



**PLACER COUNTY
OLDER ADULT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
11533 C Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 886-3680

MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2014

Attendance

Members Present: William Reed, David Wiltsee, Sue Dings, Gloria Plasencia, Candace Roeder, Karla Gustafson, Eldon Luce, Margaret Riley, Nancy Vasquez, and Cheryl Trenwith

Members Absent: Dr. Irwin Herman, Antoinette Fabela, Ignacio Cespedes, and Alicia Murray

Guests: Betsy Katz, Tammy Howard, Bob Mailer

County Staff: Leah Rosasco, Cheryl Wiker, and Pauline Moreno

Call to Order: Luce called the meeting to order at 1:14 P.M.

Member Introductions: The roll was taken, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

Member Announcements: The following member announcements were offered:

- Changes in Board of Supervisor's procedures were announced in a meeting this morning. These changes include shifting additional responsibilities to county departments, e.g., greater responsibility relative assuring compliance with required ethics training and conflict of interest filings.
- County rule: 3+ concurrent absences (from commission) equals a voluntary relinquishing of the seat.
- Gustafson: allowing members to attend meetings via Skype or telephone conferencing. These possibilities should be investigated.
- Moreno: Reminded the commission that articles are needed for the Seniors Need to Know (SN2K) column. This avenue of information currently reaches approximately 25,000+ seniors in Placer County.
- Luce: Amended Agenda to change Item #6 to: *Presentation: APS – Emergency Housing Needs – Cheryl Wiker – Informational.*
The ADRC report item will be included with A4AA Report by Vasquez.

Approve 1-21-14 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected:

- Guest list is amended to include *Will Tift and Pam Miller, A4AA.*
- Page 4, 2nd bullet is amended to read: *A4AA assumed the home delivered meals services 10-31-14 from Seniors First.*

Public Comment: Tammy Howard, an IHSS provider expressed concerns about the “quality” of IHSS providers; she had heard “horror stories”, e.g., provider theft, and inept providers in general. Luce, Reed and Trenwith responded:

- Explaining how the IHSS system works.
- Identifying known pitfalls in the IHSS system.
- Recognizing that there is abuse and that IHSS recipients with dementia are more susceptible to abuse. But, that abuse is a very small problem; that most of the providers are hard working, honest and caring; and that when abuse does happen, it is often a “family provider” that is the perpetrator.
- Acknowledging that recipients may be reluctant to report abuse for fear of not being able to find another provider. This could then lead to the loss of their independence.
- All providers and recipients are informed of their responsibility to report (even suspected) abuse.
- Public Authority Registry providers require more background checking/references. However, being a registry provider is voluntary; and only about 10% of providers in Placer County are listed on the registry.
- The benefits of IHSS far outweigh the problems.
- It was suggested that a Seniors Need to Know article be focused on navigation of and access to the IHSS system; and that another article focused on Adult Protective Services.

Presentation: Adult Protective Services (APS). Cheryl Wiker explained APS in general:

- What the program covers.
- How and by whom reports are made and how the APS process begins and proceeds.
- That most reports come from community groups, neighbors, banks, law enforcement, and family members.
- The concept of a mandated reporter and (by law) those that are required to report abuse.
- How a claim is investigated and the process through resolution, including home-visits, interviews of those involved and cross-reporting to local law enforcement.
- And, that participation with APS is voluntary and that the client has the right to refuse services.

Cheryl also reported an alarming increase in the number of APS reports/calls relative to seniors being homeless, e.g., loss of homes and ejection from rentals. There are many reasons for this including:

- General financial issues (lack of resources) relative the recent recession.
- Losing homes to foreclosure and eviction from apartments.
- Medication and medical costs.
- Being embarrassed, ashamed or afraid and not asking for help in time.
- Those with Dementia (and others) not understanding what was happening until too late.
- Increase in financial abuse: theft and fraud by family members or others.

Of grave concern is that there is very little assistance available. There are few emergency housing options, and the nearest senior safe-house is in Sacramento. And, that with the projected increases in our older adult population, this problem will only worsen into the future.

It was agreed that this issue needs to be brought to the attention of elected officials, relevant county departments, as well as the general public.

Suggestions forwarded to the OAAC Housing Committee included:

- A senior safe-house (and exploring why Placer County does not have a senior safe-house).
- Adult day care and adult day health care centers.
- Shared housing.
- Foster grandparent program.
- Why the Gathering Inn (roving homeless shelter) cannot accommodate older adults (and see if/how that can be changed).
- Contracting for board and care beds for temporary emergency shelter.
- A Seniors Need to Know article on this critical issue.

Report A4AA: Vasquez provided the following report:

- ADRC update: A4AA will be meeting with Tink Miller, PIRS to begin an ADRC conversation.
- RFP: A4AA received 61 proposals for the provision of older adult services from their seven-county area. The proposals are currently being reviewed.
- Placer County A4AA funding looks good; we are at parity and there are no cuts anticipated for this year.

Report - Senior Legislation: No report available.

Report – Placer County Report: Rosasco gave the following report:

- The Auburn Library is offering a “Zip Books” program: if the customer wants a book not on the shelf, they can go to librarian who will order the book from Amazon. The book will then be sent to the customer’s home. When finished with the book it is returned to Auburn Library. This program is available to Auburn Library members in good standing.
- The PCWA/NID will be posting any mandates for water conservation.
- The County Website has a listing of county commissions and committees and available vacancies.

Report – A4AA Advisory Council Update: A4AA AC had not met. No report available.

Report – Housing Committee Update: No meeting since January. No report available.

New Business: Luce reported briefly about having participated, along with Supervisor Holmes, in a meeting with the Center for Visually Impaired Adults. This is a group of older adults with visual impairments that meets at the Unity Church in Auburn. Representatives from this group would like to attend an OAAC meeting to present their program.

Agenda Items for March Meeting: It was agreed that we would ask Pam Miller, A4AA Executive Director and/or Jeffrey Brown, Placer County HHS Director to present at the March meeting or another future OAAC meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Monthly Reports
 - Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA)
 - Senior Legislation
 - Placer County Report
 - A4AA Advisory Council
 - OAAC Senior Housing Committee

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM

Next Meeting

Date:	March 18, 2014
Time:	1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location:	Loomis Library Jessie Helms Room 350 Nevada Street Auburn, CA