and methods that our local hospitals are implementing. Next meeting is March 28.

Concerns & Questions:

- Noni Smyth, President of the new chapter of Hearing Loss Association for SLO County needs looping equipment for persons with hearing aides for their meetings. She is asking for a Grant of \$500 from the Supervisors and would like a Letter of Support from SLOCOA. The paperwork for the Grant needs to be submitted by Tuesday, Mar 24. Members agreed that since Hearing Awareness advocacy has been a long term project for SLOCOA that we could vote on this letter, today. SLOCOA gave unanimous consent for a letter of support. She is working on getting funding for "Captioning" at the meetings. Hasn't found a source as yet. It costs \$100 for each meeting. Members can read everything that is said in real time.

- Karen Jones spoke about SB 128 - the end of Life Bill, which will have its first committee hearing next week. Comments of support can be sent to Sen. Bill Monning.
- Buff Lawson responded to a question by the Chair submitted by a member of the public who asked about what happened to HICAP lists that used to be provided to residents with information about who the Medicare providers are. Also, if there are lists of other Medical Services that accept Medicare. Buff advised that HICAP has not provided lists of doctors in the county for several years. Information about Medicare Provider (doctors, labs, hospitals etc.) s available on-line at Medicare.gov. If you follow the link on the home page, it will prompt you to provide your zip code and either the name of the doctor or facility or the specialty you are looking for; it will list names with addresses and phone numbers, and indicate whether they accept assignment. And you can also call Medicare directly.

Other Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon. Next meeting is April 17, 2015