



March 23, 2016
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

City of Solvang Council Chambers • 1644 Oak Street • Solvang, CA 93463

MINUTES

Attendance: Donna Beal, Hillary Blackerby, Holly Carmody, Ashley Costa, Catherine Dalton, Arlene Diaz, Paul Didier, Doreen Farr, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Susan Klein-Rothschild, Susan Lindman, joyce ellen lippman, Georgene Lowe, Daniel Nielson, Cassi Noel, Brad Parks, Mary Lou Parks, Yolanda Perez, Jennifer Ratekin, Kathleen Riel, Refujio Rodriguez, Arcelia Sencion, Lisa Valencia Sherratt, Elizabeth Taylor-Linzey, Takashi Wada, Erin Weber, Phylene Wiggins

Special Guests: Rebecca Benard, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care; Nicole Campos, Easy Lift; Matt Dobberteen, Santa Barbara County Public Works; Steve Ortiz, United Way of Santa Barbara; Troy Scott, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, Lynda Tanner, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Barbara opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes, January 27, 2016

Susan Klein-Rothschild motioned to approve the minutes from January 27, 2016; Hillary Blackerby seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Update on Senior Nutrition Provider Survey

Holly reminded the Network that the Board of Supervisors requested more information about food resources during the November Board presentation by the Adult & Aging Network. A survey was put together to see what type of food resources are available and Supervisor Farr provided a letter inviting people to participate in the survey. The FoodBank was instrumental in helping develop a list of who to they could get the survey to and an email was sent out on March 16th. As of March 22nd, we have received eighteen responses. Based on those responses, the following results were noted:

- most programs are not just limited to seniors
- most programs serve low-income individuals
- most programs don't offer meals for special diets
- the majority of funding sources are from private donors

Holly hopes that the responses can increase by reaching out to the AAN Network and contacts and sending follow-up emails and making phone calls. Once they receive about 35 - 40 responses they will analyze the results and report back to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Farr expressed her concern about the timing. She feels that it would be good for them to have some information, even though it may not be finalized, by the time that they go into the budget workshops in April. She thinks that the slide on the funding resources would be helpful information to have. Arcelia mentioned that there is also a narrative

Update on Senior Nutrition Provider Survey (continued)

component in the survey and, even though it might be time consuming, that can be where they can get a lot of information that they can draw from to report back to the group. The list of organizations will be reviewed before the second email goes out.

5. Update on Public Health Nurse Proposal

At the last meeting, it was established that it would be best to work on the proposal with a subcommittee. The subcommittee met and worked from materials that were gathered from the Geriatric Assessment Program (GAP), which was the historical program that was housed with the Public Health Department. They put together the draft proposal and sent it out electronically to the Network.

Susan added that at the last meeting there was a great deal of discussion and lots of ideas about what a Public Health Nurse (PHN) can do for seniors and people with disabilities and there is plenty of need. They wanted to make sure to focus on what they are trying to accomplish, how they are trying to accomplish it, what they are trying to measure, and how effective they are. The draft proposal focuses on the following:

- 60 and over individuals
- Primary focus: Health and Safety
- Examples of tasks the person will do
- Statement of Need

One of the main goals is to serve seniors who are at risk and to make sure that they collect data to inform future planning about senior needs and gaps in services. It would be a one-year pilot program to be designed in partnership with the Adult & Aging Network and it would be 1FTE Nurse Position to be filled by a Public Health Nurse or a Registered Nurse who has knowledge of local community resources and services. Barbara mentioned that she received a follow up email suggesting that they add parish nurses to the folks who might make referrals. Refujio suggested ensuring that the nurse has the capacity to provide care to Spanish speakers.

Dr. Takashi Wada shared that the dollar estimate was based on a fully-loaded county position with some administrative support, and added the actual expansion request would be worded to allow the PHN to be housed in Public Health Department or contracted out to a community-based agency at a lower cost. Susan mentioned that they don't want to restrict any options and they are open to looking into two part-time positions, one in North and South County.

Erin asked when the RFP process would take place, if they were in fact, housing the position with a community based organization. Susan said they don't have a timeline, but if they get the impression that this will go forward during the April budget workshops, they can begin to have everything ready.

This request will be put forward on behalf of the Adult and Aging Network and it important for everyone to stay engaged as it moves through the process and make sure that the supervisors know that they are behind it. An email will be sent out to remind everyone at what time the Public Health Department will present their budget and take public comment.

