



**TACC – Triple-A Council of California**  
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**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Vagabond Inn, 909 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA**  
**September 27-28, 2006**

1. Call to Order: Due to the lack of a quorum, President Wilder called the Triple A Council of California (TACC) meeting to order as an informational meeting.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Wilder dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance because no flag was available.
3. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum: A quorum was not present. In attendance were:

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| PSA 4 – Jacque Brown     | PSA 19 – Peter McGrath   |
| PSA 5 – Roberta Romeo    | PSA 20 – David Wilder    |
| PSA 6 – Bill Hollabaugh  | PSA 21 – Venetta Maiden  |
| PSA 8 – Arline Elliott   | PSA 23 – Jack Duff       |
| PSA 11 – Terry Sonnefeld | PSA 25 – Edward Woods    |
| PSA 13 – Bud Winslow     | PSA 26 – Jacque Spiker   |
| PSA 18 – Don Hunt        | PSA 33 – Marti Overfield |
4. Introductions, Announcements: All in attendance introduced themselves. Winslow exhibited an emergency kit put together by PSA 13 for distribution to low income seniors and others.
5. Approve Agenda: Wilder requested that the agenda be modified to allow for a presentation on a Medi-Cal study at 11:00 a.m. Approval was postponed until a quorum was present.
6. Approval of next meeting date: Wilder announced that the C4A Conference Agenda listing the next TACC meeting for Thursday, November 16 had been changed. The correct date is Monday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and November 14, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. He noted that the conference had been relocated to The Grand hotel in LA. and offered to research shuttle availability. The conference workshops for TACC are scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, and include a workshop by George Schofield and one on managing volunteers by Schofield and Sandra Fitzpatrick. Workshops run 1:30 to 2:45 and 3:00 to 4:30. Wilder said the conference information would be available on the TACC website once it was formally approved.

Wilder asked if anyone had problems with meeting dates. He noted that it took much work to have TACC included in the C4A agenda and now there are specific issues focused on them.
7. Approve Minutes: — Action on the July minutes was postponed pending a quorum.
8. Fund Raising Opportunity: Wilder reported that Past President Hav Staggs had attended a meeting to discuss a non-profit consortium of all organizations funded through California's tax check-offs called "Check-Off California". The group had proposed hiring a consultant to coordinate a publicity drive to educate the public about the tax check-off organizations receiving. Inclusion in the consortium would require TACC to contribute \$1000. Wilder said the collaboration would split the publicity effort between the 15 organizations, but would result in more advertising than TACC now has. He said the organization was not doing enough to publicize what they do and who they are, and that without a publicity committee, this is one way to do inform people.

Action was postponed pending a quorum.

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 2 of 7**

9. California Service Corps: Deputy Director David Muraki introduced California Service Corps as part of Gov's office whose mission is to promote service and volunteerism throughout the state. One of the Corps' current efforts is development of a volunteerism clearinghouse called CaliforniaVolunteers.org to provide information on suitable volunteer opportunities for interested individuals, as well to create a forum for organizations to advertise their volunteer needs.

Another project involves the development of a master plan to engage older volunteers in the state. The Corps already works with a number of senior volunteer programs, including Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Muraki noted that studies show that volunteerism rates decline after people reach retirement age, although their interest in volunteering remains high. Two legislative efforts – including a study commissioned by former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg and legislation (SB 953) by Senator John Vasconcellos – addressed the need for appropriate volunteer opportunities for older Californians. The Corps' master plan, titled "The Age of Opportunity," requires the state to find ways to make it easier for older Californians to access volunteer opportunities. The study addresses infrastructure concerns, such as making volunteerism information available to non-computer users, expanding the number of volunteer opportunities and making opportunities challenging and yet flexible to meet retirees' needs. Other factors under consideration are incentives to increase volunteerism, easing background checks and other requirements, and educating new retirees about volunteer opportunities. Muraki said the Corps was interested in working with TACC to identify ways to tap into the full potential of the senior volunteer pool.

10. Medi-Cal Review: Kay Magill, of Berkeley Policy Associates, described her organization's work studying the state's Medicaid plan as it relates to implementation of California's Olmstead plan. Magill's organization is under contract to Managed Care Consultation, hired by the State Independent Living Council to review the use of Medi-Cal waivers and make recommendations for changes in order to further the Olmstead goals. The study involves gathering input from a broad range of sources, including key informant interviews, community forums, and focus groups, in order to identify what works and what needs to be improved.

