

**MINUTES**  
**Utah Commission on Aging**  
**April 20, 2009**  
**12:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Commission Member Attendees:**

Maureen Henry  
Mark Supiano  
Scott Hansen for Cherie Brunker  
Ryan Christiansen for Diana Kirk  
David Sundwall  
Suzanne Allen  
Laura Polachek for Rob Ence  
Nels Holmgren for Lisa-Michele Church

**Representing:**

Executive Director  
Higher Education, Acting Chair  
Health Care  
Financial Institutions  
Utah Department of Health  
Public Transportation  
Advocacy Organizations  
Department of Human Services

**Other attendees:**

Michael Deily  
Nicole Sherwood  
Diane Nicholson  
Fran Wilby

Utah Department of Health  
GOED  
Dept of Physical Therapy, U of U  
College of Social Work, U of U

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

**1. Welcome, Approval of Minutes, and Lunch**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes from February 10 will be sent to the Commission via e-mail for approval, with the caveat that Norma Matheson also approves them. Mark gave the members the following legislative update: As a result of the passage of the Omnibus Bill, the Commission will continue as the Governor's Commission on Aging without funding until July 1, 2012. The funding expires June 30, 2009. The Commission's Executive Director and Administrative Assistant will be able to continue at a half-time level until July 1, 2010.

**2. Committee Activity Status and Recommendations**

- Public Safety
  - Two officers from the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office have joined the committee to work on elder abuse and exploitation. The struggle has been to determine ways to better integrate Adult Protective Services and law enforcement in working through these issues, and that appropriate prosecutions take place.
  - Data regarding prosecution and arrest has not been available; nor has the data on frequency of elder abuse and exploitation.
  - A survey was administered to law enforcement last year regarding elder abuse; over 200 officers responded. It is hoped that the answers provided on the survey will encourage more education for law enforcement.

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- A Gerontology student will look at the data from the survey for his master's thesis. A Social Work student will take different elements of the data for a PhD dissertation.
- The plan is to have discussions as to whether legislation or regulation is needed, or whether informal educational meetings can take care of making sure that law enforcement agencies around the state are collecting enough information so that elder abuse and exploitation can be tracked.
- Out of 240 referrals from APS, there was not one prosecution. DCFS has a good model and system that uses a clear process; APS could possibly use this to better involve law enforcement; the breakdown seems to be happening because law enforcement does not understand that APS does not have the authority to investigate, file, or prosecute charges.
- San Diego has a model whereby they have a law enforcement unit and a prosecutor that/who are specifically assigned to elder abuse. They are funded by the Archstone Foundation.
- Elder abuse is not a black and white issue.
- Ryan Christiansen said that Zions Bank could offer financial educational materials to elders or perhaps sponsor a seminar.
- The Committee will compile the resulting information into a policy brief.
- Health Care
  - The Committee worked successfully to pass a bill that created the Geriatric Loan Forgiveness component within the existing Utah Workforce Financial Assistance Program. One person with geriatric health training will be appointed to the Board. There are federal programs looking at these types of state programs; hopefully, funding will be made available from either the state or federal level. The next step will be the drafting of the regulations for this program; the Committee is soliciting input from each geriatric discipline at this time.
  - Congress has stimulus money available through HERSA.
  - The Committee is also looking how to better serve the older adult population in the health care system in Utah. There is a pilot program under Medicare that gives beneficiaries in Utah and Arizona access to an online personal health record. There has been discussion about electronic medical records and how these two sets of records will work together. One of the challenges of the personal health records is that, while some data will be automatically entered from the Medicare system, medications will not. This becomes a major barrier in befitting an effective system. Jan Root from Utah Health Information Network will speak at the next Healthcare Subcommittee Meeting on May 7; Sharon Donnelly from HealthInsight will also present her findings on medical records.
- Financial Security
  - Efforts are continuing at United Way and Utah State to develop an assessment tool for financial security guide and education sessions. Given the current economic problems, this issue is challenging at this time.

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- Advance Health Care Planning
  - The Committee has been working with the Department of Health's Dr. Tailliac, Emergency Medical Services, to finalize the regulations for the POLST. The revisions to this document will align with the Advance Directive Law. Dr. Tailliac has asked us to work with him in developing educational materials for EMS and other health care providers.
  - Advance Health Care Planning Facilitator Training was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> for individuals who will use the training to promote planning in ethnic and minority communities. Our efforts to reach the ethnic and minority communities have been a dismal failure. David Sundwall suggested Maureen attend the Health Advisory Committee and get on the agenda.
  - The Committee is trying to find funding to evaluate the effectiveness of the new law.
- Mental Health
  - The Committee is working on getting an exemption from IRB review for a survey to be administered to nursing and assisted living facilities to get the number of people in the state who are in facilities and who lack health care decision making capacity, as well as lacking a surrogate.
  - The Committee is working with Gary Kelso to pilot the survey.
  - The Committee is also working with 211 to develop a guide to mental health services for older Utah citizens.
- Long-Term Care
  - The Committee has reached a consensus on its principles and vision.
  - The Committee is working on what data is and is not available on the long-term care population and workforce.
  - By the end of 2009, the Committee hopes to have a policy brief.
  - There will be a Long-Term Care Summit, sponsored by the Goodwill Initiatives on Aging. We hope to bring in policymakers and legislators who have shown an interest in long-term care.
  - The Committee will be monitoring the Federal Community Choice Act, which is a federal law that would eliminate the institutional bias that prevents Medicaid-eligible patients from receiving long-term care in the community.
- Goodwill Initiatives on Aging (formerly Community-Based Care)
  - This Coalition has taken over the primary responsibilities from the Commission. The program is out of the College of Social Work and staffed part time administratively. The Commission is on the Steering Committee.
  - The Coalition is looking at a service gap analysis to find out what areas the senior population in Utah needs support, as well as linking students with senior projects.
- Utah 2030
  - Each department in state government did an assessment of the impact of the aging population, and what their goals were in order to meet the needs.

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The report was produced last year; the Governor has suggested that it be presented at an upcoming Cabinet Meeting. There has been no activity on this project for six months, as the legislative session took precedence.

- A recurring theme in the report was that economic success was a challenge to many state operations because of competition with the private sector for employees. Within a six-month period, the economic crisis has turned this theme around; however, other themes continue to be relevant.
- Judicial Council Probate Committee
  - The Commission has been working in a supportive subcommittee role. The Committee is chaired by Chief Justice Christine Durham and its members are judges throughout the state. The subcommittee drafted a report regarding the state of guardianship in Utah; the Judicial Committee approved the report last February. The subcommittee will work together with the Judicial Committee making presentations to interested entities and proposed legislation for 2010.
- Culture Change Coalition
  - Maureen is in the process of updating the status of this committee.
- Grant Opportunities
  - Robert Wood Foundation has a public health and law grant that may be of interest.
  - Borchard Foundation on Law and Aging
  - Monitor RFPs for Regence Foundation
  - Talking to Health Department regarding registry of POLST
  - Stimulus funds – looking for a fit
- Prioritization
  - The Commission was asked to go through the list for the next meeting on June 16 to see what transitions can be made so that groups other than the Commission are responsible for moving the project(s) ahead. The Commission can continue roughly half of the projects while continuing to look for funding.
  - Maureen is developing a survey to send out in advance of the June meeting.

**3. Upcoming Events**

- Summer Institute – 1<sup>st</sup> week of June
- Rocky Mountain Geriatric Conference – Sept. 2-5
- UAA/UGS – Oct. 13-14
- Siciliano Retreat on Global Aging – Oct. 28-29

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting will be June 16.