

Utah Commission on Aging

MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2012 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Alta Club Board Room | Buffett Lunch Provided

ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
Shannon Alvey	Public Guardian's Office (non-voting)
Representative Jim Bird	Utah House of Representatives
Senator Allen Christensen	Utah Senate
Kamron Dalton	Governor's Office (non-voting)
Teresa Garrett (proxy for David Patton)	Department of Health
Nels Holmgren (proxy for Palmer DePaulis)	Department of Human Services
Kim Soper	Financial Institutions
Mark Supiano	Higher Education
Helen Thatcher (proxy for Jon Pierpont)	Department of Workforce Services
Louise Warburton (via phone)	Area Agencies of Aging
Frances (Fran) Wilby	Charitable Organizations
Winston Wilkinson (proxy for Spencer Eccles)	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Phil Carroll	Guest
William (Bill) Knowles	Guest
Elizabeth (Bette) Vierra	Guest

Staff:

Anne Peterson, Interim Executive Director
Maureen Henry, Executive Director
Jennifer Morgan, ADRC Program Manager
Ginger Bair, Program Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions – Maureen Henry

The luncheon meeting was called to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of June Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes – Maureen Henry

- a. The minutes of the June 27, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.

3. Leadership Transitions – Mark Supiano

- a. Commission Executive Director – Dr. Supiano congratulated Maureen Henry for receiving a Residential Health & Aging Policy Fellowship from October 2011 through September 2012. She will continue her involvement with the Commission to the extent possible. Staff duties have been reassigned and an interim executive director has been approved by Governor Herbert.
- b. Interim Executive Director – Anne Peterson previously served as a Commission member, representing higher education, and has been an adjunct faculty member in the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program. Mark invited her to discuss her background, which includes founding the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and a doctorate in education and life-long learning.
- c. Administrative Support – Administrative support for the Commission and the Center on Aging will be provided by Ginger Bair.

- d. New Commission Chair – Becky Kapp – is excused due to a conflict with the date of the October meeting. Becky is the Continuum of Care Director for Intermountain Healthcare, former administrator of Alta View Hospital. Ms. Kapp holds degrees in nursing and business administration and is known for innovating coordinated patient care in the state of Utah. Outgoing chair, Norma Matheson, will continue to be an advocate.
- e. Jennifer Morgan is now the program manager of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and will work in coordination with, but no longer report to, the Executive Director.

4. Committee Updates – Maureen Henry (PowerPoint Presentation)

- a. End of Life (EOL) Committee – POLST and Advanced Directive forms. The first state-wide planning conference was held and well-attended at Snowbird June 11 & 12, 2012. Approximately 100 people attended per day. Attendees were social workers, nurses, and physicians from Northern Utah, Moab, and St. George.
 - b. From this conference a leadership group and state-wide coalition were formed and the creation of a new web site. The accomplishments of this committee in helping state residents take responsibility for the end of their lives is a source of pride and accomplishment for the Commission.
- c. ePOLST Pilot Launched: electronic filing of POLST forms. Two years ago the Commission on Aging received a grant in conjunction with UDOH to launch the Web-based system. After the pilot testing phase, Emergency Medical Services will be able to access this database as they make emergency calls. Utah is only one of six fully functional ePOLST states.
 - i. Teresa Garrett asked about sources for ongoing funding for the initiative. Maureen said the leadership group would continue to look into funding sources.
 - ii. Maureen – connecting this to the vital records and EDEN system will allow for a more accurate database. This is unique to Utah – no other state has done this. Physicians who use the EDEN system are the ones most likely to write POLST forms.
 - iii. Teresa Garret asked if it was linked to cHIE, the Clinical Health Information Exchange, which provides medical professionals a way to securely share and view patient information. Maureen said this would need to be revisited.
 - iv. Rep. Jim Bird asked about legislative coordination of the cHIE. Maureen & Mark Supiano will continue working toward this end.
 - v. Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging – Maureen was awarded this grant to study the accuracy of patients’ wishes as reflected in POLST forms. The study is in the process of Institutional Review Board review. Research for the project, including interviews, will be conducted at Intermountain Healthcare facilities. The focus will be patients who cannot communicate effectively.
 - vi. Francis Wilby asked why the POLST is clearer than advanced directives. Maureen responded that POLST forms are more specific and people’s wishes change as they near death or after a traumatic injury.
 - vii. Rep. Jim Bird asked how the POLST meshes with wills and trusts? Maureen Henry said most wills and trusts do not address end of life issues. Representative Bird expressed his hope

that end of life directives be better understood and followed within the health and legal professions.