6. Update on Community Transit Services for Seniors

Matt Dobberteen from County of Santa Barbara Public Works was invited to the meeting to share about transportation initiatives. He opened by saying that he found the Board of Supervisors presentation on the status of seniors to be very enlightening.

In the world of transit, they have fixed-route transit and senior-disabled transit. In the South coast, Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) and Easy Lift provide these services. North County does not have a single transit district like MTD. Instead, they have service providers that are anchored within the cities. Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH), is the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) for North County. The SMOOTH service area covers Santa Maria, Orcutt, Santa Ynez Valley, and Lompoc.

Matt added that the Santa Ynez Valley has grown over time and shared that they will be doing a study to look at the status of transportation in that area during the upcoming fiscal year. They will focus on how they are currently providing transportation for seniors and people with disabilities and how they can do it better.

During budget workshops they will be proposing an extra \$50,000 for SMOOTH. It is money that they can put to use immediately for unmet senior and disabled transportation needs in the Santa Maria and Orcutt area. He added that all of the transit providers in North County have had difficulty finding drivers. They would also like to propose \$70,000 to increase fixed route transportation in Santa Ynez Valley. This would run up and down Highway 246, connecting Buellton all the way to Santa Ynez. They are looking at discounted fares or other promotions during the summer time to address the increase in traffic.

Supervisor Farr asked if some or all of the money be put into augmenting existing Dial-A-Ride for the seniors. Matt mentioned that the City of Solvang does not have capacity problems with their existing Dial-A-Ride.

Supervisor Farr added that someone contacted her office after seeing the article in the paper on concerns about senior transit. They would like to remain anonymous and provide money for capital to buy a couple vans to help with transportation issues with seniors in Santa Ynez Valley.

joyce asked if the monies will be allowed to be used to pick up and transport people who live beyond the 3-mile threshold from the fixed route system. Matt said this is something that they will be looking into but they should check in with Jim Talbott, Executive Director of SMOOTH, and find out what his operational protocols for that area are. Nicole mentioned that for Easy Lift, this is a parameter based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit.

Matt added that Community Partners in Caring provides a wonderful service and programs like this will be included in the study. They offer transportation services where volunteer drivers get reimbursed for mileage and take clients to different types of appointments. Barbara mentioned that they also looked into another organization called Independent Transportation Network (ITN) and they have program in Los Angeles and San Diego. Barbara spoke to the Director who said that this would be perfect for Santa Barbara but they would need someone to be the lead agency and do fundraising. They haven't pursued it but they are more than willing to do a presentation if everyone wants to learn more about that.

7. Presentation: Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care

Lynda Tanner, CEO of Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care (VNHC), gave an overview of their organization and shared where everyone fits in the continuum of care and the impact they are making so that families in our community have the best quality of life possible (see attached). At VNHC, they offer Personal Care Services, Home Health, and Hospice. Lynda added that they take care of everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. They offer a medical loan closet, palliative care program, various therapies, and telehealth.

VNHC focuses in south and central county areas and serves 12,000 people annually, with the majority of clients being seniors. Based on the 2013 Poverty Study, 50% of their clients live in high poverty areas. They are also culturally and linguistically staffed with 40% of their employees being Latino as well as Spanish-speaking.

VNHC is on the frontline in providing home care to address both medical and social needs. Lynda mentioned that two major trends are impacting home-based care:

- exponential growth in the aging population and prevalence of chronic disease
- the shift to value-based care, designed to improve patient health while reducing cost

Lynda went over their Telehealth Program, where patients use an in-home monitor to record their vital signs. The information then gets transmitted immediately to the VNHC Telehealth Manager and they assess the patient's condition. They are also able to adjust their medications or protocols and to target education, empowering clients to take an active role in their health care. Telehealth has saved many lives and money.

Lynda concluded by mentioning that they have collaborated with many agencies and one of their priorities also includes veterans. If anyone is interested in a tour of Serenity House, please let her know.

8. Updates and Announcements

- Cheri Jasinski mentioned that Senator Jackson is interested in feedback from the community that serves the aging on the outstanding bills that are in legislature right now. Send feedback to Cheri.
- Heidi shared with the group to be aware of high jacking ransomware via email.
- Hillary announced, on behalf of Eloisa, that her last day was on Friday. She will miss everyone and wishes them well.
- joyce ellen announced that it is Older Americans Month and they are soliciting nominations for all of the award categories. The celebration will be Thursday, May 5th at the Santa Ynez Marriott at 2:00 p.m.
- Georgene shared that they are recruiting new Promotores because the Promotores Network has been very busy. They have a 40-hour core training coming up April 16th - May 7th at the Marian Regional Medical Center.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz