

Adult Services Policy Council 2010-11 Annual Report

In April 1999, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors established the Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) as the countywide cooperative to improve and expand services for seniors and adults with disabilities.

The ASPC was tasked with providing planning, development and system design, and service integration to improve and expand services. The target populations are those seniors and adults with disabilities who utilize publicly funded health and human services.

Today the ASPC carries on the cooperative mission that characterized its founding through a diverse membership that is responsive to the dynamic range of challenges that face seniors and adults with disabilities in our county. A full membership list is appended to this 2010 -11 Annual Report.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF POPULATION SERVED:

Seniors and adults with disabilities who utilize publicly funded health and human services have needs that span the gamut from transportation and housing, to nutrition and physical and mental health. They face the challenges associated with vulnerable populations including fiscal and physical abuse and neglect.

The ACTION for Healthy Communities Comprehensive Report for 2010 indicates that 20% of San Luis Obispo County's population is 60 years or older.

The US Census American Community Survey from 2009 reported that 34.5 percent of those 65 and older in the County had a disability. The same Survey reported that 6 percent of people and families of those 65 and older in the County earned an income that placed them below the poverty level.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

During FY 2010-2011, members at the ASPC table initiated services and continued ongoing outreach to seniors and adults with disabilities.

Good Neighbor Program.

The Good Neighbor Program in San Luis Obispo County was established in September 2010 as a result of ASPC Collaboration. The Wilshire Community Foundation was charged with heading this program and reports that they had a list of 40 community members requesting their services even before the program was formally initiated. The first volunteer training took place in November 2010. Good Neighbor Program currently has 48 volunteers who serve 89 older clients.

The Good Neighbor Program promotes better individual health outcomes, contains public sector costs, eases the economic burden on senior and disabled adult residents, and promotes emotional and physical well-being. It provides quality of life enhancing services that are not

allowed under existing programs. Volunteer recruitment and training allow community members to contribute to needy people in their own neighborhood.

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST).

The Adult Services Policy Council is staying informed regarding the POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) program. POLST is a form that identifies the specific kinds of medical treatment patients want toward the end of their lives. Printed on bright pink paper for easy identification, and signed by both doctor and patient, the POLST give patients more control over their end-of-life care. The POLST is used across a wide variety of care settings including hospitals, nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and the patient's own home. ASPC has monthly committee updates on the POLST project and its implementation in San Luis Obispo County.

Continuing Projects

ASPC continues to be updated on the activities of the Domestic Violence Death and Elder Death Review Team (DVEDRT) and First Responders Training Project. The DVEDRT is an interagency collaboration which reviews domestic violence related and elder abuse fatalities. The First Responders Training project provides training for emergency workers on assisting individuals with physical disabilities, dementia or mental illnesses. Both projects were initially developed with the input of the ASPC and currently include ASPC members.

In addition, Ride-On provided ASPC with ongoing information and updates regarding transportation services that are available to seniors and adults with disabilities.

SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

The ASPC and its membership provided valuable input to be incorporated in CAPSLO's 2011-2012 Community Action Plan.

The ASPC provided information and a letter of endorsement to the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office which assisted them in obtaining a 5-year grant for an Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Project (EAAOP).

In addition, the ASPC authored a letter of support to the State Director of the Department of Health Care Services to emphasize CenCal Health's effectively coordinated special care, pharmacy care and hospital-based services to the county's aged and disabled populations.

Economic Challenges

Agencies involved with the provision of health and human services to seniors and adults with disabilities have operated with a growing concern around income and finances.

During budget negotiations the ASPC communicated formally by letter to the State Senator and Assemblyman asking them to consider budget alternatives that would help protect programs that served senior and disabled adult populations. The final state budget included changes to Medi-Cal Services that limited utilization of services, required additional share of cost by clients, and eliminated Adult Day Health Care.

Importantly, adopted state budget solutions also included reducing Medi-Cal payments by 10 percent to providers of transportation, home health, and certain nursing facilities. Long-term care nursing facilities are scheduled to receive a commensurate 10 percent reduction in rates pending federal approval in 2011-12.

Effective 8/1/2011, In Home Supportive Services will be eliminated by the state to people without Medical Certification from a licensed health care professional that personal care services are necessary to prevent out-of-home care.

Supplemental Security Income and State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) maximum monthly grants to disabled individuals were reduced from \$845 to \$830 per month to match the federal minimum payment standard.

ASPC Collaborations:

Against the backdrop of fiscal reductions and an increasing senior population in the County the ASPC has continued to encourage collaboration between participating agencies. Communication of updates on budget concerns permitted agencies to plan and strategize around the provision of services in the upcoming year in a way they would not have been able to otherwise accomplish.