Magill explained that about 40 Medi-Cal waivers are in use, allowing funds to target a broader range of persons needing services, but also limiting participation in programs and creating additional paperwork for applicants. The study will examine any existing bias in the Medi-Cal plan, leading to recommendations to support better Olmstead compliance. She said that although cost-savings is not a focus of the study, it is a factor.

The trend toward using Medi-Cal for extended care was discussed, with Wilder explaining that family fragmentation in the 1960s made it easier to institutionalize elders. Magill added that new medical technologies after WWI allowed for rehabilitation and nursing home care for returning veterans, leading to the view that rehabilitation care was strictly medical. The result is that many expenses are not covered by Medi-Cal because they are not deemed to be "medical," such as room and board, occupational therapy, and incontinent supplies, unless a person is institutionalized.

Wilder explained that many in institutions could live independently, citing his own experience of needing specialized training to before he was able to live in the community. Magill added that to persons who don't know that modifications can be done or that IHSS is available, nursing homes seem like the only option. The discussion included the topics of hospital discharge and transitional care needs, subsidiary costs of institutionalization, and the study's goal of coordinating the state Medicaid plan with the Olmstead re-design.

Along with materials on the study, Magill distributed a survey for TACC members have completed by their respective PSAs.

11. California Commission on Aging Report: Executive Director Sandi Fitzpatrick reported on TACC's finances, noting that the '05-06 financial statements show a negative balance of

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 3 of 7**

\$2,078, and urging frugality by the organization. She noted that in order to help the budget, an unused temporary staff position had been deleted from the document.

Fitzpatrick reported that participation in C4A was lagging, while TACC had 100% participation.

She announced two legislative accomplishments: 1) the release of Assembly Member Patty Berg's Master Plan on Aging and 2) Governor Schwarzenegger's approval of conservatorship legislation.

CCoA has new Governor's appointees: Ruth Braswell from PSA 20 and Sharon Monk, from PSA 28.

The White House Conference on Aging report was now available online, and CCoA was working on a WHCoA follow-up event, scheduled for the Sacramento in November. A \$50,000 Cal-Endowment grant had been received for the event, and Fitzpatrick was seeking additional grant money to cover delegate scholarships.

Fitzpatrick announced that CCoA had received a Workers' Compensation Insurance quote of \$11,000, of which TACC's share would be approximately \$2,500. She noted that TACC's portion would be calculated according to the hours that members are actually present at meetings. Wilder noted that some counties cover their Advisory Councils in their own Worker's Compensation policies. Fitzpatrick said if a county presents written evidence that TACC representatives are covered, CCoA might not have to include them, but noted that it was better to be safe. TACC members will be covered by the new policy as of October 1.

Fitzpatrick announced that a progress report on changes resulting from a Little Hoover Commission report on Long Term Care had been requested by the California Healthcare Foundation. CCoA will be tracking the process and will report back when the update is available.

<With the adjournment of the California Senior Legislature's Joint Rules Committee, TACC members Dee Erman ( PSA 22), Anne Mack (PSA 10), and Joe Cox (PSA 21), arrived.>

President Wilder announced the presence of a quorum and action items from earlier in the agenda were addressed. With the arrival of an American flag, the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Approval of Minutes: The July 26-27, 2006 minutes were reviewed for approval. Winslow moved for approval; McGrath requested an amendment to reflect his attendance; Woods seconded the motion as amended. Approved. Bill Hollabaugh abstained.

Approval of agenda: Wilder announced that since one information item had been added to the agenda earlier, no formal change was required.

November meeting dates: Wilder announced the next meeting dates as November 13 and 14, in conjunction with the C4A Conference in Los Angeles. He asked if there were objections to the meeting location and noted that TACC members who attend only the TACC meeting and the two TACC workshops must pay a \$90 registration fee. TACC had worked with C4A to have relevant workshops offered at the conference, while many of the remaining workshops are offered for AAA staff and directors. Fitzpatrick noted that the area agencies had committed to covering the travel expenses for TACC members attending the meeting. TACC members asked about the point of attending the C4A fall conference as compared to the spring Coordinated Leadership Conference, with several noting that the two larger events were too much. The group agreed to discuss the possibility of changing the future meeting practices in January. On a motion from Sonnefeld and a second from Hunt, the November meeting dates were approved.

