

**MINUTES**  
**Utah Commission on Aging**  
**February 10, 2009**  
**12:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Commission Member Attendees:**

JoAnn Seghini  
Maureen Henry  
Ryan Christiansen for Diana Kirk  
Michael Deily for David Sundwall  
William Cox  
Rob Ence  
Deborah Bayle  
Mark Supiano  
Helen Thatcher for Kristin Cox  
Shauna O’Neil  
Kent Alderman  
Carol Wilcox for Cherie Bruncker

**Representing:**

Utah League of Cities & Towns  
Executive Director  
Financial Institutions  
Utah Department of Health  
Utah Association of Counties  
Advocacy Organizations  
Charitable Organizations  
Higher Education, Acting Chair  
Workforce Services  
Area Agencies on Aging  
Legal Profession  
Health Care

The meeting was called to order by Mark Supiano, Acting Chair.

**1. Welcome and Lunch**

The minutes from October 21 and December 10 were moved and seconded for approval, with the caveat that Norma Matheson also approves them. Maureen reminded the Commission that statute requires a Commission meeting be held during the legislative session.

**2. Status Report**

- Long-term Care plans include:
  - Preparing an application for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation system change grant.
  - Sitting down with the data people within the different departments of the Department of Health to get a sense of what data is and is not available.
- Healthcare is:
  - Discussing personal health records and other ways to make the primary care system work better. Utah has been chosen as a pilot site for a Medicare personal health care records intervention. A person can go onto a contracted organization’s site and enter in personal health information, diagnoses, medications, etc. The person’s physician will be able to pull up and use that information from the Internet. Several of the Committee members participated in a conference launching the program and attempting to get the word out. Intermountain also has a system that is being launched at the same time; there will be some duplication of efforts in this regard.

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- Maureen invited members of the Commission to the March 5 meeting, where Jan Root, Director of Utah Health Information Network, will present information on electronic medical records.
- UGS has been formed as a state affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society, and has been given provisional status for up to two years. The goal for the first year is to incorporate as a 501(c) (3), which has been completed. Membership fees for the first year are waived. Tony Morrison is serving as the organizing officer; there are close to 20 members currently. One of the main objectives of the state affiliate is to serve in the advocacy role on behalf of the elderly in policy issues regarding health care.
- Mental Health is:
  - Collaborating with 2-1-1 to develop resource lists showing available services.
  - Continuing discussions regarding surrogate decision making.
  - Assessing need for IRB for survey of nursing facilities.
  - Applying for a grant that would enable research to see what happens to mentally ill older adults who are in acute care psychiatric facilities, and what happens to them after discharge, based on their legal options for supervision. Research measures will be on death, re-hospitalization, and institutional placement.
- Advanced Health Care Directives
  - Ethnic and Minority focused training scheduled for April 18. The Commission will be working with the Catholic Church and other faith-based communities; research shows that these are the most trusted sources for this type of information. There will be 20-40 people at the training who will be trainers within their own communities. **Action item: Maureen will circulate a list of current Advanced Health Care Directives trainers to Rob Ence and anyone else who is interested.**
  - The Department of Health is reviewing the final draft of the POLST/Life with Dignity Order; it is hoped it will be finalized and sent to Rulemaking shortly.
- Community-Based Care (Goodwill Initiatives Coalition)
  - The Goodwill Initiatives group is holding meeting and trainings; there will be a Medicaid panel discussion on March 19.
  - Jim Brandi from the VA will be presenting on mental health services for aging veterans tomorrow at the Goodwill Building, College of Social Work.
- Public Safety
  - A PhD student in Social Work has entered the data from the survey; he will be working on an analysis of some aspect of the data which will probably take another year. There is a Master's student in Gerontology, who is also a sergeant in the Salt Lake Sheriff's Department, who wants to look at the data also. He had to take the survey as part of his job, and

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brings another perspective to the Committee. The goal is to publish a white paper on law enforcement attitudes toward elder abuse and financial exploitation.

- 2009-2010 Plans
  - Maureen will reduce her hours to .75 FTE from 1/1/09; she will go to .5 FTE from 6/30/09 to 6/30/10. There will be a reduced level of function; the hope is that funding will become available.
  - Louise will be at .5 FTE from 1/1/09 to 6/30/10.
- 2009-2010 Priorities to be Continued and Supported Through Fiscal Year 2009
  - The Commission has a \$10,000 grant for the Advanced Directives training of the ethnic and minority communities. Training will be done here in SLC and also out in the rural areas. Deborah Bayle offered assistance in outreach to the rural communities.
  - Long-term Care is seeking funding for a system change grant, as well as examining current data.
  - The Community-Based Care Committee will continue to meet every four months; it will proceed under the Goodwill Initiatives system in training.
  - AARP is hosting a stake holder's transportation training meeting in May in conjunction with UTA's, United We Ride. Maureen has been working with Carolyn Hunter from AARP on transportation issues, with the goal of having a community resource guide. They have also been working on the financial resource guide, and assessing education strategies.
  - Mental Health is continuing to carry out the survey and issues with IRB.
  - Public Safety is working on a white paper.

Maureen stated that the Commission has been shifting more toward making legislative policy recommendations this past year; however, if the Commission is uniquely suited to do one or more concrete activities, it should take advantage of those opportunities.

- SB 148
  - SB 148 is the Omnibus Bill for sun-setting entities. It extends the life of the Commission through July 1, 2012, without funding. The Commission wants to keep its association with the state, and as a Governor's Commission, as this aids in grants and research. Michael suggested we take a look at the original statute that formed the Commission to see if it needs revision.
- SB 117
  - SB 117 would allow physician assistants and psychologists to assess a patient's capacity to make health care decisions and to allow physician assistants to sign POLST forms. The bill has passed through the Senate and is now in the House.
- Health Care Committee – Geriatric Loan Forgiveness
  - The bill was voted out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee with a favorable recommendation; it was voted down on the

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Senate floor. The bill was reconsidered the following day; it is now in limbo. Senator Davis is having discussions about the level of support to decide whether he wishes to move it forward.

DOH requested a change in language to meet the federal definition of “underserved.” There is another amendment that has been drafted to align with the federal requirement.

- Other Legislative Updates
  - Shauna discussed HB 289 – Background Checks on Qualifying Entities – the bill would provide for background checks of certain volunteers and persons who provide services to vulnerable adults. SLC Aging Services supports this bill.
  - Fiscal Year 2009 will continue with no financial impact, except to the Ombudsman, which will have reductions taken from the current contract.
  - Fiscal Year 2010 could bring the loss and/or reduction in service of senior centers and area aging agencies in northern and central Utah. There is a real possibility that funding for Adult Protective Services will end June 30, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m. The next meeting will be April 20.