

MINUTES
Utah Commission on Aging
June 16, 2009
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Commission Member Attendees:

Maureen Henry
Norma Matheson
Mark Supiano
Cherie Bruncker
Shauna O’Neil
Robert Archuleta
Helen Thatcher
Laura Polachek for Rob Ence
Nels Holmgren for Lisa-Michele Church
Kent Alderman
Gary Kelso
JoAnn Seghini

Representing:

Executive Director
Honorary Chair
Higher Education
Health Care
Area Agencies on Aging
Ethnic Minorities
Workforce Services
Advocacy Organizations
Department of Human Services
Legal Profession
Long-Term Care
Utah League of Cities and Towns

Other attendees:

Donna Russell

OPG

The meeting was called to order by Norma Matheson.

1. Welcome, Approval of Minutes, and Lunch

The minutes from February 10 and April 20 were moved and seconded for approval.

2. Results of Survey for the Utah Commission on Aging

The main question asked was to rank the activities on a scale from 1-5, with 1 being the least important, and 5 being the most important, that the Commission should focus on in the 2009-10 fiscal year. The bottom line is that the survey did not convey what we were asking for, as the activities of the past year were mostly all considered important. A number of committees will continue as the Commission has already committed to students with internships.

Maureen circulated the same survey, and asked the members to rank order 1, 2, 3, the three most important activities that the Commission is working on. This then becomes a forced ranking exercise. These will then be added to the computer survey; those who are absent today will be asked to do the same exercise. The purpose is to get more direction from the members of the Commission when the time comes to choose the activities that will be continued. Mark asked the members if they would be willing to lead up any of the subcommittees.

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3. Open-ended Discussion

Governor Huntsman is leaving; he was a supporter of the Commission; there is now uncertainty on the political and economic spectrums. The following questions are open for discussion:

1. How do you see your role as a member in the upcoming year? Advisory? Active? Policy?
2. What are you or your organization willing to contribute?
3. What are your ideas about the future of the Commission after June 30, 2010?

Maureen recapped the financial situation of the Commission; that is, that the Center on Aging has picked up some of the slack, as well as good financial management has allowed an additional year of half-time salaries for the Executive Director and the Administrative Assistant. The College of Social Work has donated office space for the Commission. At the last meeting with Governor Huntsman in September, there was optimism regarding obtaining grant monies from the Archstone Foundation, as well as other local and national grants. Unfortunately, the endowments have dried up; foundations are not accepting applications from new grantees.

Maureen met with the Department of Health to see if the Commission could collaborate on a grant related to law and public health. By possibly working with IHC to build a infrastructure, the Commission could apply for this next year. Cherie Bruncker offered to work on this. Jane Connor is a contact person who met with Maureen. Robert Wood Johnson requires a match; there needs to be a committed local foundation on board before submission of a letter of intent.

Mark stated that another strategy could be changing to a project-specific focus. For example, the Archstone Foundation is focusing on fall prevention, end of life care, and elder abuse issues, all of which fall under the auspices of the Commission. The Regence Foundation also focuses on end of life care, and may also be a possibility for funding.

As a way to use the Michael Foundation \$10,000 grant, the Commission may contract with HealthInsight to update the website for diverse cultural populations. Archie mentioned that there is stimulus money for health and aging.

Maureen asked the members if they view themselves as active participants or advisory board members. The current role has been in an advisory capacity; do the members want a change? Gary stated that there must be active participation in order for the committees to continue, and, in turn, the Commission. Gary is active on the Culture Change Coalition, as well as the Long-Term Care Subcommittee. Maureen mentioned that there are active committees that are not staffed by members of the Commission; i.e., Public Safety. Kent is active on the Judicial Council Probate Committee, as well as the Mental Health Subcommittee. He recommended that the survey be completed, as well as the directory of services for the mentally ill. There is no chair for the Mental Health Subcommittee.

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The question arose as to which committees would continue if the Commission ended as of now:

Public Safety: The committee is working closely with APS to avoid duplication of efforts. The committee also ranked high on the survey.

Health Care: This committee will be working on assisting in the writing of the regulations for the bill that was passed for Geriatric Loan Forgiveness.

Financial Security: There is no activity at the moment.

Advance Health Care Planning: The law is often challenged by different legislators; it is important to remain active so that the system remains in place. The POLST law, in effect for 18 months, still needs written regulations to go along with the law.

Mental Health: The committee is working on getting the survey through IRB; the committee needs an active chair.

Long-Term Care: The Commission plays a leadership role within this committee, keeping facility and home health members working together on this issue.

Community-Based Care: The College of Social Work is now providing the infrastructure, with input from the Commission.

Maureen asked the members to determine what level of commitment they or their proxy could provide to the committee structure in the next year, as well as which committee(s) they or their proxies could serve on.

There was a suggestion to bring in people-at-large within the community. New people may invigorate the structure; however, there will need to be more independent structure within the committees.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting is TBD.