Fund Raising Opportunity: Jim Levy, Chairman of the CSL Joint Rules Committee, discussed the Check-Off California proposal. He said TACC would pay \$1,000 (based upon actual tax check-off receipts) to join the effort, which is based on a Colorado model which used contributions and donations to mass market the tax check-offs on television, radio, newspaper.

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 4 of 7**

He said the Colorado organizations saw a 23% increase in contributions. He said California's 15 tax check-off funds were trying to do the same here.

TACC members discussed the effectiveness of a shared public awareness campaign and questioned how the organization would be represented in the advertising? Wilder said that TACC had no other option for advertising for \$1000 and assured the group that TACC would be very involved in the effort. Cox added that the consortium will also pursue grants to support the effort and that the effort will promote the overall worthiness of the 15 tax check-off funds, rather than the specifics of each organization. The effort is scheduled to begin in November. Hollabaugh moved, Winslow seconded for TACC to use funds from the TACC budget to participate in the consortium. Motion passed with a no vote from Sonnefeld.

12. Treasurer's Report:— With the treasurer absent, Wilder accepted the financial report given by Fitzpatrick.

13. California Senior Legislature Report: – Jim Levy apologized for the conflict between the CSL and TACC meetings. He reported that CSL was preparing for its Oct. 16 – 18 session, which will be cut by one day due to budget concerns. He reported that CSL was also reviewing Workers' Compensation policies.

Levy said that CSL had decided to prioritize legislative proposals of major importance to seniors in order to gain broad support from the Legislature. He noted that over 25 years, the CSL had put forward 250 proposals with 65 having been signed into law. He reported that CSL's only active bill this session – SB 1249 – was awaiting enactment. The measure allows CSL to keep its tax check-off with \$250,000 in donations, without indexing for inflation. Prioritizing will involve addressing the key importance of each proposal.

Levy reported on recent elections following the separation from CCoA and 32 PSAs have provided CSL representation.

CSL was finalizing its session program book, which will go to every legislator and agency to let them know where AAAs are and what they do. Levy was asked if there were other senior organizations doing competing work, and he noted that other organizations tracked and advocated for or against legislation, but none author legislation as CSL does. Levy commented that the session would be dedicated to Senator Alquist. PSAs were invited to sponsor advertisements in the CSL program book, and Levy noted that TACC usually advertises but had not done so this year.

The group discussed a proposal to place a full page ad, at a cost of \$250, in the program book. A motion from Sonnefeld, seconded by Woods, added the emergency item to the agenda and received unanimous support. Romeo motioned and Sonnefeld seconded to purchase a full page ad for \$250. The motion carried.

14. Older Adult Traffic & Safety Task Force Report: No report since task force chair Hav Staggs had informed TACC that the group had not met since its past report.

15. Committee Reports:

A. Legislative Committee -- Donald Hunt reported that all bills under review by the Committee have either been chaptered, enrolled, or died. He reported that his next update will show only the status of bills that reached the Gov's desk. Mack noted that end of session means all new legislation for next year.

B. SB 910 LRSPA Monitoring Liaison Update: Hunt reported that the Wellness & Prevention Task Team was featured at a CCoA hearing in August in Ventura on the topic healthcare for seniors and long-term care. Hunt noted that on November 1 CCoA will hold a hearing on Long Term Care in Amador County. The information from both hearings will be incorporated into CCoA's 2007 progress report to legislature.

Wilder reported that the Transportation Task team continues to meet regularly and the 5/05 LRSP report on transportation work has continued. He said the mobility action plan will

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 5 of 7**

be a guide for improving human services transportation through effective statewide organization. At least 70 venues are funding the process, with a goal of completion in the next 2 months. Other projects include a proposal to develop an 'e-book' on the purposes of a Consolidated Transportation Service Agency, and a proposal for non-profit transportation service organizations to seek alternative funding sources to cover volunteer transportation of seniors. The next meeting of the Transportation Task Team is Oct. 20, from 9-11.

### **16. PSA Reports:**

Bud Winslow, PSA 13, reported that the Santa Cruz/San Benito Seniors Council and Capitola coordinated to produce an emergency kit for seniors: it will be given to low-income seniors and sold to others for \$25 each.

