



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2017**  
**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower**  
**Third Floor Conference Room**  
**1700 W. Washington Street**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

### **Council Members and Liaisons Present**

Becky Brimhall (Chair), George A. Evanoff (Secretary), Diane Joens, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill (Vice Chair), Melinda Preston, Trudy Schuett, Steve Wagner, C.T. Wright, Jay Dunkleberger, John Halikowski, Dara Johnson, Babak Nayeri and Cindy Saverino

### **GACA Members Absent**

Deborah Hankerd

### **GACA Staff Present**

Lizette Cordero, Cathy De Lisa

### **Guest Speaker**

Mary Hartle

### **Guests Signed In**

Christine Bryson-Lazo

Prior to the official start of the meeting, GACA Chair Becky Brimhall asked for a moment of silence in memory of David Besst, DES Division of Aging and Adult Services staff member. Those in attendance were invited to sign a condolence card for Mr. Besst's family.

### **Call to order, welcome, review & approval of February 17, 2017 draft meeting minutes**

Chair Brimhall called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. with a welcome and introductions. Following a request for review of the draft minutes of February 17, 2017, *Melinda Preston made a motion to accept the draft minutes; the motion was seconded by Doyle Meredith. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Liaison reports (5 minutes to include updates, ideas for collaboration and/or requests to the Council)**

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) – Cindy Saverino reported for Olivia Guerrero who was absent. Ms. Saverino reviewed the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on

Aging report on behalf of Ms. Guerrero and provided the handout from the Area Agencies on Aging, Regions I through VI and Region VIII.

A copy of the complete AZ4A report is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) office.

Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) - Cindy Saverino reported:

- The Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) is beginning the next State Plan on Aging process. Mr. Ron Woldoff will be heading up the efforts and will be reaching out to the Council and Aging 2020 state agency leads.
- SFY 2018 budget request – getting the word out that the Area Agencies on Aging need increased funding or clients may be put on waitlists.

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) – Babak Nayeri reported:

- The Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition (AFPC) has partner chapters in Southern Arizona and Northern Arizona and is currently working on developing a Western Arizona Chapter. Ms. Trudy Schuett, Council Member from Yuma, was asked for assistance with resources.
- The new Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition website will be launched next week.
- The AFPC is working with Honor Health G60 program to address trauma and post trauma toolkits.
- The Department, in collaboration with Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and the Vitalyst Foundation, recently, completed the Maricopa County-focused survey on the needs of caregivers and a single access point for all persons with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Arizona Department of Insurance (ADI) - Tolanda L. Coker

Executive Director Cathy De Lisa provided the ADI report on behalf of Ms. Coker who was unable to attend the meeting. The report includes information on long term care insurance, major medical health insurance, insurance complaints involving seniors, and Medicare Supplement. A copy of the Arizona Department of Insurance (ADS) report is available through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging office.

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) - John Halikowski reported:

- A focus on resources; ADOT partnered with the Department of Economic Security (DES) on Stand Down for veterans offering ID's and vehicle registrations.
- Yavapai and La Paz counties along with City of Kingman have purchased new buses.
- Veteran license plates can now be purchased online.
- The Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) process has been simplified and improved; reduced waiting time from 40 minutes on average to 28 minutes.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services - No representative in attendance

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) - The GACA Chair presented Mr. Dunkleberger with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) liaison to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA). Mr. Dunkleberger has been assigned a new position and will not be the GACA liaison

going forward. Mr. Dunkleberger introduced the new AHCCCS liaison, Dara Johnson who Mr. Dunkleberger indicated is well-known and respected in the long term care community.

Mr. Dunkleberger and Ms. Johnson reported:

- Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) Request for Proposal (RFP) has been finalized; bids are in and awaiting award.

Features include:

- New requirements for plans to develop accessibility requirements for their provider's offices in terms of accessible diagnostic equipment, hallway sizes, publish that information for their members.
- Require plans to develop and monitor how long it should take for members to receive durable medical equipment
- ALTCS plans responsible for referring members for a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) eligibility determination and coverage of both TXIX and non-TXIX services
- Back-ground check screening requirements for Direct Care Workers (DCW) workers.
- Use to have to wait until discharged from a hospital to determine ALTCS eligibility; now can make the determination while inpatient to assist with discharge and transition planning.
- Technical change – members in Pinal and Gila will be included in the same service area with Maricopa County meaning they now have a choice of up to three health plans.

Heightened Scrutiny assessments for a sample of dementia care units/communities were completed in December 2016 and the data is being compiled in an effort to draft a report to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for public comment. The public comment period is tentatively planned for June 2017.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is federally mandated to implement Electronic Visit Verification by January 1, 2019 for direct care services. AHCCCS will develop a proposal for the system design and hold a public comment period to solicit input from stakeholders. The public comment period is tentatively planned for June 2017.

