



P.O. Box 3069, Vallejo, CA 94590

707-644-6612

ADVISORY COUNCIL, October 3, 2013, 1:00 PM

Veterans Home of California, Yountville, CA. 94559

Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Chair Sharon Monck, with the pledge of Allegiance.
 - A. Members Present: Sharon Monck, Suzanne Blakeley, Constance Boulware, Lauren Rolfe, Rodrigo Galindo, Richard Lundin, Betty Holland, Teri Ruggiero, Steven Rozensky, Heather Stanton, Mary Spry-Danner.
 - B. Staff Present: Leanne Martinsen – AAoA Executive Director, Harriett Dietz, Planner.
 - C. Members Absent/Excused: Nieves Fernandez, Lois Harper, Rosemarie Wilson.
 - D. Introduction of Guests: Edwin Warren and JoAnn Busenbark, AAoA Board members, Celine Regalia, Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services.
- II. Consent Agenda
 - A. **Motion by Betty Holland, seconded by Richard Lundin, to approve the agenda for the October 3, 2013 meeting, to accept the as presented, motion carried.**
 - B. **Motion by Heather Stanton, seconded by Mary Spry-Danner to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2013 meeting, as presented motion carried, with Lauren Rolfe abstaining.**
- III. Community Input I – Public Comment, announcements, none.
- IV. Presentation: Edwin Warren, AAoA Board member who resides at the Veterans Home gave a presentation about the history and features of the facility. He reported that it is the 2nd oldest and largest Veterans Home in the country, and will celebrate it's 130th anniversary next year. This campus has many buildings and beautiful grounds (500 acres). The state has added seven new veteran's homes in recent years. There are 1,021 elderly (age 62+) and disabled veterans and spouses residing there now. 600 are in independent living, with others in skilled and intermediate care units. Veterans are charged a percentage of their income (at least 47.5%), and the percentage varies with the level of care provided. Non veteran spouses currently pay 90%, and they are advocating to have this reduced. Other concerns include advocating for more single room accommodations, as in the independent living sections are sharing rooms (two residents in a 15 square foot room). Residents are provided housing, food and medical care, and there are also "quality of life" activities. The waiting list for independent care

is very short, but there are longer waiting lists for independent and skilled care. There was also discussion regarding the younger vets that are coming to the home, and also the Pathways program that specializes in caring for mostly younger vets returning from combat with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

V. Correspondence: None

VI. AAoA Board Liaison Report – In response to a question, Leanne Martinsen responded that the Board of Director’s bylaws do not currently address remote access for members to participate in meetings by telephone, teleconference or other technology, and is considering updating the bylaws, as the Advisory Council did a couple of years ago. The meetings of the Board and Advisory Council are open to the public, and we are seeking a more definitive determination regarding whether the Area Agency on Aging is covered by the Brown Act and or the Bagley Keene act. (JoAnn Busenbark arrived later and her comments are included under the discussion of Action Item VIII. A.)

VII. AAoA Executive Director & Staff Report

A. Leanne Martinsen reported on AAoA status, including:

- Interviews conducted this week for the MIS position, hope to hire next week.
- Harriett Dietz has been doing a great job of updating the Facebook page with relevant content.
- Volunteers are providing phone & clerical support.
- The AAoA office addition/classroom construction is going well, and should be completed by mid November.
- Area Plan Update Approved
- Fiscal Closeout (2012-13) approved by CDA
- Anticipate CDA Site Monitor between November and next May.
- CDA - MSSP fiscal audit scheduled for November.
- CDA Title III & VII fiscal audit scheduled for April.
- Napa Senior Celebration at Veterans Park in Downtown Napa on October 5
- Solano Alzheimer’s walk at the Suisun waterfront on October 26, also a fundraising opportunity for AAoA.
- Federal Government Shutdown means no funds for Title III & VII programs will be paid for October 1 and forward. If the situation is not resolved soon, it will cause cash flow difficulties for the AAoA.

B. Harriett Dietz reported that she had completed a round of community outreach and education presentations, including appearing before all of the city councils in both counties. The Facebook page is also a way to share information, and members are encouraged to “like” and “share”. Her projects include working with the program monitoring committee on the procurement policy update and the upper Napa Valley coalition, which is focusing on transportation. There is an event on October 23 to recruit volunteer drivers from the upper valley communities for Molly’s Angels, and we have facilitated the process with Molly’s Angels and Faith in Action regarding mobility management and program development and sustainability.

C. Anne Payne, Direct Services Supervisor was unable to attend the meeting. Leanne Martinsen reported that there were 34 calls logged in July & August for Napa Information and Assistance. The most requested resource was the caregiver referral registry (6). Next, with three (3) requests each were Legal assistance, Housing and referrals to Healthy Minds-Healthy Aging. There were two (2) requests each for information about the Caregiver Permit Application as well as referrals to In-Home Supportive Services, the veterans service office, transportation (Molly's Angels), and Adult Day services. Other referrals were made to Stop Falls Napa Valley, Family Caregiver Support Program, Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, case management, food pantry, low cost vision care, and requests for Napa Senior Resource Guides. We also followed up with 31 clients that had been served by CANV senior services. Some phone numbers have been disconnected, and at least one has died. Those with transportation needs have been referred to Molly's Angels. Of those who were participating in the friendly visitor/phone call program, 3 indicated that they no longer want to participate, and 5 do, so have been set up for weekly calls. There are a few others (13) that have not yet responded (no answer or left message) and we will continue to reach out to them. The Info-Van has not been on the road for the past three months, but various staff are continuing to provide outreach services, as well as community education and public information activities, and funds are budgeted to cover the costs of staffing and materials related to these services.