Anne Mack (PSA 10) reported that Santa Clara's emergency kit includes three days' supply of food and water at and costs \$35. The PSA is working for grant to distribute kits to every frail senior living at home.

Ed Woods reported that PSA 25's Art Exhibit catalog won the Catalog Publishers' Award. He shared the California Alliance of Retired Americans Voters Guide, which describes all the ballot propositions.

Pete McGrath reported that PSA 19 had sent a mailing on Proposition 1C. He said the PSA has an aggressive legislative committee led by Marvin Schachter. McGrath reported attending a number of events, including Los Angeles Older Women's Forum, a Brown Act workshop held for the county AAA and aging commission, and an AARP program on diversity in aging. The county is conducting a survey of all cities and senior centers in order to improve AAA outreach and communication lines with the centers. He agreed to send a copy to TACC for posting on the website

Arline Elliott reported that PSA 8's annual Elders Conference was well attended. State Senator Jackie Speier sponsors the conference annually; Assemblyman Gene Mullin will continue the practice when Speier is termed out this fall. Elliott reported on a nutrition committee initiative to deliver food to a low income housing unit in order to increase public awareness of themeal programs PSA 8 is undergoing staff changes. She reported that all county commissions were attending ethics seminars. She announced that this was her last TACC meeting, adding that she felt privileged and honored to have served.

Roberta Romero (PSA 5) reported on the community's concerns over a split between Marin General hospital and Sutter Health. A recent Elder Abuse Task Force event drew over 250, and the county has established Financial Abuse Enforcement Team. A senior information fair in October will give out free flu shots. Catholic Charities is the new vendor for the meals program. The county jail is cooking for the congregate meal program. A retreat is being planned for the County Commission on Aging members to review responsibilities and bylaws changes. The AAA is also holding panel on reverse mortgages and is sponsoring a CARFIT program.

Jacque Spiker reported that PSA 26 is now a an integrated county JPA . The board had recently learned that its advisory council members had been appointed illegally and corrective action was being taken. The PSA is beginning disaster preparedness planning; working to coordinate with various senior centers and the local offices of emergency services. The goal is to dovetail city and county programs. The area plan update is underway, as well as bylaws updates. The information and assistance line has been consolidated into a county-wide toll free number.

Venetta Maiden of PSA 21 reported that reports on Housing and Transportation and Intergenerational Quality of Life Report have been completed. The agency has reviewed local food bank operations and has distributed new program brochures. A local grandparents' forum was attended by 250. An issue of local concern is developers' failure to follow universal design principals, despite the high cost of retrofitting homes for disabled access after construction.

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 6 of 7**

George Winslow (PSA 13) said the emergency kit was a major focus due to the area's proximity to the Loma Prieta fault. The agency will work with various advisory councils to identify roles and responsibilities.

Anne Mack reported that PSA 10 had elected a new board, making her the new TACC representative. She felt that senior bills did well in the Legislature. The PSA's transportation chair has been working with the California Disability Action Network. The agency has also developed an emergency kit and is seeking grant money to distribute to all homebound seniors. Associated projects include identifying shelter and evacuation locations, as well as mapping all nursing homes and residences of all frail elderly. Additionally, they are working on a national pandemic disaster plan. PSA 10 had moved to support local General Plan Measure A, regarding unincorporated land use. She reported that the agency is reviewing its year-end plan; that a League of Women Voters presentation on the 2006 initiatives was scheduled, and a spring retreat was being planned to interface with new members.

Jacque Brown, PSA 4, reported on a recent grandparents' program attended by 300. She said the Joint Program Evaluation Committee (JPEC) had sanctioned a congregate meal provider for allowing take-out meals from a congregate site. JPEC was working with the provider's board on a payment plan, the Executive Director had been fired, and adjustments were being made to accommodate two participants who cannot eat in congregate setting. She reported that Advisory Council has 11 vacancies. The council is initiating teleconferencing since the area is so diverse. She reported that the new ethics requirement is being handled differently in different counties.