- viii. HealthInsight will take the lead with the End of Life committee – developing the Web sites, educational outreach, etc.
- d. Public Safety Committee – This committee has been inactive due to lack of funding. Elder abuse and exploitation issues had been its focus. Adult Protective Services (APS) receives more than 2,000 calls per year for exploitation yet the persecution of these is in the single digits so there is an obvious gap. APS does not have prosecutorial authority and the prosecutors who do assume APS does.
 - i. Nels Holmgren expressed the positive progress in the recent years. We are getting closer to addressing elder abuse in the same way we do child abuse.
 - ii. Mark Supiano – mentioned the EIFEE meetings (www.utahags.org) – CME program in partnership with the division of securities. One is scheduled October 17.
- e. Mental Health Committee – also inactive. Addressing what happens to older adults with mental health issues. Upcoming planning by the Commission will address whether to retain this committee.
- f. Long-Term Care Committee – A recent AARP report ranked Utah good in some categories and poor in others for the provision of long-term care. Utah is 48th in the nation for being able to avoid nursing home care and availability of screening. Maureen does not feel the report is an accurate reflection of the state’s actual situation – a repercussion of poor data. However, this is out there reflecting poorly on Utah. How do we get the word out about what Utah is doing well? No face-to-face review when someone on Medicaid enters long-term care.
 - i. Francis Wilby – director of Neighbors Helping Neighbors – a program to help the elderly stay in their homes. She knows from experience there is a tremendous need – her program receives more calls than they can handle.
 - ii. Nels Holmgren gave information comparing long-term care costs for Medicaid and non-Medicaid eligible individuals in long-term care.
- 6. Maureen Henry was excused and in the absence of the chair, Anne Peterson became chair pro-tem. Ms. Henry thanked the Commission members and expressed her honor in working with them for the past 7 years.
- 7. Legislative Initiative: Loan Repayment for Geriatric Professionals Working in Underserved Areas – Mark Supiano
 - a. Dr. Supiano said this unfunded loan repayment program could be presented to the legislature in the coming session, and the Commission might be asked to provide information in support of the effort.
 - b. Mark briefly reviewed history of legislation including a 2009 bill sponsored by Senator Gene Davis.
 - i. Recruit and maintain rural and geriatric health-care providers.
 - ii. Not restricted to physicians.
 - iii. No budget has been allocated to support the program

- c. Mark asked for discussion from Commission about whether to engage in advocacy for the loan repayment for practitioners working in underserved areas. Asked Representative Bird and Senator Christensen for their input first – what do they feel is the likelihood of success?
 - i. Senator Christensen made the point that in terms of geriatric care provision, every area in the state is technically underserved. (Mark noted that even St. George has no board-certified geriatricians.) He then discussed the many demands for funding the state will be struggling to balance in the upcoming legislative session.
 - ii. Mark said that he anticipated a fiscal note for fully funding the program would be between \$50,000 and \$500,000.
 - iii. Fran Wilby – unlikely to be funded yet the need is worth keeping the issue in front of the Legislature.
 - 1. Senator Christenson – yes, always good to raise this issue.
 - 2. Representative Bird – requests good – go to appropriations committee and tell them the story. Go on record in front of committee.
 - 3. Kamron Dalton – Governor has asked Departments not to advocate for issues he is not supporting. That is why UDOH cannot advocate.
 - 4. Mark Supiano – this is not a request for Legislation (the bill has been passed without being funded); it would be a request for refunding the program.
 - 5. Teresa Garret – find a similar track in Governor’s budget and ask for an amendment. Suggest broader coalition – not just geriatricians – whole bill and from whole committee which created the bill. Her observation is ‘just a little’ doesn’t get the attention of the Legislature. Come together as a group to ask for more money.
 - 6. Representative Bird – The Governor has his budget yet the Legislature makes the decisions so just being in the Governor’s budget does not guarantee funding. Concur, go to committee.

- 8. Utah Aging & Disability Resource Connection Extension (funded for one year) – Jennifer Morgan
 - a. Reviewed her handout as an overview of the funding extension for 2012-2013.
 - b. Enhance goals for program.
 - c. 5 key goals we are working on this year (listed on hand-out).
 - d. 6 ADRC sites in Utah, AAA, & CIL (Centers for Independent Living) – wants to expand state-wide – eg., St. George.
 - i. Anne Peterson asked for more information specifically on the desires for the community of St. George. Jen said that the director of the 5 county AAA has interest in becoming an ADRC.
 - e. At its June meeting, the Commission dedicated \$25K for a dedicated Medicaid Eligibility worker. The ADRC is working with DWS to contract for this employee.
 - f. In discussion with UDOH to assist with MDS Section Q which is a question residents who express a desire to learn about possible transition back to the community and what care options and supports are available. No data and no funding for this. Discussion how ADRCs can support this.

- g. VA connection – Veteran’s Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS).
- h. Care Transitions program (CCPT Grant) – SL County has applied and is awaiting announcement of award.
- i. Teresa Garret asked about the 1 year of extended funding the ADRC received– how competitive was this process? For states that applied for Part A (more money and 3 years’ extension, it was very competitive). For part B funding, which we applied for and received, it all States that applied and were eligible received the funding.
- j. Francis Wilby – Options Counseling Training – Fran asked if agencies other than AAA or CILS would be considered to become ADRC’s? The training is open to anyone who wants to participate. If we came to the training can we say we are offering Options Counseling without being an ADRC? Jen stipulated that entities must be established ADRC’s to qualify.

9. Suggestions for New Members – Anne Peterson

- a. Reviewed current and expired terms of Commission appointees. Also, a perfect opportunity to start with a ‘clean slate’ and strategic plan. Anne has been contacting potential new members. The 3 guests here are interested in 3 spots. Asked Phil after hearing the discussion would they be willing to be on the Commission?
 - i. Phil Carroll – I am an attorney but my passion is housing.
 - ii. Bette Vierra – already submitted application to Governor to fill public seat.
 - iii. Bill Knowles – already submitted application to Governor to fill transportation seat.
- b. After the meeting was adjourned Teresa Garret discussed with Anne the mayor of St. George as representative of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, as he has been very active in healthy aging issues.

10. Other Business – All

- a. Anne called for comments – none – so adjourned the meeting at 12:37.

- Next Meeting, Strategic Planning: Thursday, December 6, 2012 – 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the University of Utah Health Science Education Building Seminar Room 5100D. Address: 26 South 2000 East. Visitor parking is conveniently located just east of this building and we will provide validation.