VIII. Action Items:

A. Sharon Monck reported that at the last meeting of the Board of Directors, she had taken back the recommendation regarding an agency assessment, but had to leave before the discussion concluded, and requested that Suzanne Blakeley, who was also in attendance, report on the response from the Board of Directors, before the action item was considered. Suzanne reported that the Board was very receptive, but did not want to spend the funds for a consultant to conduct an assessment. In response, they proposed to establish a committee, composed of both Board and Advisory Council members to assess the working environment with the AAoA staff, as a first step. There was also discussion regarding organizations that provide consultation to non-profit organizations. The Board appointed two members and an alternate. JoAnn Busenbark indicated that because the AAoA has been thrust into change with funding reductions due to sequestration, the Board wanted to gain a better understanding of what the issues are, and felt that having someone look into this is a healthy thing. The Board was clear that this process was not about whether the Executive Director had done something wrong, just the circumstances around the funding reductions, and the committee will have conversations with staff, to get their input. Sharon Monck indicated that staff are feeling overworked, and should not fear retaliation for speaking up about this. Leanne Martinsen stated that the Board of Directors wanted to be responsive to the Advisory Council's concerns and recommendations. The committee was established to listen and gather information that could be used to determine whether there might be some more efficient ways of providing services. This was to be an ad-hoc committee, with a limited scope of tasks that need to be clearly understood, and the expectation was that they would conclude their task by the end of the calendar year. Steven Rozensky and Teri Ruggiero suggested that a volunteer group would not have time to conduct an in-

depth assessment, and that staff members might be more comfortable responding to a written survey. Suzanne Blakeley indicated that she had proposed some initial steps for organizing the committee. **Sharon Monck moved to appoint Constance Boulware and Suzanne Blakeley, with Teri Ruggiero as an alternate to the committee, seconded by Lauren Rolfe. The motion carried, with Heather Stanton voting to oppose, and Betty Holland abstaining.**

- B. There were no other recommendations to the Board of Directors at this time, but Teri Ruggiero indicated that the Program Performance Monitoring Committee report may lead to some recommendations.

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Legislative Committee CSL Report –Dr. Lundin reported that 24 of the CSL proposals from the last session have been picked up by state legislators. Lauren Rolfe reported that the have already been signed into law, and another three are awaiting the Governor’s signature. (Bills that have passed the legislature, and are not vetoed by the Governor by October 14 will become law.) AB 663, which requires RCFE Administrator training to include sensitivity to LGBTQ issues is one of those, and letters of support would be appreciated. AB 918 and SB 129, and a joint resolution in support of the Older American’s Act Reauthorization are priorities. The CSL will be in session in Sacramento October 28-31. The CSL depends on the state tax “line 402” donations for financial support. Lauren is working toward an elder court system.
- B. Membership Committee – Constance Boulware reported that she had spoken with Napa County elected officials about recruiting more members from Napa County at the League of Cities conference. She discussed recruitment efforts with various city offices, and the article that Steve Rozensky had written for the Napa Valley Register.
- C. Bylaws Committee –Constance Boulware reported that the proposed changes to the bylaws were developed, but they have not yet been distributed to the membership. The proposed changes will be presented and discussed at the next Advisory Council meeting.
- D. Advocacy Committee Suzanne Blakeley reported that the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act was stalled in Congress. She also reported that there are reductions scheduled for Cal Fresh (food stamps) on November 1. She related a conversation that she had with a Solano County Judge, and his concern that the police do not understand what elder abuse is and how to handle cases. He would like to see more training, and perhaps the AAoA can facilitate. Teri Ruggiero stated that this training would best be provided by Adult Protective Services.
- E. Program Performance Monitoring Committee, Teri Ruggiero reported that the committee had met on Monday to review the procurement policy and procedures, and the provider performance reports. Unfortunately, the meeting was scheduled at a time when staff was not available; so many questions were not able to be resolved. A memo was distributed regarding the needs of the committee. Leanne Martinsen agreed that when meetings are scheduled in the future, staff will be designated to provide support.

X. Information Items – None.

400 Contra Costa St.
P.O. Box 3069
Vallejo, CA 94590

Toll-Free Information Line
1-800-510-2020

Phone 707.644.6612
Fax 707.644.7905
www.aaans.org

- XI. Communication with AAA Board: All members are encouraged to attend the Board of Directors meetings. Sharon Monck indicated her intention to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 15, and report on the actions of the Advisory Council at the meeting.
- XII. Community Input II -- Parking lot items – None.
- XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM, with thanks to Ed Warren for the informative presentation, and Sharon Monck for providing refreshments.

Submitted by: Leanne Martinsen, Executive Director

Approved by _____, Advisory Council Secretary

Date: _____

**400 Contra Costa St.
P.O. Box 3069
Vallejo, CA 94590**

**Toll-Free Information Line
1-800-510-2020**

**Phone 707.644.6612
Fax 707.644.7905
www.aaans.org**