Dee Erman reported that PSA 22's director will present at the C4A conference. She reported that the senior non-emergency medical transportation program is great in Orange County, covering 400 square miles with 9000 enrolled in the program. She reported that one county meal provider had dropped the lunch program because ethnic foods weren't provided. Erman reported that she had dissolved an Advisory Council nutrition committee that had been nonfunctional for years. She was hoping to reinvigorate members through a retreat, noting that other PSAs change committee chairs with each new advisory committee chair's election.

Marty Overfield reported that PSA 33's area plan year-end report was pending approval by the county supervisors. A recent elder sexual abuse seminar was well attended by law enforcement and prosecutors. Most of the commissioners had attended ethics training. She is chairing a senior center celebration luau on Oct. 14 put on by Commission on Aging Foundation. The goal is to raise \$5000 in advance to make the event free to seniors. Any remaining balance will go into the foundation, allowing for a review of the foundation's focus and purpose. Plans were underway for a health fair to provide flu shots and a Harvest Fair in which providers and vendors host booths. A conference on financial elder abuse was held in September. She reported that recent elections re-elected all prior commissioners.

Jack Duff (PSA 23) reported that four regional aging networks in the county had developed, based on regional differences between the county, city, north county and all cities east of city and mountains. He reported that there is coordination between the four on transportation issues, they compare notes and help each other in program development.

17. Public Comment: None offered.

18. California Department of Mental Health: Pete Best, Staff Mental Health Specialist, Adult and Older Adult Unit, presented a report on departmental changes occurring as a result of the Mental Health Services Act. He noted that homelessness was a primary factor in the Act's passage, and cited a lack of funding, the lack of outreach, low community involvement, family support, and the shortage of availability or substandard housing in affecting older adults' mental health. He said the department uses the "housing first" approach, giving primary consideration to the client's safety at home, at work, and in other activities. He noted that quality of life was a key indicator in older adults' mental health, referencing the lack of mobility and lost drivers' licenses and the resulting lost socialization as contributing factors to

## **TACC Minutes, September 27-28, 2006, Page 7 of 7**

depression. Best said the new system of care acknowledges that services must be delivered to seniors, and better coordination is needed between department of mental health, social services, and medical services. Under the Act, counties are required to submit local plans for expanding services, describing how to reach various populations, the scope of outreach, and other factors. He noted that the MHSA has targeted older adults as an underserved population, with approximately 15% of the funding devoted to senior programs. He explained that the MHSA is funded through a 1 percent tax on any income over the 1<sup>st</sup> million reported on Californian's income tax returns.

### **19. PSA Reports:**

Cox reported that PSA 21's ombudsman program was currently unstaffed, but the region's new legal services team was doing excellent work. PSA staff has provided full service report of needs – health insurance and housing are high on list. A survey of baby boomers will be used in preparing to provide services. He reported on a recent successful legal clinic and the purchase of five new clean-air buses that are providing free rides through for three months. He complemented the PSA staff, and announced plans for senior Recognition Day in Los Banos, providing food and information to over 400 attendees.

Bill Hollabaugh, reporting for PSA 6, noted that San Francisco's currently good economy made more money available, allowing restoration of senior services that had been recently lost. A neighborhood partnership between community based organizations and aging and adult services, funded by a Robert Wood Johnson grant, was reaching out to Asian/Pacific Islanders, Laotian, LGBT, and African American populations that are deemed to be underserved communities in the city. He noted that among the issues affecting the older LGBT population was the inability to reach out to others combined with a lack of family support and friends.

Don Hunt reported that PSA 18 had recently had a Health Department presentation on flu epidemics and that the area was being affected by wildfires. His Advisory Council had acknowledged the region's HICAP counselors for their work on Medicare Part D. The AAA had received a national award for its cooperative program for senior nutrition, and noted that the AAA works with nine cities and five other nonprofits. In November, Microsoft and AARP will do a senior forum in Ventura County on Internet usage and protection.

David Wilder reported that PSA 20 held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual senior day the previous week, with over 400 registered for free meals, health screenings, and other activities. On October 1, the first annual Senior Day in Mojave area will be held, with a goal of reaching seniors unable to travel to previous senior events. He said the PSA was working to recruit new Advisory Council members due to several resignations. He is working with staff and the county supervisors have advertised, with one new appointment made so far. He noted that the loss of several members puts such a large AAA at a disadvantage.

Mack commended Wilder for a successful program.

20. Wilder adjourned the meeting at 11:01.