

Utah Commission on Aging
Minutes for December 8, 2006

Commission Member Attendees:	
Lisa-Michele Church	Utah Department of Human Services
TantaLisa Clayton	Utah Legal Services
William Cox	Rich County
Michael Deily (for David Sundwall)	Utah Department of Health
Tani Downing	Utah Department of Workforce Services
Rob Ence	AARP
Michael Jones	Utah Department of Financial Institutions
Pat Jones	Utah House of Representatives
Norma Matheson	Honorary Chair
Kristie McMullin	Southwest Applied Technology College
Shauna O'Neil	Salt Lake County Aging Services
Helen Peters (for Leone Harwood)	Utah Department of Transportation
Anne Peterson	University of Utah
JoAnn Seghini	Midvale City
Rev. Robert Shrank	St. John's Lutheran Church
Michael Styles	Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs
Commission Members Unable to Attend:	
Allen Christensen	Utah Senate
Leone Harwood	Utah Department of Transportation
Joette Langianese	Rural Health Management
Larry Marx	Taylorville Police Department
Jason Perry	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Sara Sinclair	Sunshine Terrace Foundation
Dr. David Sundwall	Utah Department of Health
Other Attendees:	
Lori Bays	Utah Office of Public Guardian
Lynn Samsel	Coalition of Non-profits
Andrea Breisch	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Scott Wright	University of Utah
Dr. Mark Supiano	University of Utah
Richard Walker	
Sharon Donnelly	
LaDene Larsen	Utah Health Department
Alan Matheson	Envison Utah
Anne Smith	Health Insight
Alan Ormsby	Utah Human Services Division

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norma Matheson.

The meeting will be taped according to the updated Open and Public Meetings Act.

The August 31, 2006, Minutes and October 24, 2006, minutes were presented for approval. They were approved unanimously.

Recommended Legislation Status

- 1. Allow court to award attorneys' fees in civil elder abuse matters.** Sponsored by Sen. Lyle Hillyard. Health and Human Services Interim Committee passed the bill with a favorable recommendation at 10/18/06 meeting.
- 2. Revise the Personal Choice and Living Will Act.** Co-sponsored by Sen. Allen Christensen and Rep. Patricia Jones. Draft of bill and forms has been discussed with Palliative and Hospice Physician's Group, St. Mark's Hospital Ethics Committee, Eagle Forum, Utah Medical Association, Utah Hospital Association, Utah Healthcare Association, HIPAA Preemption Task Force, Senior Focus Groups (10th East, West Side, and Sandy) is complete and stakeholder meetings are finished. Attorneys and compliance officer (Morris Linton (IHC), Keri McAfee(IHC), Robert Harrison (Snow, Christensen & Martineau), Doug Springmeyer (UDOH), and Mark Brinton (UMA)) helped to draft of the law.
- 3. Increase the small estate affidavit exemption amount.** Sponsored by Rep. Ross Romero. Language of bill amended at the suggestion of the Commission to tie the exemption amount to the rate of inflation so that the bill does not have to be continually updated. Health and Human Services Interim Committee passed the bill with a favorable recommendation at 10/18/06 meeting.
- 4. Allow Transfer on Death Deeds for real property.** This bill is being withdrawn based on concerns expressed by legislators. Commission will work with Utah Bar Commission on Law and Aging and lawmakers to determine whether concerns can be resolved to allow legislation in the 2008 session.
- 5. Extend the Commission on Aging.** Health and Human Services Interim Committee passed the bill at the 11/15/06 meeting.

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee

1. Medicaid Long-Term Care

a. Bed Buy Back Proposal

The committee recommends that the Commission take no position on this proposal at this time because there is not currently enough information about what a proposal may look like to allow the Commission to take a position.

2. Property Tax Deferral

In the event that there is a bill to expand property tax deferral for seniors, the Legislative Committee will be asked to review the bill and consider whether it is necessary and whether it would contribute to the state's ability to maximize the benefits and minimize the burdens of the baby boom generation.

