



**AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday March 15, 2017
Carnelian Room
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Peter Holewinski, Bob Picker, Ruth Robeson, Rabon Saip, Alain Serkissian, Hav Staggs, Joy Lovinger

Absent: Sumedha Khanna, Jim Redding, Don Streeper, Crista Chelemedos

Guests: Melissa Apuya (Assemblymember Marc Levine), Laura Beltran (Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry), Logan Pitts (Senator Bill Dodd), Richard Ruge (Community)

Staff: Rhiannon Coxon, Victoria González-Allen

1. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS** (Picker) – meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. all were welcomed and introductions were made.
2. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES** (Picker) - motion to approve the February 8, 2017 meeting minutes. Saip/Serkissian (MSC) to approve as presented; motion passed unanimously.
3. **CHAIR REPORT** (Picker)
 - Reminder that the structure of the meeting has been changed to focus on current issues first; the committee will hear from the Legislative Aides, the Committee Members report out on any updates to their assigned topics, and the meeting will conclude with a topic presentation.
 - Coxon distributed a timeline of the committee's work plan through the end of the calendar year. The Committee member topic reports will be completed by June, with the intent that committee members will have the resources to select topic priorities. In September the committee will choose one to two priorities to be presented to the full Advisory Council. In the fall the committee will plan the process of notifying the county Board of Supervisors of the legislative platform and brief the stakeholders on those topics.
 - Robeson asked if the presentations on individual topics are intended to persuade the Legislative Committee to adopt them as projects for advocacy. Picker advised topic presentations are to inform and educate the Legislative committee of the dimensions of the problem being discussed.
 - Robeson asked if the review of pending bills currently being considered in the Legislature could be used as focus topics by the Legislative Committee, which would run in tandem with the legislative cycle. Coxon responded that process falls in line with the restructure of this committee meetings agenda to discuss new bills presented by the Legislative Aides and planning for next year.
 - Serkissian requested a summary of the presentations be distributed to the committee member so they can refer back to them.

4. **ADVOCACY** (Coxon, Robeson)

- Triple A Council of California (TACC) – Robeson attended the quarterly meeting of TACC as well as the Alzheimer’s Association Conference and reported out on the advocacy tips shared at these meetings. Robeson will email the tips to the Legislative committee chair.
- c4a Capitol Day attended by Chelemedos, Coxon, Fontenot, Kaljian and Robeson. The group met with Assemblymember Jim Wood, Senator Bill Dodd, Assemblymember Marc Levine’s Aide, Senator Mike McGuire’s Aide and Assemblymember Cecelia Aguiar-Curry’s Aide. The Sonoma County members shared the meeting times with Leanne Martinsen of Napa/Solano and Lee Pullen of Marin. Coxon thanked the Legislative Aides for helping set up meetings. During the morning session the group heard from directors of finance, policy analysts and other state staff advised the budget will likely not include increases or augmentation for senior services, although three have been proposed by c4a:
 1. Nutrition: proposed \$12.5 million budget augmentation to Meals on Wheels program which will include congregate meals and other nutrition resources. In FY 16/17 the ask was \$5 million and were awarded \$2 million for home delivered meals.
 2. AB1200 - Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC): a measure to codify all existing legislation under the department of Aging and Department of Health Care Services. AB1200 would allow for ADRC’s to pull Federal funding from Medicaid (currently a pilot program in 8 counties). If implemented in Sonoma County, the ADRC would be a partnership with AAA and Disability Services & Legal Center (DSLCL).
 3. AB614 – Alzheimer’s/Dementia Specialist: a request \$3.5 million to hire a specialist in Alzheimer’s/Dementia for each of the state’s 33 AAA PSAs. Coxon advised it would be an Information & Referral (I&R) specialist, housed within AAA. Group discussed possible duplication of efforts with existing Alzheimer’s Association activities. Coxon will send out links to c4a for further information.
- Coxon attended the Town Hall Meeting at Piner High School regarding the possible Affordable Care Act repeal. Video recording of the event is available. Pitts reported Senator Bill Dodd also participated in a Town Hall with Congressman Huffman at the Veterans Building in Petaluma with attendance of approximately 900. Apuya reported Assemblymember Marc Levine also hosted Town Hall with Congressman Huffman in San Rafael, about 2000 attendees and 2 vocal against Affordable Care Act.
- Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 Hearing – Coxon attended to observe Diane Kaljian’s testimony on behalf of the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) for their request for a \$10 million budget augmentation for the Home Safe program. Home Safe is a homeless prevention and rapid re-housing demonstration grant for victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect. The proposal is \$10 million for 10 counties for a 3 year period to demonstrate how providing short-term housing crisis intervention can help reduce the incidence and risk of homelessness among California older adults. Coxon distributed fact sheets. c4a testified on the nutrition request, the testimony focused on connection to Health Care.

5. **LEGISLATIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE** (Legislative Aides)

- Beltran reported on AB401 – Telepharmacy Bill to authorize Remote Dispensing Site Pharmacies. Fact sheet was distributed. Bill will increase access to pharmacists for patients in rural areas who don’t have easy access to medications.

- Pitts reported on SB147- A bill to amend Section 798.34 of the Civil Code relating to mobile home parks to allow residents to share their mobile home with other residents. Currently shared housing is only allowed with a physician's note for in home care worker. The bill is currently at the Senate Judiciary Committee, the hearing date is not yet set. Next, Pitts reported on SB202 – A bill to increase the Medi-Cal personal needs allowance from \$35 per month to \$80 per month. Apuya reported on AB550, written by Assemblymember Reyes, to increase funding for the Ombudsman program. Coxon reported that Chelemedos, as the President of the California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association, reported on the bill during c4a Capital Day and will provide the fact sheet to the committee. This bill would change the funding Ombudsman program get from the State Citation Account from one-time-only to ongoing. Assemblymember Levine introduced AB519 to restore a check box for a tax deduction option on state tax forms for contributions to the California Senior Legislature.
- Coxon distributed a fact sheet on the Affordable Care Act from Ed Sheffield of Senator Wood's office.

6. UPDATE OF LEGISLATIVE TOPICS OF INTEREST (Committee Members)

- Lovinger met with Ed Sheffield 3/14/17 to discuss the Assisted Living Waiver Program. Lovinger discussed the need to streamline the application process. Lovinger advised Sonoma County is losing residents because they are unable to afford living in Sonoma County because there is little availability of affordable beds in Assisted Living Residences. Serkissian advised the program will have a waitlist as of March 21, 2017 because the 3,700 designated beds in California have been filled.

7. TOPIC PRESENTATION: HIDDEN EPIDEMIC OF SENIOR OPIOID MISUSE (Saip)

- Saip presented on the history of this issue, actions he has taken and the immediacy of the need.

8. OTHER:

- Robeson asked the committee to let her know if they are interested in attending Senior Rally Day on May 11, 2017.
- Serkissian advised Sebastopol Area Senior Center is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

9. ADJOURN (Picker) meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 12, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.