The Arizona Indian Council on Aging - No representative in attendance

Attorney General's Office – Representative to be determined

### **Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment Support Service Provider Statewide Services Task Force**

Mary Hartle, Chair of the Support Services Provider (SSP) Subcommittee of the SSP Statewide Services Task Force, Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment, discussed the needs of persons with combined vision and hearing loss. According to Ms. Hartle, the SSP Statewide Task force supports individuals who provide assistance to persons who are both deaf and blind; examples of assistance include acting as an intermediary between the deaf/blind individual and the community, assisting by reading mail, shopping, paying bills, assisting with personal grooming, or transportation to doctor's appointments, and banking. Ms. Hartle stated there are 48,000 people in Arizona that have combined vision and hearing loss, and the majority fall into the 70 to 80 year-old demographic - the largest subcategory of this group.

Ms. Hartle asked the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging for assistance with the following:

- Support for SSP services;
- Assistance in finding an established attorney with non-profit experience; and
- Assistance with grant writing and research.

Following a discussion on Ms. Hartle's requests, Ms. Saverino offered to have the DES/DAAS Legal Developer provide a list of pro bono attorneys.

The GACA Chair called for a break at 2:06 p.m. The group reconvened at 2:13 p.m.

### **GACA Chair report & discussion of committee objectives**

*Recommendations from the Executive Committee* - The GACA Chair discussed recommendations from the Executive Committee. It was recommended that the Advisory Council share the Caregiver Day at the Capitol flyer with the GACA Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee and the Aging in Community Committee as part of routine follow up to the morning meetings. GACA Chair Brimhall also reported the group discussed the need for an official request form related to sponsorships and the advantages and challenges of partnering with the State Plan on Aging public meetings for Senior Action Days. The need for appointments and reappointments of GACA members was also raised as a concern.

*Marketing committee objectives reviewed, GACA member involvement needed and discussion of items requested; action taken* – The GACA Chair distributed copies of potential, low-cost recognition items and marketing items collected for the group's consideration and stated the recognition items will be used for out-going GACA members; the marketing items are for marketing purposes and all will be paid by donations funds. Following a very lengthy debate on items, the GACA Chair called for a motion. *C.T. Wright made a motion to purchase the pen case from the Arizona Capitol Museum for the recognition item and the multi-colored pencils and magnifying glass as marketing items. George Evanoff seconded the motion.* The GACA Chair called for the vote by raised hand of those in agreement. A majority of GACA members in attendance signified agreement by raising their hands.

*Follow up discussions related to AICC, LPCC objectives* – the group took time to discuss progress being made on the objectives of the committees. GACA Chair Brimhall committed to follow up on a possible Virtual Dementia Tour in Pinal County, and Mr. Steve Wagner agreed to find out how the Taskforce Against Senior Abuse is marketing its efforts and bring any materials to the next GACA meeting. The transition of the bipartisan work group to the Senior Caucus by the Legislature was highlighted by Mr. C.T. Wright.

*Overview of committee timelines, assignments* – the group agreed that while progress was being made in all committees, more member engagement was needed to help complete tasks like the development of the sponsorship request form and completion of the remaining transportation regional fact sheets. Ms. Diane Joens offered to assist with development of the guidelines for sponsorship. The GACA Chair encouraged all members to help track volunteer time spent attending GACA sanctioned events and meetings.

*What's missing, what's needed* – There is no further information regarding Council Member appointments.

**Executive Director's office updates**

Executive Director, Cathy De Lisa, shared recent requests made to the Governor's Office on Aging for presentations or participation in meetings or panels. Ms. De Lisa outlined the dates and events and stated that information on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging would be shared. The Executive Director also briefly shared updates on the initiatives of the Governor's Office on Aging covering the Alzheimer's State Plan, transition of Aging 2020 to the next State Plan on Aging and discussions around Dementia Friendly Arizona.

**Council member reporting & sharing - Council Members' aging-related updates (i.e., research, training, seminars, workshops, webinars, conferences, best practices, etc.)**

Diane Joens reported she will be coordinating a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event in Verde Valley. No date specified.

Melinda Preston reported on plans to attend a three-day Disaster Coordinator training program sponsored by the Methodist Church in April.

**Call to the public**

No public comment made.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by GACA Chair Becky Brimhall at 2:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is scheduled for May 5, 2017; time and location to be confirmed and announced by public meeting notice posted at the GACA website: <http://govtrans.az.gov/gaca/>. These meetings are open to the public.