6. Adult Care Credit

In the event that there is a bill to create a new adult care credit, the Legislative Committee will be asked to review the bill and consider whether it is necessary and whether it would contribute to the state's ability to maximize the benefits and minimize the burdens of the baby boom generation.

7. Moratorium on Licensing New Long-Term Care Beds

The committee recommends that the Commission take no action on this issue at this time.

8. Ombudsman Program

Specific proposals concerning the ombudsman program will be considered as they arise prior to and during the legislative session. In general, the legislative committee recommends support of proposals that will support the ombudsman program at the state and local levels.

Committee Updates

Special Committee	Activity Highlights
Caregiver Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three employers agreed to participate in the Caregiver Friendly Employer pilot program (American First Credit Union, ATK, and the LDS Church). Activities will begin in January.
Community Based Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 211 Information and Referral has developed and is implementing a 3-phase approach to improving the information and referral services for the aging population:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Working with DWS to reach agreement on listing for-profit businesses serving the aging population and collecting listing information from for-profit businesses who wish to be listed;2. Developing virtual network of aging specialists by collaborating with AAAs; and3. Implementing "The Beehive."• Discussions concerning Medicaid long-term care policy and caregiver tax credits are ongoing.

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a public awareness campaign and seeking resources to print the AGING SMART Sourcebook. Seeking funding sources for distribution (web version is available on line at aging.utah.edu/agingsmart). • A policy brief is being developed to address educational needs and opportunities for aging cohorts in Utah, called <i>Brain Gain: Expanding Educational Opportunities Older Adults in Utah.</i>
End-of-Life	Addressed in Legislative Summary.
Financial Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy issues addressed in Legislative Summary. • Plan to start pilots to assess effectiveness of financial security guide at the first of the new year. • Obtained substantial funding for printing the financial security guide and for training about saving for retirement.
Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Management Plus training held in September. Ongoing web-based training through January. • Recruiting participants for Phase II training in the spring. • Seeking funding for assessment, expansion, and continuation. • College of Social Work will consider whether Care Management Plus model should be modified to allow social workers to serve as care managers without exceeding their scope of practice. • In the process of developing projections for need for healthcare professionals as the baby boom generation ages. • Consider developing “Baby Your Baby” type guide to health for aging individuals/assess Walgreens/AARP program. • Explore strategies to promote medication self-management.
Healthy Aging	A preliminary report has been submitted by the intern assigned to interview professionals in the community responsible for healthy living programs. The final report will be issued in December.
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted with review of advance healthcare directive law and forms. • Developing outline of mental health commitment process. • Developing plan for comprehensive review of incapacity and mental health statutes. • Considering ways to learn where the mentally ill elderly go.
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TantaLisa Clayton has agreed to chair this committee after the resignation of Larry Marx. • Committee is studying ways to improve elder abuse enforcement by replicating models used by DCFS to investigate, charge, and prosecute offenders.
Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee continues exploring culture change and ways to impact quality of care and services. • The “Artifacts of Culture Change” questionnaire is being considered as a pre/post tool for measurement of progress in the journey. • The "Warmth" survey is being tested at Mission Health Services to measure employee, family, and resident willingness and receptiveness to embracing the culture change process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Culture Change Coalition is being formed through the UHCA which will provide support, encouragement and tools for this transformational journey.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TantaLisa Clayton is working with an intern at Utah Legal Services to identify current laws and policies on reporting incapacitated drivers. • We will invite DMV to next meeting to discuss opportunities for collaborating on setting policy regarding incapacitated drivers.

2030 Status

The final meeting of the Utah 2030 project team was held on December 7, 2006. Eleven of the 23 reports are complete. It was noted that workforce issues were identified in most of the reports and a question was raised about having a state-wide team looking at workforce issues. Final reports are due on January 11, 2007.

Mobility Conference

Rob Ence suggested that the Commission on Aging hold a Mobility Conference in late spring in conjunction with Salt Lake County. This idea was received favorably.

Guest Speaker

Alan Matheson, Envision Utah, presented information on the plans and priorities of Envision Utah.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.