



TACC – TRIPLE-A COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Vagabond Inn
Sacramento, CA

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

I. Call to Order

Vice President Depew called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Pat Lewis led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum

Present:

PSA 3 – Shirley Boracci	PSA 19 – Zelda Hutcherson
PSA 4 – Mary Jane Large	PSA 21 – Erwin Fromm
PSA 5 – Patricia Lewis	PSA 22 – Antonio Rodella
PSA 6 – Cathy Russo	PSA 23 – Howard Nichols
PSA 7 – Gerald Richards	PSA 25 – Patricia Wilson
PSA 8 – May Nichols	PSA 26 – Pat Grabham
PSA 12 – Marge Depew	PSA 27 – Rabia Hunter
PSA 12 – Sarah Johnson	PSA 28 – Pat Paris
PSA 13 – Bud Winslow	PSA 29 – Vicki Ludwig
PSA 17 – Martin Tucker	PSA 31 – Rick Dahlgren
PSA 18 – June Glasmeier	PSA 33 – Marti Overfield

Guests: Joan Parks, Ombudsman & HICAP Services of Northern California, Kathy Alameda, Federal Funds Manager, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Danielle Wolfe of CDFA, Derrell Kelch, Executive Director California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)

Staff: Sandi Fitzpatrick, Carol Sewell, Marcella Lopez

A quorum was present.

IV. Introductions

TACC members introduced themselves by name and PSA.

V. Approve Agenda

The TACC agenda for May 6-7, 2009 was reviewed.

Fitzpatrick requested a change to provide workshop on Travel Expense Claims at 4:00 p.m.

Rodella/Nichols to approve as amended. Approved.

VI. Approve Minutes of February 5, 2009 Meeting

The TACC minutes from February 5, 2009 were reviewed and approved. Tucker/Dahlgren moved to approve minutes. Carried with one abstention.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Commission on Aging Update – Sandra Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick reported on CCoA activities. Announced new Commissioner Bert Bettis of Wilton. Provided update on federal stimulus dollars of \$787 billion nationwide. Statewide funds will be used for senior community employment and nutrition programs.

IX. Treasurer’s Report/Fiscal Update – Martin Tucker

Tucker reported on Seniors Special Fund contributions – increase of \$4,000 over last year. Projects \$55,000 for the FY. This is last FY meeting.

X. California Foundation on Aging Update – Erwin Fromm

Fromm, CFoA Treasurer, outlined functions and operations of Foundation. Created by ACR 7 in 1987, which directed CCoA create 501(c) 3 foundation to support senior programs. CCoA, TACC, CSL, and Senior Workers Luncheon are the four component funds. 8% annual fee covers insurance, nominal bookkeeping costs, and travel. After covering expenses, the CFoA board determines what interest benefit will provide back to funds.

Fitzpatrick briefly outlined sources of TACC funding.

**XI. State Ombudsman Program Update; cuts and proposal for restoration
Joan Parks, Ombudsman & HICAP Services of Northern California**

Ms. Parks provided an overview of the impacts of a 50% budget cut to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and discussed legislative efforts to restore funding.

**XII. Farmer’s Market Program – Kathy Alameda, Federal Funds Manager, California
Department of Food and Agriculture and Danielle Wolfe**

Ms. Alameda and Ms. Wolfe discussed the Senior Farmers Market program that distributes food coupons through the Area Agency network. The program provides \$20 in coupons for low-income older adults to use in purchasing certified farmers market produce.

XIII. PSA Reports – Q & A

PSA 7 - Richards reported that budget cuts resulted in the loss of two full-time county transportation workers who had participated in a county-wide transportation coalition to develop single point of contact for any transportation program. Their goal was to obtain grant funds for program development; will not be possible without staff. AAA is seeking volunteers. Local nutrition programs are supplemented by foundation.

PSA 25 – Wilson reported no meetings for two months due to lack of funds to cover parking costs; has been rectified. PSA received door-to-door transportation grant and Title V grant for Senior Worker Transportation. Cuts were made to congregate nutrition due to provider transportation costs. Annual senior talent show and annual art show coming up.

