



**AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

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

MINUTES

Present: Peter Holewinski, Sumedha Mona Khanna, Joy Lovinger, Bob Picker, Rabon Saip, Alain Serkissian, Hav Staggs, Don Streeper

Absent: Jim Redding, Ruth Robeson

Guests: Stephen Gale (Congressman Mike Thompson), Steve Panages (Senator Bill Dodd), Elisa Reiff (North Bay Regional Center), Melissa Apuya (Assemblymember Marc Levine), Logan Pitts (Senator Bill Dodd), Lauren Beltran (Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry)

Staff: Rhiannon Coxon, Tracy Repp

Minutes: Victoria González-Allen

1. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTION** (Picker) – meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES (ACTION)** (Picker) – motion to approve March 15, 2017 minutes. Saip/Lovinger (MSC) to approve as presented; motion passed unanimously.
3. **CHAIR REPORT** (Picker)
 - Committee to elect a new chair. Picker asked for interested nominees.
4. **ADVOCACY UPDATE** (Coxon)
 - Marin Area Agency on Aging Director Lee Pullen, and Ellie Bloch, member of CA Senior Legislature (CSL) and Marin Advisory Council will present at the next Legislative Committee (LC) meeting. Sonoma County is currently not represented at CSL.
 - Gale reported Thompson supports Older Americans Act (OAA) for Health & Human Services Labor Education. Congressman Jared Huffman and Thompson have signed letters advocating OAA funding.
 - CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a)-supported bills:
 - AB614 – Information & Assistance Specialist for Alzheimer's and Dementia. Would partner with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Alzheimer's Association.
 - AB1200 – Would codify language for Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and allow counties to use Medicare funding. Diane Kaljian, AAA Director, signed letter of support. Robeson, AAA Advisory Council Chair, and Picker, LC Chair, will also sign letters of support.
 - Coxon will create an email group for members interested in advocacy.

- Coxon will email documents from California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and c4a. Documents provide information on the CWDA and c4a legislative positions on bills that have been introduced.
- May 11, 2017 Senior Rally Day at Capitol. Contact Coxon if interested in carpooling.

5. LEGISLATIVE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES (Legislative Aides)

- Gale: (Thompson) distributed Thompson's schedule. Thanked the LC for their advocacy against repeal of Affordable Care Act (ACA). Thompson identified two areas of focus:
 - Thompson and other Democratic legislators are developing a bill of improvements to ACA.
 - Saving Social Security (SSI) - Thompson will continue Senator John Larson's efforts to preserve SSI through the end of century, a Democratic Party focus. Thompson and Larson have scheduled two town hall meetings to educate the public on SSI issues.
- Beltran: (Aguiar-Curry) Transportation bill has passed and in the governor's office. Aguiar-Curry and Assemblymembers Garcia, Holden and McCarty introduced AB1665 – Internet for All Now Act. The act extends, funds, and authorizes infrastructure improvements of broadband to create more connectivity for low income/rural areas. Aguiar-Curry introduced AB854, to secure and protect public broadband funding continuation.
- Pitts: (Dodd) introduced Steve Panages, a volunteer for Dodd. SB202 will be heard by the Senate House Committee on April 18. Bill will increase the MediCal personal needs allowance from \$35 to \$80. SB1, Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program, will increase fuel taxes, vehicle license fees and a new \$100 annual vehicle registration fee for zero-emission vehicles. Approximately 50% of revenue generated will go to cities and counties to pave roads. Pitts will provide an update of SB218, introduced by Dodd which amends The Qualified ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Act) Program regarding tax-advantage savings accounts for eligible persons with disabilities.
- Gale suggested a “watch” item; Santa Rosa Press Democrat is hosting a town hall forum regarding Highway 37 improvements to plan for climate change. Supervisor Rabbitt, and Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties are participating.
- Apuya: (Levine) June 2 is the last day to pass bills out of house of origin. During April and May the Assembly and Senate subcommittees have hearings and vote on bills proposed internally. Levine supports SB2. Levine introduced AB519 to restore a check box for a tax deduction option on state tax forms for contributions to the CSL. Bill goes to Aging and Reform committee April 18, 2017.

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

- Reiff: (NBRC) is interested in receiving information on affordable housing (SB2), Building Homes and Jobs Act; and No Place Like Home. Pitts recommends contacting McGuire's office for details. SB2 will require a 2/3 vote for fees from real estate taxes to go to housing. Bill will generate \$250 billion for affordable housing. Senator Dodd is one of the co-authors.
- Picker asked the aides about effectiveness of “letters of support”. Pitts said that a more direct approach is best. In-person office visits, phone calls, and individual letters vs.

organizational letters are recommended. Schedule meetings with legislators in Sacramento. Be specific about why/how issues affect you.

- Discussion regarding LC members to draft a letter regarding Assisted Living Waiver (ALW). Aides recommend letter include problem and solution. Letter should be presented in person in Sacramento. Notify local aides of meeting request and present at local office first. The aides also suggested using the CSL lobbyist, who will know which legislator is working on ALW.
- Staggs distributed a legislation list from CA Commission on Aging. List includes bills in process. LC members can track bills at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

7. ADJOURN (Picker) – meeting adjourned - 11:50 a.m.

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