



**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES PSA 26
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

June 6th 2023
2:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

AAA Advisory Council Members Present:

Paul Branson - President
Linda Schoeller-Boyle
Janine Smith-Citron
Nancy Nanna – Vice President
Lisa Morrow – (late 2:12 PM)
Jill Rexrode (late 2:12 PM)

AAA Advisory Council Members Not Present:

Priscilla Tarver (Excused)

AAA Staff Present:

Dena Eddings-Green- Program Coordinator
Virginia Peeke-AAA Staff Services Analyst

Others in Attendance:

Laurie Fisher (Lake Links)

1. Welcome / Announcements:

- The meeting was called to order by Paul Branson at 2:00 pm. Six (6) Advisory Council members were present out of a total of seven (7) active members. Attendees present introduced themselves.
- Dena mentioned that we are in the process of gathering data from the Senior Centers to update and adjust the funding allocations distributed to each Senior Center. This process was on hold during the emergency declaration. The new funding amounts will start 2024 when we begin our new RFP contract period.
- Paul stated that we are going to move John Cunningham's presentation and vote on the minutes afterward.

2. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items

- No commits from the Public.

3. Presentation by John Cunningham – AB 540

- Paul introduced John Cunningham, who works for Contra Costa County in the Planning Department and has been a transportation planner focusing on senior and disabled transportation. In recent years, John has gotten involved in the legislation side of transportation for seniors.
- John stated that Assembly Bill 540 (Social Services Transportation Improvement Act: (Coordinated Transportation Services Agencies) is presented by Buffy Wicks. The bill is currently being sponsored by Choice in Aging and Contra Costa County. Choice in Aging is a non-profit that works in the East Bay.

- The Origin of AB540 came about from many studies the state has done over the past 20 years; these studies had tangible benefits but were never implemented.
- In 2020, the state came up with the Master Plan on Aging (MPA), which was finalized in 2021. In the MPA all the transportation recommendations were removed and replaced with broad points without informing the shareholders that this had been done. The advocates that had worked on the transportation recommendation were frustrated that their recommendations had been taken out of the MPA.
- After several meetings, advocates and the county came together and developed a bill proposal, Assembly Bill 540. The goal of AB 540 is to make state law of all the recommendations that were developed in the previous studies which showed that there is a lack of transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.
- AB 540, builds upon the 1979 Social Services Transportation Improvement Act, which established the “Consolidated Transportation Services Agency” (CTSA) mechanism. Currently, the CTSA is optional; however, Assembly Bill 540 requires that all Counties have a CTSA.
- The barriers to Assembly Bill 540 are substantial, with political and revenue streams posing obstacles.
- The next step for Assembly Bill 540 is to be held in committee so that the legislation can be refined and begin hearings again in January 2024.
- Lisa mentioned the state of the workforce and how there is a lack of workers, and the changing dynamics since the pandemic.
- John stated that there is an overlap in the lack of workforce, the more significant barrier in providing this type of transportation is the availability of drivers and that in the past four or five years it has been challenging to get drivers.
- Paul asked John how we could help him.
- John stated that we are developing material to distribute to all of the ACOA, and we will need to rally the troops in December and January. When the legislator takes up a bill again that was held over from the previous year, we only have 30 days to get it out of committee; a bill this complex is going to be a big ask.
- Paul asked John in a previous conversation about where the money goes; instead of just the transit getting the money, it might be a combination of the transit and social services receiving the funding.
- John stated that we will hear back from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) will decide where the money goes in urban monopolization areas. However, in local areas without a MPO designation, the Board of Supervisors would determine where the fund goes.
- Nancy asked when we would be advocating for this bill and if there is anything as a Council that we can recommend to the local Board of Supervisors to support this bill.
- Paul said that he did not see why not.
- Dena stated that we need a CSL member to help inform us about bills like this and help advocate.

4. Action Items

- Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023

M/S Lisa/Janine All in Favor 0 Abstain

5. C4A Conference Workshop Overview

- Paul stated that the conference reenergized him with the positivity that came from it; there was a wide range of topics that were discussed and numerous different panels. The state and national leaders were very enthusiastic about the changes we needed.
- Paul mentioned on the first day during the question portion of the presentation; he stated he wanted to make the correlation between equality and geography and that from his

perspective as a member of the TACC, he is seeing all of the wonderful things that the big counties are doing because for one they have plenty of staff to do it, second, they can get the money to do these projects.