PSA 21 – Fromm reported the County developed prescription drug discount program isn't being promoted by physicians. Covers non-insured costs and prescriptions for pets and has no income/age eligibility requirements; funded by a pharmaceutical company. Aging & Disability Resource Center under development; surprised by lack of knowledge of other organizations' programs. An education forum will be held on May 15.

PSA 6 – Russo reported the AAA is still working on budgets; considering cuts to aging; nutrition; home care. Advisory Council hopes to track impacts on people. Planning a "Senior Tsunami" demonstration for May 11 to let San Francisco City Council know the impacts of an older population.

PSA 3 – Boracci reported the AAA has enlisted volunteers to help Ombudsman program due to staff cuts in local program. Advisory Council reduced meetings annually from 12 - 6. Held a Grandparents Appreciation Day; partnering in local fundraiser with good attendance. New brochure with information cards produced for AAA by Chico State.

PSA 5 – Lewis reported the County just received a significant transportation planning grant. Partnering with United Way on disaster preparedness.

PSA 33 – Overfield reported May is annual Elder Abuse Conference. PSA 33 Commission on Aging's Foundation supported elder abuse conference and will raise funds through vendor booths. CDA will present State Area Plan on May 19. PSA has reduced Meals on Wheels delivery due to reduced funding and distances. Local air district is giving the AAA a "green vehicle" for program travel. Local Department of Aging facing continuing cuts; staff losses. Purchasing software to help elders learn Internet. Considering rolling senior center closures to save funds.

PSA 28 - Grabham reported the AAA expanded Advisory Council to 16 members; starting more committees. Great representatives – working to track legislation and advocate. AAA purchased new van as part of a pilot project to address unmet needs to transport seniors in Lake County. Working to bring isolated seniors in for congregate lunches and will do door-to-door service for medical emergencies and appointments. Local transit is matching program funding. Fall Prevention program is doing well.

PSA 23 – Nichols reviewed San Diego County's Aging & Independence Services programming. AIS was involved in new Edgemoor Hospital facility dedication to serve elders and severely disabled. Strong intergenerational programs: "Legacy Program" matches care recipients with youth to provide caregiver respite; "WAY" program uses seniors to mentor foster care youth in preparation for placement in county jobs. Holding fundraiser for Independent Transportation Network, providing door-to-door transportation. Numerous events going on across the county.

PSA 18 – Glasmeier reported highlight over past month was the AAA's third baby boomer seminar called "Catch the Wave," with over 100 in attendance. Included six seminars and if you attended at least 2 seminars, were given a free pass to visit the Ronald Reagan Library. There will not be another baby boomer seminar in the future due to lack of funds.

PSA 13 – Winslow reported the AAA is working on ballot initiatives and on supporting the Ombudsman bills discussed today. AAA is also working on its website. Senior Health Fair featured Sutter Health offering a full range of testing, including oral, prostate, mental health and blood pressure. Continuing concern over scams against seniors.

PSA 29 – Ludwig stated the Advisory council was asked to participate in 3 year planning of the Local Area Plan. AAA is struggling with finances – lost Ombudsman positions and relying strictly on volunteers. AAA is becoming more active in employing seniors. Visited Eskaton’s national demonstration home and education center for ideas to help seniors stay in their home. Also toured a memory care center. Working with county Sheriff’s Department in creating emergency plans for seniors. Creating specialized lists for seniors in an emergency. Working on a web page and a mental health assessment that will go out with home delivered meals. Also doing FAX blasts – gathering all scam information and sending out to community.

PSA 28 - Paris reviewed highlights: AAA is working on new needs assessment and has a flier for Medicare social workers with information to give to homebound seniors. The hope is to assess seniors who may have been previously missed. In response to budget cuts, the AAA is integrating programs to save on administrative costs. A planner from the AAA has been attending meetings on Proposition 63 expenditures, to represent mental health for seniors. Council is trying to decide if they want to support Elder Economic Dignity Act (AB 324).

