



**AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday September 14, 2016  
Carnelian Room  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Sumedha Mona Khanna, MD, Bob Picker, Jim Redding, Ruth Robeson, Rabon Saip, Hav Staggs, Don Streeper

**Providers/Legislative Liaisons:** Christa Chelemedos, Alex Pader (Senator Wolk), Ed Sheffield (Assemblymember Wood)

**Absent:** Alain Serkissian,

**Staff:** Rhiannon Coxon, Victoria Gonzalez-Allen

1. **Welcome** (Picker) the meeting was called to order at 10:29 a.m.

2. **Approval of June 8, 2016 Minutes** (Picker)

Staggs advised that item 2 of the minutes from June 8, 2016 should be excluded because there was no quorum at the June Meeting to approve May Meeting minutes. The May 2016 minutes not available at this meeting and therefore cannot be approved. A motion to approve the June 8<sup>th</sup> minutes with item number two removed was made. Staggs/Redding MSC, all in favor, motion carried forward.

3. **Chair Report** (Picker)

Picker addressed the committee; asked members' perspective, expectations, and direction of being a member of the committee.

- Robeson attended TACC (Triple A Council of CA) and SCAN foundation summit. Learned that the legislative committee's responsibility is to advocate for senior programs and to educate elected officials on new ways to care for and assist seniors. Advised this committee needs to focus on where long term services and support issues lie and what options are available; and not on lack of funding.
- Khanna stated she is not clear what the expectations of the committee are – but does want information as to what is going on locally and statewide.
- Robeson would like this committee address specific problems and make recommendation to the Advisory Council.
- Redding stated that in the past more members of the public were involved with the committee, such as direct care, and suggested the committee invite stakeholders to attend.
- Staggs advised that the by-laws set the expectation of the committee and its members.
- Pader (Senator Wolk) stated there is a difference between policies and politics; Chelemedos recommended that the committee set goals, build relationships with legislative aides in order to ask for support because they are the liaisons with the legislators.
- Sheffield commented that the benefit of legislative aides attending the Legislative Committee meetings is to share and gather information to provide to the representative on a consistent basis so they are aware of who the committee is and what our priorities are.

- Robeson suggested there should be more publicity about the meeting. Expand the invitation to assisted living facilities, churches etc.
- Khanna suggested setting priority issues, then inviting service providers that are impacted by the priority areas.
- Picker stated that the first agenda item for next meeting will be to determine the committee's legislative priority areas of focus.

#### **4. Meetings with Representatives (Coxon)**

- Coxon and committee members met with Senator McGuire, Assemblymember Dodd, Assemblymember Wood, with the goal to meet all representative once per year. The Area Plan was presented to those they met with and the goals of Advisory Council and Area Agency on Aging were discussed. Robeson commented that it was a great one-on-one introductory, they showed sincere interest in what the committee members had to say.
- Picker advised some representatives would like to attend the Advisory Council meeting.
- Streeper stated that we can use the representatives as a conduit to other elected officials who may be a more appropriate contact for certain issues depending on the committees they are members.
- Robeson stated that as appointed representatives by the Board of Supervisors, they have a duty to their respective Supervisor to bring them up to speed on committee issues/topics.

#### **5. California Senior Legislature (Coxon)**

- The California Senior Legislature has received a onetime funding of \$500,000 for administrative costs to continue operation for 1 year. The Advisory Council does not currently have a representative and asked if the Legislative Committee could appoint/elect a representative. There will be monthly meetings in Sacramento with an option to call in.
- Streeper has served previously and advised that it is a great experience, but very time consuming.
- Staggs suggested a cost analysis to see what it would cost the Advisory Council to have a representative.
- A question was asked if the name had changed to California Senior Services Advocacy; no response to the question.
- No committee member volunteered to be the representative for the CSL; Picker advised to ask the full Advisory Council.

#### **6. Legislative Areas of Concern & Setting Priorities (Picker)**

- Topic will be the agenda item for the next committee meeting.
- Picker asked that committee members email Coxon their ideas for legislative priority areas so that each committee member's item can be put on the agenda.
- Saip requested opioid misuse and treatment for older adults be considered a priority area. A needs assessment is being worked on and Saip will update at the next committee meeting.
  - Sheffield advised this topic is something Senator Wood wants to focus on.
- Picker is concerned about homelessness of the elderly.
  - Sheffield advised Senator McGuire is developing legislation for addressing issues of homelessness and the committees input would be valuable.
  - Robeson would be interested in hearing from Catholic Charities on the Palms project.

#### **7. Legislative Updates (Committee Members)**

- Robeson advised that the n4a has suggested language change in the Older Americans Act to have a more inclusive diversity statement. (Robeson distributed the document)

## **8. Legislative Field Representative Updates (Legislative Aides)**

- Pader (Senator Wolk) advised Senator Wolk supported the California Death with Dignity Act. Senator Wolk will be termed out as a legislator this year, November 30 will be her last day in office.
  - Staggs commented that Senator Wolk was a strong advocate for seniors and made it a high priority; her efforts are much appreciated and will be missed.
- Sheffield (Assemblymember Wood) reported that sessions have ended. Assemblymember Wood is in the district to meet with constituency groups. Eleven of his bills were chaptered or awaiting signature including the Generic Drug Bill AB211 which passed through legislature and is being presented to the Governor. This bill includes low or no cost generic drugs to the patient; patient will know there is a more affordable drug available to them. Assmeblymember Wood anticipates the governor will sign and pass this bill.
- Streeper asked the aides what the committee can do for them. Sheffield responded they are looking to the committee to bring up issues because the representatives will be working on putting their legislative packages together to present in January/February. If there is something the committee strongly supports attending the hearings on the relevant bills and speaking on issues of senior population will be valuable.
- Chelemedos is the new president CLTCOA (California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association); they have identified areas of focus. Their top priority is a Universal Needs Assessment tool for all residential and nursing facilities. Assisted Living Waiver program is another item they will work on. Ombudsman has seen a 40% increase in clients but aren't able to take more calls, because they don't have adequate resources.

## **9. Other**

- Robeson reported on California State Budget allocations to senior programs: Home Delivered Meals received \$2 million in funding, had requested \$5.4 million, Sonoma County to receive \$20,000. \$1 million to long term care Ombudsman. \$3 million for APS training. \$500,000 for California Senior Legislature. \$1.5 million to treat Alzheimer's (research/care).
- Coxon distributed n4a materials and priorities.
- Picker reminded all that agenda items for next meeting should be emailed to Coxon.

## **10. Adjourn (Picker) adjourned 11:58 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 12, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.