- Dena thanked Paul for the way he represented our agency and for raising the equity issue.
- Paul continued by saying that we don't have the staffing to pull in more resources, which is a systematic issue.
- Dena mentioned that our PSA is one of many who have noticed this. There are other rural PSA's with this issue, and we are not being funded or recognized equally.
- Lisa stated that our seniors need more because they don't have access.

6. Rural/Urban AAA Funding Inequities

- Paul mentioned that he has been speaking to both Dena and Janine about where to go from here and that this issue is so big and covers so much that we need a separate strategic planning meeting to focus on this topic and talk about where we want to go.
- Paul suggested a motion to form a special planning committee to go further into the issue of inequities in our area.
- Janine stated that she would like to join the committee, further stating that this is very important and that we need to rally the community to get involved.
- Jill stated that she should have separate meetings because strategic plans are lengthy.
- A discussion was held between Lisa, Jill, and Paul to find a facilitator for the meeting.
- Dena recommended that whoever makes the motion for a strategic planning meeting would be considered an extra special Advisory Council meeting not open to the public; the Advisory Council in this meeting could not make any decision, just recommendations.
- Janine said she liked Dena's idea when she suggested we need fresh input. Would it be ok to talk about it with other people to get some ideas?
- Paul said that would be fine and that part of the idea is to get more people involved.
- Paul stated that the strategic planning meeting is just the beginning, and an end goal would be having a summit in each county where we have key players who can come to the Advisory Council and voice what they want to see happen in their county.
- It was decided to do the strategic planning meeting in-person.
- Janine made a motion to have a special strategic planning meeting closed to the public at a date to be determined by a poll of members.
 - **M/S Janine/Jill All in Favor 0 Abstain**
- After discussion, the members decided to meet in person in Fort Bragg at the Senior Center sometime in July.

7. Advisory Council Officer Elections

- Dena said that when going through Advisory Council membership records, membership dates and elected position dates were different, so there are conflicts. According to our records, some of your memberships have expired, while you have been holding office. Membership and election dates merged to become your membership dates. After this election, ethics training and membership renewal letters will be sent.
- Janine asked if there are term limits?
- Dena stated that she is having Virginia check the by-laws about membership term limits, but the officer term limit is two years.
- Janine continued that if you are elected for two years are not supposed to hold office after that.
- Dena replied that it does not specifically state that.
- Paul stated he has the by-laws available under item six, terms of Advisory Council officers; members are only allowed to serve two two-year terms in the same office unless requested by unanimous vote of the Advisory Council.
- Dena asked if there was anyone who wanted to nominate someone for Advisory Council President.

- Jill stated that she would like to nominate Paul as the president again.
- Dena asked if anyone else who would like to nominate someone.
- Linda said that she seconds Paul's nomination.
 - **M/S Linda/Janine All in Favor 0 Abstain**, there was a unanimous vote for Paul.
- Paul stated that he accepts the nomination of President.
- Nancy stated that she has been Vice President and Secretary for years, so if anyone else wanted to be Vice president feel free to nominate someone else.
- Paul said he would happily nominate Jill for Vice president.
- Lisa stated that she would second Jill for the nomination of Vice president.
- Jill said that she would accept the nomination of Vice president.
 - **M/S Paul/Lisa All in Favor 0 Abstain**
- Dena stated that Janine is the current Secretary and that the Secretary can be from either Lake or Mendocino County.
- Paul said he is happy to nominate Janine for the Secretary position again if she is willing.
- Dena asked if there were any more nominations.
- Lisa said that she seconded the nomination of Janine to the position of Secretary.
 - **M/S Paul/Lisa All in Favor 0 Abstain**

8. Senior Needs

- Paul said that the Senior Need goes back to our strategic planning meeting topic and that he submitted a list to the Advisory Council.
- Paul continued by saying that this is something that we need to develop and formalize where we are going from here, as part of our advocacy, as part of building coalitions with other groups to improve services in our counties.
- Nancy stated Virginia sent out the needs assessment, and one thing she was really surprised at was that one of the needs that showed a very low number is older adults who think they have depression.
- Paul mentioned that mental health among our seniors is a huge issue.
- Dena brought up that the state is doing a statewide Senior needs assessment survey. It will be going out the second week of July, so we will send out a Facebook post and a press release letting people know to expect postcards in the mail, and they will also be mailed a survey. Dena continued saying she is debating sending out our needs assessment survey since the state is doing one now.
- Janine said that she is curious about the target audience for the survey in July that the state is doing and are they doing it for every senior or if it is a sample survey.
- Dena stated that the target audience for the survey that the state is doing is 65 years or older. It is a sample survey, the survey is called the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, and POLCO is doing it. They are mailing out 1,400 to Lake County and 1,600 to Mendocino County.

