

Utah Commission on Aging
Minutes for September 23, 2005 Meeting

Commission Member Attendees:

Allen Christensen	Utah Senate
TantaLisa Clayton	Utah Legal Services
William Cox	Rich County
Tani Pack Downing	Department of Workforce Services
Rob Ence	AARP
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. Richard Melton (for 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
JoAnn Seghini	Midvale City Mayor
Michael Styles	Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs

Commission Members Unable to Attend:

Richard Bradford	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Lisa-Michele Church	Utah Department of Human Services
Leone Harwood	Utah Department of Transportation
Kristie McMullin	Southwest Applied Technology College
Sara Sinclair	Sunshine Terrace Foundation
Dr. David Sundwall	Utah Department of Health

Other Attendees:

Marie Christman	Department of Human Services
Sonnie Yudell	Division of Adult and Aging Services
Julie Rose	KCPW
Grant Howarth	Community Nursing Services
Brooke Adams	Salt Lake Tribune
Jilene Gunther	Division of Adult and Aging Services
Kent Alderman	Parsons Behle & Latimer

Chris Pace	VA Hospital – Pace Pollard Architects
Becky Allred	Stagg Elder Care Services
Scott Wright	University of Utah College of Nursing
Lori Garf	OPG
Donna L. Russell	DHS/EDO
Angie Stefaniak	U of U – CPPA
Gail Tuohig	Westminster College
Susan Lewsen	Utah Career College
Helen Goddard	
Lynn Samsel	Coalition of Non-Profits
Angie Welling	Deseret Morning News
Carol Brandt	
Cher Edmonds	HealthInsight
Helen Peters	Department of transportation

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

Maureen Henry covered various administrative items related to the meeting.

Norma Matheson shared her thoughts about the Commission on Aging and welcomed each meeting attendee. She expressed her desire for the Commission to ‘really do something’ and to ‘bring dramatic changes forward as it relates to the aging and future aging in Utah.’

Commission members introduced themselves.

The dates for future meetings were discussed. A questionnaire was distributed for November meeting dates.

The ‘See Me’ video was shown which highlights the importance of each individual in skilled nursing facilities.

Information on aging in Utah was presented by the following individuals:

- Maureen Henry (for Randy Moon) – Utah’s Aging Superhighway
- Carol Brandt – A Day in the Life of a Home Caregiver
- Alan Ormsby – Older American’s Act and Triple ‘A’

An overview of the Utah Aging Initiative was presented by David Patton.

Information on the forming of the Utah Commissions on Aging was presented by Patricia Jones.

Pat Jones shared an idea to increase collaboration with the media in Utah by selecting a public issue each month to be highlighted by the media.

Maureen Henry solicited ideas on the Commission's measure of success from attendees.

- To know what other states are doing.
- To come up with ideas on concrete projects that are needed in the state which will be stated and 'live' after the completion of the Commission.
- To do a few things that are needed well.
- To influence the private sector and coordinate efforts between the private and public sectors.
- To identify 2 –3 concrete recommendations that are doable and strategic, ones that can be accomplished in both the near term and long term.

The possibility of the Utah Commission on Aging continuing after its current two year charter was raised by Rob Ence, AARP. Allen Christensen stated his opinion that it would be doable to continue past the two years if results warranted continuation.

Maureen Henry led a discussion on what approach the Commission should take in selecting initiatives. The following topic areas were discussed:

1. Health Aging
2. Financial Security
3. Livable Communities
4. Workforce

Several commission members expressed a desire to identify specific areas of focus.

Pat Jones suggested that the Commission select initiatives that will impact large numbers of people in all areas of the state.

Helen Goddard expressed that she was delighted to see this work starting and cautioned the Commission to not select initiatives just because they could be easy.

Pat Jones suggested finding the barriers to remedying current problems and finding ways to mitigate those barriers.

Maureen Henry suggested that the Commission form work groups to address selected issues and needs.

Tani Downing stated that the four general areas previously identified are too broad and that the Commission should select more specific work items.

Pat Jones requested that assignments be very specific.

As a result of Commission member input regarding the need for specific initiatives, the Commission members agreed to form work groups to study the 13 potential special committees outlines in the meeting materials. Commission members volunteered for specific work groups that will meet before and make recommendations at the November

meeting. See the attached list of each area and respective volunteers. A chair for each are will be identified shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.