

Utah Commission on Aging
Minutes for November 17, 2005 Meeting

Commission Member Attendees:

Richard Bradford	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Lisa-Michele Church	Utah Department of Human Services
TantaLisa Clayton	Utah Legal Services
William Cox	Rich County
Tani Pack Downing	Department of Workforce Services
Rob Ence	AARP
Leone Harwood	Utah Department of Transportation
Michael Jones	Utah Department of Financial Institutions
Pat Jones	Utah House of Representatives
Joette Langianese	Rural Health Management
Larry Marx	Taylorsville Police Department
Norma Matheson	Honorary Chair
Dr. David Sundwall	Utah Department of Health
Shauna O'Neil	Salt Lake County Aging Services
Anne Peterson	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Rev. Robert Shrank	St. John's Lutheran Church
Sara Sinclair	Sunshine Terrace Foundation

Commission Members Unable to Attend:

Allen Christensen	Utah Senate
Kristie McMullin	Southwest Applied Technology College
JoAnn Seghini	Midvale City Mayor
Michael Styles	Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs

Other Attendees:

Denise Brooks	University of Utah
Wade Farraway	Utah Attorney General's Office
Ellen Silver	Jewish Family Services
Brooke Adams	Salt Lake Tribune
Tonya Keller	Utah Department of Health
Bill Farley	University of Utah School of Social Work
Cathy House	University of Utah
Becky Allred	Stagg Elder Care Services
Scott Wright	University of Utah College of Nursing

Lori Garf	OPG
Donna L. Russell	DHS/EDO
Deb Bercombe	Utah Health Care Association
Gary Kelso	Utah Health Care Association
Bill Hunt	Hunt Associates
LaDene Larsen	Utah Department of Health
Lynn Samsel	Coalition of Non-Profits
Nancy Stallings	Salt Lake County Aging Services
John Pace	Pace Pollard
Jane MacPherson	IHC Hospice
S. Mark Weeks	Bankers Life and Casualty
Charlene Long	NAIFA
Vicki Tu'ua	State Farm Insurance Company
Suzette Hudson	Department of Workforce Services
Michael Jensen	
Ken Baldrige	

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Norma Matheson.

Maureen Henry covered various administrative items related to the meeting.

Chair, Norma Matheson called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the September 23, 2005 Commission on Aging meeting. The motions was seconded and approved.

Maureen Henry reviewed the Commission on Aging statutory obligations and gave an update on commission activities and results since the September 23, 2005, meeting, including press coverage and contacts that have been made in the community.

Lorna Koci presented information on the Commission on Aging website, www.coa.utah.gov.

Maureen Henry presented a historical perspective on Commission events covering the period of August 2005 to November 2005 followed by upcoming events through February 2006.

Maureen Henry presented an overview of the work group process that involved 70 plus individuals over the last two months. Findings include the following recommendations:

- The formation of seven special committees
 - Financial Security
 - Quality of Life in Residential Settings
 - Healthcare
 - Healthy Aging
 - Community Based Care
 - Education
 - Caregiver Support

- Continued operations of five work groups
 - Legal Issues
 - Economic Development
 - Public Safety
 - Workforce Services
 - Transportation
- Research of selected additional topics
 - Housing for an aging population
 - Volunteers serving an aging population
 - Using retired people as volunteers
 - Employment services for an aging workforce
 - Mental health needs of aging persons
- Disbanding two work groups and integrating their areas of specialty into other forums

The following work group chairs/participants presented background and specific recommendations for their respective work group:

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|---|-----------------|
| • Financial Security | Rob Ence |
| • Quality of Life in Residential Settings | Gary Kelso |
| • Healthcare | Ginny Pepper |
| • Healthy Aging | Becky Kapp |
| • Community Based Care | Lynn Samsel |
| • Education | Anne Peterson |
| • Caregiver Support | Nancy Stallings |

The following items were brought up during a discussion that was facilitated by Cynthia Boshard of IHC, who volunteered to assist with the meeting.

- Consider the following items in all Commission on Aging work:
 - Avoid duplication of efforts, especially in website developments
 - Consider alternatives to web, computer and other technologies so that while professionals have access to information via technology, clients and the elderly have other tools for education and resources; even if this is just transitional
 - Create parallel tracks for accessible information that is not web-based
 - Promote public and private relationships to help sustain and centralize the commission's recommendations—explore a “home” for where all this work will be based and brought into operation
- The Commission on Aging should consider the following new items:
 - Senior housing that is (some of these could be addressed in several of the sub committees):
 - Affordable
 - Assess/provide affordable housing stock
 - Address ongoing maintenance
 - Growing elderly homeless population

- Coordinate special committee recommendations for a resource center—avoid fragmentation and duplication; also include elements of human communication in the resource center model
- Consider whether there is a financial disincentive for home based care and living
- Add a special committee on rural issues rather than invite representatives from rural areas on subcommittees; issues in rural communities are different than those in urban communities
- Add to the appropriate committee(s) ways to promote importance of having the necessary workforce to provide care and services for the aging
- Explore ways to create tax base to support the necessary services and structure for aging population; avoid budget deficit politics
- Promote ways to encourage young people to prepare early for growing older; educate about aging early in life so they can prepare, save, etc.
- Address the need for care and services of aging prisoners, including those finishing their sentences and those with health issues while in prison
- Add to Healthy Aging Special Committee
 - The need for accessible information on volunteering, consider a central clearinghouse
 - Substance abuse consideration
- Encourage employers to offer long-term care insurance
- Encourage employers to help employees to see the value of healthy living
- Add to every special committee:
 - The need to address technological literacy in services, resources proposed
 - Consider and demonstrate cultural sensitivity and representation
- Involve Department of Workforce Services staff to special committees where appropriate to increase communication rather than have a separate Special Committee on Workforce Services
- Establish a library of aging resources that already exist to assist to avoid duplication
- Promote use of a single website for aging information

Maureen Henry stated that each of the above listed items will be reviewed by the Commission on Aging staff

Robert Schrank asked to be added to the Healthy Aging Special Committee and Public Safety Work Group

Tani Downing asked that her name be removed from the Education Special Committee

Tani Downing suggested that Commission staff consider the State of Utah electronic database for determining eligibility for DHS, DOH, and DWS programs targeted for December 2007

Following the discussion, Chair, Norma Matheson called for a motion to adopt the recommendations as presented. An amendment was suggested to increase rural and ethnic population involvement and consideration. The motion to adopt the recommendations as amended was unanimously accepted.

A motion was made to name Sara Sinclair as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.