Members of the ASPC used monthly meetings as a clearinghouse of communication allowing members to avoid duplication of services and generating increased referrals to member agencies. Speakers and topics presented to ASPC members this last year included:

Topic	Name	Agency
CenCal Health Operations and Services	Bob Freeman, CEO	CenCal Health
Community Health Center Services	Steve Smith and Denise Stewart	Community Health Centers of the Central Coast
Medicare Part D Enrollment	joyce ellen lippman	Area Agency on Aging
Benefits ARCH (SSI Advocacy Project)	Sandra Pendell	SLO County Department of Social Services
State Budget Process	Hans Poschman	Sam Blakeslee
Reverse 911 Calling System	Brian Hascall	SLO County Sheriff's Office
Homeless Management Information Systems	Terri Medzyk	SLO County Planning Department
SLO County Budget	Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
SLO County Budget	Geoff O'Quest	SLO County Administrative Offices
Opportunity Conference	Julia Miller	SLO County Department of Social Services
SLO Noor Foundation Free Clinic Project	Ahmad Nooristani, M.D.	SLO Noor Foundation Free Clinic
Proposal for Continuum of Care Collaboration	Leah Weiner	Lifesteps Foundation
SLO County Health Agency Budget Process	Jeff Hamm, Director	SLO County Health Agency

CAPSLO Community Action Plan for 2012-2013	Lillian Judd, Consultant	Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County
Legislative Updates	Karen Jones	Long Term Care Ombudsman
Social Services Update	Lee Collins, Director	SLO County Department of Social Services
Smoke-Free Living Spaces	Christina Lefevre	SLO County Health Agency
2011 Enumeration Project	Morgan Torell	SLO County Planning Department
2011 Enumeration Project	Patricia Gomez,	Homeless Services Oversight Council
California Men's Colony Prison Project	Sara Bartlett	Alzheimer's Association
Transportation Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities	Mark Shaffer	Ride-On Transportation

In addition to valuable presentations, each ASPC meeting dedicated large parts of their agenda to discussion of the activities of individual member organizations. The clear and consistent transfer of information between members meant that throughout the County there was very little duplication of efforts to serve seniors and adults with disabilities.

Concerns:

The ASPC has identified critical needs for low income seniors and adults with disabilities in San Luis Obispo County. These include:

Shelter: There is an ongoing lack of affordable housing in the County. As economic challenges intensify, many seniors and adults with disabilities are losing their ability to pay their mortgages. Complicated reverse mortgages can result in the loss of homes. According to the 2010 Action for Healthy Communities report, 35% of residents over the age of 60 spend between one-third and one-half of their monthly income on housing; 13% spend more than one-half of their monthly income on housing.

Healthcare Services: Contract negotiations and budget cuts to the Community Health Centers may mean reduced medical services for Medi-Cal, Medicare and uninsured persons in the County. The departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services experienced budget cuts this year as well. Reduced reimbursements for Medi-Cal services means there will be fewer providers and fewer covered services for beneficiaries. Discussions are on-going regarding the Low Income Health Program (LIHP) in our County; the implications for care and service providers are yet to be fully determined.

Food: The Senior Nutrition Program for congregate and home-delivered meals has seen their client population (60+) increase by almost 20% since 2008, with specific requests for home-delivered meals increasing 32%. Sadly, the increased need coupled with funding issues has resulted in the implementation of a waiting list for people needing home delivered meals. It should be noted that more than half of the Senior Nutrition Program's clients live alone.

Conclusion:

Beneficiaries from the activities of the ASPC include all seniors and adults with disabilities who, in spite of the ongoing fiscal crisis, will receive well planned for and appropriately designed programs operating at their best. Collaboration among members is critical and will continue to be a model for the ASPC in the years ahead. The ASPC is pleased to support the Board of Supervisors in implementing policies and providing services that will enhance the economic, environmental and social quality of life in San Luis Obispo County for all residents, including our seniors and adults with disabilities.

**Adult Services Policy Council Members
2010-2011**

Adult School	Hospice of San Luis Obispo County
Adult Abuse Prevention Council	Independent Living Resource Center
AIDS Support Network & SLO Hep C Project	Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of SLO County
Alzheimer's Association	Mental Health Advisory Board
Area Agency on Aging	North County Connection
Bates Care Management	Peoples' Self Help Housing / Supportive Housing Program
Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Catholic Healthcare West	Ride-On Transportation
CenCal Health	SLO Supportive Housing Consortium
Client Care Consultants	Senior Nutrition Program
Commission on Aging	Sheriff's Office
Community Action Partnership of SLO County	Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center
Community Health Centers of the Central Coast	Transitions-Mental Health Association
Creative Mediation / Wilshire Community Services	Transitions-Mental Health Association / SLO Hotline Tri-Counties Regional Center
Department of Social Services/Adult Services	United Cerebral
District Attorney/Victim/Witness Assistance	United Way of San Luis Obispo County
Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board	Wilshire Community Services / Senior Peer Counseling / Caring Callers
French Hospital Medical Center	CA State Assembly 33rd District CA
Health Agency / Health Care Services Division	CA State Senate 15 th District
Health Agency/Health Promotion Division	San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Health Commission	