9. Senior of the Year Awards

- Janine stated she has a Senior of the Year Award draft she will send to the Advisory Council in a couple of weeks.
- Paul asked if we will be having a separate Senior of the Year Award in each county.
- Janine said yes.

10. Committee Meetings

- **Community Involvement and Advocacy Committee**
 - **Ad-Hoc Committee, Senior Thriving**
 - Janine commented that the Senior Thriving committee has not met in the last 30 days; she continued that they are working on the postcard that will go out with the information and referral number for both counties and an introduction to that service.

- **Nominating and Membership Committee**
 - Nancy mentioned that when we go back to meeting in person, Joan Walter would be willing to return to the Council.
 - Paul stated that having been a member of the CSL for several years and ending his position on the CSL around five years ago, we need someone on the CSL from our two counties because it is so important in our advocacy.
 - Lisa said that she would be open to joining the CSL if Paul would be willing to hold her hand because she is still very intimidated by all of the Senior issues.
 - Dena mentioned that one of the nice things about CSL is that they do not expect you to be an expert; you need to be able to analyze the bills and advocate for one you think will benefit the Seniors in the area you are representing.
 - Lisa commented that she is willing to apply for the CSL.
 - Dena stated that we still need two more members for the Advisory Council from Mendocino County.

- **Legislative Committee**
 - Paul mentioned the Governor's Budget and that they are projecting a 31.5 billion dollar deficit this year, and the Governing is proposing spending as much money as last year.
 - Paul stated that the Governor's Budget wants to spend \$36.3 million for implementing the Master Plan on Aging, which includes the community living fund, \$10 million one-time available for three years to assist old adults and persons with disabilities transitioning from nursing homes to independent living.
 - Dena said she sent over a list of bills that C4A is following and will update everyone as the bill's progress.

- **Elder Abuse Prevention Committee**
 - Paul asked if the Elder Abuse Prevention Event this month.
 - Dena stated that it is June 20th, it is virtual, and we have a total of 16 people registered.
 - Paul questioned if the word was getting out about the Elder Abuse Conference.
 - Dena said it was released to social media and sent to all the Senior Centers, Advisory Council, Governing Board, all the other contractors, Law Enforcement, hospital staff, and Social Workers.

- **Needs Assessment/Health Promotion Committee**
 - Dena mentioned again that CASOA Survey is doing the Needs assessment, and we are still going to be doing a needs assessment survey probably in six months; in addition, if anyone does not agree with or thinks that more items need to be added to the needs assessment survey, we can revise the Needs Assessment Survey.

- **Area Plan Committee**
 - Dena stated that Area Plan is still not approved yet. They had a question about the Ombudsman position that we are adding; the budget is supposed to be approved in the next two weeks. If the budget goes through, we will be able to fly the new Ombudsman Coordinator position.

11. AAA Staff Report

- Dena said that each of the PSAs met with a consulting firm that was doing a workshop to talk about the 2030 initiative, and part of that 2030 initiative was talking about programs each PSA has. All the information the PSAs gave the consulting firm was put into that 2030 document.

- Dena also mentioned that she sent the Advisory Council the documentation on the behavioral health round table session.
- Dena talked to the Advisory Council about the Brown Act, now that the state of emergency has been lifted we must go back to in-person meetings.

12. Presidents' Report

- TACC Report
 - Paul stated that he will work on an outline for the strategic community in the upcoming weeks.
 - Paul said that he is going back through the last TACC meetings and making a list of all the things being done in these other counties. So, we can say, looks what going on in that county; why can't we do that here.
 - Nancy said that she would like to go back to when we talked about the other rural Area Agency on Aging and if we could all get together.
 - Dena mentioned that after Lisa and Denanne met, they talked about was leverage community partners. She thinks that is something we need to do a lot more of because there are agencies in the same situation, and if we come together, we can pull our resources.
 - Paul stated that we discussed having each county having summits to pull where the direction needs to go.

13. Adjourned

Adjourned at 3:46 PM

Next meeting

August 8th 2023

2:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

In-Person: Hospice Services of Lake County

1862 Parallel Drive

Lakeport, CA 95453