PSA 22 - Rodella reported the region recently lost longtime member of Southern California Association of Governments Dr. Brenda Ross. AAA has been working on a 3 year plan. Getting ready for Senior Summit May 26th: theme will be “Baby Boomers, Their Parents and Technology”. Members have been working with the Office of Aging on the senior farmers’ market and on health fairs at senior centers. Personally working on policy and procedures, bylaws changes; making recommendations for the Advisory Council. To be on Advisory Council requires 8 hours of volunteer work; must serve on one committee, attend advisory council meetings and volunteer at farmers’ market.

PSA 31 – Dahlgren reviewed Area Plan 2009-2012. Working on getting money from city for Ombudsman program. Started a newsletter, sending to Board of Supervisors. According to Area Plan – population of seniors went up 30% over past few years. During Older Americans Month will hold recognition on May 13 with a luncheon and program. Newsletter is not yet posted on the web.

PSA 8 – Nichols handed out the new edition of Help at Home 2009-2011 guide book with a focus on local Network of Care to be presented to board of supervisors. Due to costs, may not be put out in the future. County was given \$31,000 for a promotion for disabled and elderly. Purchased 500 hygiene kits, prepared a DVD to be delivered by Meals on Wheels. 20% of county’s population is Asian. Have difficulty accessing mental health treatment due to language needs. San Mateo Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Supports Assembly Bill 392 (Ombudsman funding).

PSA 12 – Johnson reported no update.

PSA 17 - Tucker reported on a recently held all-day elder abuse seminar in Santa Barbara. Also an award luncheon for senior of the year and best intergenerational program. Later this month recognition of all volunteers luncheon. Senior exposition draws the largest concentration of seniors in Santa Barbara. Will feature car fit program, free fitness testing. Working on senior friendly community package; hope to have finished in near future.

PSA 12 – Depew reported new Advisory Council member Susan Thompson was appointed to replace Ann Gehrig who resigned. AAA is operating a Fall Prevention program that will be expanding to several counties. The Caregiver program, involving a 6-week “Lunch and Learn” program is being provided to caregivers. The program was very successful in one county, and will be offered in other counties. Surveys have been sent to LGBT senior communities in two counties. The Area Plan has been completed. Several senior expos will be held in the coming months. The Senior Support Symposium in Amador County was a success with over 200 people in attendance. In honor of Older Americans Month many are being encouraged to walk and use walking journals to promote good health.

PSA 27 – Hunter reported volunteer advisory board members are being trained as trainers for car fit program. Getting a new kitchen at the center in Petaluma; County of Sonoma Meals on Wheels has a new supervisor.

PSA 19 – Hutcherson reported her PSA is revising Advisory Council bylaws. It has been recommended that senior commissions be abolished and be combined with the Advisory Council. Elections for new officers will be on Monday; this will be Hutcherson’s last meeting. Last summit on housing and linked on housing to health. CSL has elected a new senior senator – Nina Frazier. Hutcherson emailed all TACC PSA Reports to her executive board which found the information helpful.

PSA 4 – Large reported her PSA is working on an Area Plan and considering how to build on recent boomer study to address targeted efforts. Focus is on transportation coordination through diverse district that includes urban and rural areas. Working with Insight Center on incorporation of Elder Economic Security Standard into Area Plan. Looking at educating boomers on being a “senior” and will follow-up with other members working on boomer education. Expanding efforts to provide Medicare advice and older worker placement efforts. Considering repositioning meal program; looking at how to take fresh produce to underserved communities and to provide cooking classes for men.

XIV. Recess to Tomorrow’s Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2009

XV. Executive Committee Report

The meeting was called back to order at 9 a.m.

A. TACC Corporate Dissolution

Large explained the issue of TACC non-profit corporation and the Committee’s recommendation to dissolve the corporation. Winslow moved to direct staff to take all

steps to dissolve TACC's non-profit corporation; May Nichols seconded. Unanimous passage.

B. TACC's next meeting; proposed for August 17-18

Executive Committee agreed to meet with the Congress of California Seniors for a full day on August 17, meeting at 10:30 at the Holiday Inn and at Vagabond Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on the 18th. Fitzpatrick reviewed details of conference and meeting specifics.

Large announced that in August the Executive Committee will discuss transition process for bringing in new membership to help TACC members understand the purpose of the organization, expectations, and contact information.

C. Participation in C4A Annual Meeting and Allied Conference; proposed TACC November 16-17 meeting dates.

TACC agreed to meet in conjunction with the C4A Allied Conference in L.A. on Nov. 16 at 1:00 p.m. and from 8:30 - noon on the 17th, with an option to participate in TACC-focused workshops that afternoon. The Committee hopes that scheduling will require reimbursement for only one night at the hotel.

Derrell Kelch, Executive Director, C4A addressed the members regarding content of November conference.

XVI. Discussion of TACC Funding Issues – Sandra Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick reviewed TACC's financial status. Low attendance and high AAA support at November meeting helped with budget.

Discussed possibility of recognizing only one official representative from each AAA to help reduce staff time and effort in contacting memberships, proposing that the AAA could contact staff when changes are required. Whether Advisory Council representative remains president or someone else could be discussed, with continuation of former presidents if that person sits on TACC Executive Committee. Issue should be considered for possible future Bylaws amendments.

XVII. Nominating Committee Report

Chair Pat Lewis announced nominations of Mary Jane Large as President, Marge Depew as Vice President and Martin Tucker as Secretary/Treasurer.

XVIII. Election of Officers

Richards seconded the Committee's nominations. Approved unanimously.

XIX. Senior Center Contact Reports

TACC members were asked to visit 1-2 senior centers in their PSA as a follow-up to the February Senior Center Stakeholder Forum.

Mary Jane Large visited new Woodland Senior and Community Center. She also visited a new West Sacramento senior facility and Yuba City Senior Center. Yuba City is stand-alone, old facility with old equipment with traditional congregate meal programs. Large senior male attendance drawn to pool tables and card tables in the afternoons; women attend in the morning.

Marge Depew's advisory council meets in senior centers and issues awards to outstanding centers in PSA 12.

Sarah Johnson visited two centers in small rural communities. Noted welcoming, well organized schedule at one, with "total chaos" at the other, which is also in financial crisis.

Gerald Richards visited two centers that hadn't attended the February Senior Center Forum: the Pinole City Senior Center and the non-profit Chinese-American Senior Center. Pinole plans for people ages 50 – 100; plans to open a training center for boomers and meeting space; will also expand building to open a fitness center. Operates as Senior Club with annual \$20 dues; activities cost \$1.50 - \$5.00 with waivers for low-income. Raised \$250,000 from 1200 members and \$175,000 from City. Retired chef cooks on-site daily and one Sunday pancake brunch per month. Chinese American center opened in 2004 by retired mental health nurse to address Asian American women's high rates of suicide. It is a center without walls that holds educational, cultural, and community activities with focus on education and prevention of mental health issues. Attendees are citizen-immigrants; classes are traditional Chinese with mental health seminars scattered through programs. Holds meetings in other facilities and includes other attendees to open dialogue with other cultures.

Pat Lewis visited two senior centers. First was an old facility in San Rafael with low-attendance and a history of administration problems. Prepare meals but lunch is \$6 and many can't afford. Traditional classes and activities; also provide paratransit and transit coordination as a major part of their function. Third center visited has broad programming, facility used by other groups, congregate meal site, classes for seniors, and "Novato Project Independence" which provides outreach to homebound and isolated elders. Deliver groceries, do yard clean-up, I&A, other traditional programs targeting frail elders. City proposed deleting program budget in order to keep a gymnastic program open, but found alternate funding after public protest.

Erwin Fromm visited Golden Rainbow Center in Palm Springs. Large new facility – full range of activities, good attendance. Food distribution twice a month for eligible recipients. Non-profit organization operates on donations.

Marti Overfield's Advisory Council meets at senior centers monthly. Visited Shafter (small, farming community) where there is a nice facility, good attendance and good meal program. Greenfield Center also very nice; attendance is increasing – have new kitchen and expanded meals to provide for other centers. Ridgecrest is remote; senior center attendance has grown. Traditional activities and congregate meal program. Bakersfield facility in disrepair; County Supervisors have used discretionary funds to support but there is no consistent funding. Bakersfield has good attendance, but location is not safe and not well-managed. There are 22 centers in PSA 33.

Shirley Boracci visited Orland's stand-alone center. Attendee-owned; congregate meals and wide range of programs. Building is old but the facility was well-maintained through fund-raising; county's meal program is supplied by this facility. Wide range of ages; use interns from CSU Chico and Butte College.

Cathy Russo visited center located on third floor of building. Capacity – 60; ¼ Chinese-American with low-English abilities and large percentage of attendees with disabilities. Good interaction; art classes taught by community college attract attendees. Seniors help one-another out. Funding comes from the State Department of Rehabilitation, CDA and fundraising. Wide age-range served.

Zelda Hucherson visited 20 “focal points”. Lynwood Senior Center is funded by City – largely Hispanic attendance. Parking and transportation are critical. Attendees are mobile; wide range of programs and nutrition site. Advisory Council also recognizes outstanding nutrition sites. African American center not so attractive but is well-attended. Big travel program is very popular; attendees are not economically disadvantaged. Large percentage of men attend; hold popular chess and checkers competitions.

Pat Grabham runs a senior center. Lake County provides financial support and will be constructing new stand-alone center for them with two new parks adjacent. The County is making a major effort to improve community; great results. County’s five centers work together; meet monthly and network. Computer classes and travel program are attractive to boomers. Youth for seniors program takes youth from detention centers to do yard work and fence construction for elders.

Rabia Hunter has always worked in senior programming. Petaluma Senior Center director is on the AAA Advisory Council. Beautiful center; multi-range and traditional programs. Art classes attract younger attendees; little gender-integration. Attendees are mid-range in age; middle income as well. City Parks and Recreation funding and membership fees provide newsletter for attendees and matching funds for programming. Congregate and home-delivered meal program is adjacent and run by separate community non-profit.

May Nichols reported there are 14 senior centers in San Mateo. Self-Help for the Elderly runs several Asian American sites; contract with county for meal programs. Two sites are self-sufficient; supported by Bingo. A veterans’ center makes up to \$5,000 per week. San Bruno is similarly funded. Her Advisory Council’s nutrition committee visits centers weekly to report back to county on program needs. Boomer efforts are separate from centers; not well attended by younger “seniors.” Risk of closures at some senior centers because of county’s investment losses.

Antonio Rodella – PSA 22’s Advisory Council also meets at different centers monthly; trying to cover all. County contracted meals offered at most. City of Irvine does own meals at stand-alone senior center. Three chefs alternate daily; state-of the art media center, traditional activities, senior club plans trips and activities. Fountain Valley has new center. Most attendees provide own transportation.

Rick Dahlgren – Los Banos was given a building which was remodeled through 1980 senior center and parks bond act money. Golden Age Club activities take place there. City is now considering building a new multi-age community center with tax benefit from the redevelopment agency. Will expand to add library too. Facility will include senior lounge, gymnasium, kitchen, and other programs. Old building will continue with community purpose; no meal programs offered there. Transportation provided for seniors from center to meal program.

Vickie Ludwig – El Dorado County has three senior centers. Lake Tahoe is county and city run. El Dorado Hills' center is in an affluent area; was part of parks district program but is now separate center with congregate meals. Engaging programs and speakers program attracts boomers. Placerville center serves large rural population; held in old 1950 hospital building. Other programs run out of the building too. Many meals transported to other communities; offer computer labs and other classes. Older attendees primarily utilize Placerville; facility has poor parking but good transportation system. Senior population in El Dorado County is growing at twice the rate of the state. Community college is partnering with the center to offer classes. Also visited Roseville center that does not offer meals. Center is located near senior housing; diverse range of programs and employment workshops.

Howard Nichols – Has visited many centers. San Diego is looking at senior centers' future – holding a senior center conference later this spring. Oceanside just constructed new center; now has two.

Martin Tucker – Carpinteria Center uses a church facility, but is looking at taking over a newly-closed school. Santa Barbara's senior center has AARP meetings, bridge club. Center has little assistance from staff. Serves as a congregate meal and food distribution center. Goleta is also in a large former school facility; serves as a community center with wide ranging programs. Goleta had declining congregate meal participation until they opened salad bar – increased attendance significantly. Offer car-fit program; program to evaluate prescriptions. Parks & Recreation is very involved in programming; annual fashion show is a big fund raiser.

XX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.