



July 22, 2015

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Public Health Department Auditorium

300 N. San Antonio Rd., Bldg. 1

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

MINUTES

Attendance: Hillary Blackerby, Holly Carmody, Susan Cass, Eloisa Chavez, Arlene Diaz, Doreen Farr, Chuck Flacks, Fran Forman, Dana Goba, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, joyce ellen lippman, Ernesto Paredes, Brad Parks, Yolanda Perez, Kathleen Riel, Mary Sheridan, Erin Weber, Margaret Weiss, Phylene Wiggins, Ellen Willis-Conger

Special Guests: Elisa Pardo and Tracy Lang Wood from Community Action Commission

Staff: Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Supervisor Doreen Farr opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

- Kathleen Riel announced that the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Saturday, July 25th at Sundial Studios from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- joyce ellen mentioned that the Senior Farmers' Market is Saturday, July 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara, Wednesday, July 29th from noon – 4:00 p.m. in Santa Maria and Friday, July 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Lompoc. The Area Agency on Aging is distributing coupon books to eligible seniors that can be used to purchase up to \$20 in fresh fruits and vegetables.

3. Approval of Minutes, May 27, 2015

Hillary Blackerby motioned to approve the minutes from May 27, 2015 and Arlene Diaz seconded the motion. Supervisor Doreen Farr abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Meeting Logistics

The group discussed meeting locations and the possibility of trying remote participation. Supervisor Farr stated that the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room and the Planning Commission Hearing Room have remote participation in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. Brad added that the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services has videoconferencing available in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. The option of having the meetings mid-county with teleconferencing availability was also discussed. Supervisor Farr mentioned that many of the locations in mid-county require payment for their use. Erin will follow-up on the availability for the Hearing Rooms in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. **All members voted for the Adult & Aging meetings to be changed to 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

5. Update on the 211 Network from Community Action Commission

Tracy Lang Wood, Program Director of Family and Youth Services at Community Action Commission (CAC), gave members a status update on the 2-1-1 Network. 2-1-1 is a phone number that anyone can call to get information about health and human services. It is available 24 hours a day in 150 languages. Types of services include childcare, shelter, elderly support, food, domestic violence resources, and many more. CAC has a partnership with an organization in Ventura that provides 2-1-1 call center services to multiple counties. Although the call center is in Ventura, Santa Barbara callers receive information that is generated locally and updated by Elisa Pardo, 2-1-1 Project Coordinator.

During Fiscal Year 13-14, the service was unhosted and information became outdated. When CAC became the host in November of 2014, they did a four-month data scrub. Everything that is in the system now is accurate and up to date. The project currently has 263 agencies in the system which is a 14% increase in eight months. CAC has also partnered with California 2-1-1 and the Alliance of Information and Referral Services. The 2-1-1 logo has been rebranded and is now aligned with the California 2-1-1 logo. They are in the process of developing a user-friendly website, which will be available in English and Spanish, and it should be ready to launch by the end of the month. Tracy shared the following statistics:

- Database Development: has increased by 14% (32 agencies added or reactivated)
- Call Volume: 400 calls per month
- Call per City: Santa Barbara is the highest at 39%, Santa Maria 30%, and Lompoc 15%
- Caller Demographics: Most declined to answer. The highest callers are Caucasian followed by Hispanic/Latino. Most callers are females.
- Income level of callers: 49% of the callers had income levels below \$26,000
- Age of callers: 33% were 30-54 and 30% declined to answer
- Highest caller needs: Housing followed by mental health and addictions

Tracy ended her presentation by asking everyone to check with Elisa to be sure that their agency information is to date. She asked AAN members to help spread the word about 2-1-1 and provide them with feedback. Supervisor Doreen Farr thanked Community Action Commission for their hard work on 2-1-1. She added that sustainable funding is always an issue but the Board has always felt strongly that 211 is a service they would like to continue to keep. CAC will be announcing the relaunch of the 2-1-1 Helpline on Friday, July 31, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens.

6. White House Conference on Aging Local Conversations

There were three watch sites for the White House Conference on Aging that took place on July 13, 2015: Santa Barbara South, Santa Barbara North, and San Luis Obispo. Watch parties were sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging and the Santa Barbara Foundation. Mary Sheridan stated that in South County there was a lot of conversation about caregivers and things that they might do locally to support both paid and unpaid caregivers. There was also discussion about In-Home Operations (IHO) and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS), both authorized by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Some states have a very robust waiver program where many people are able to stay in their home instead of moving into a skilled nursing facility. In California, many have to move to a skilled nursing facility because Medi-Cal will cover skilled nursing but there is no money to pay for lower levels of care.

Phylene Wiggins voiced her support for finding ways to value caregivers and suggested that Millennials, who make up 25% of family caregivers, could be supported through a student loan forgiveness or Americorps program.

Local Conversations, continued...

joyce ellen lippman expressed disappointment that the conference did not end with recommendations. There was barely any discussion about the Older Americans Act, which is the federal legislation that creates a vehicle for developing local programs. joyce ellen recommended looking for solutions to problems within the local community. Supervisor Farr agreed that local jurisdictions can often respond more quickly to emerging needs because new ideas can be piloted in the community and adjusted as needed. She cited the prescription take-back program as an example of designing something new within the parameters of existing rules. Supervisor Farr shared her perspective on creating a continuum of services for seniors that would provide options for living situations, health care, and mental health services, depending upon age, ability/disability and family situation, with the flexibility to step up or down between levels of care depending on current issues or challenges. She encouraged AAN members to think about exploring community needs and designing a system that would meet the needs of those who are fully independent as well as those who are significantly challenged. She supported the idea of asset mapping to determine what resources are available from government, non-profits and community based organizations throughout the County. Supervisor Farr warned that local communities will be the first to feel the impacts of the aging Baby Boomer population and the growing need for additional resources. Local governments will be motivated to find solutions and will need input from those in the field. joyce ellen cautioned that we shouldn't expect additional revenue from the federal government.

Cheri Jasinski suggested that the group consider an initiative at the state level to pay for needed programs. joyce ellen has talked to a number of people about it and thinks it may be a possibility, especially in the area of transportation. She suggested that there would need to be an education and awareness campaign first and that it would require a long range plan and years (not months) of work. Supervisor Farr encouraged AAN members to determine the biggest needs and decide what they want to achieve. She mentioned housing, care givers, baby boomer denial and financial insecurity as areas of concern. Phylene acknowledged the resources in the room and reminded the group that it takes really hard work to create change. She suggested looking at what we have from a strengths perspective, identifying what resources we do have and outlining what the issues are. With the caregiver work that the Foundation is involved in, they asked "How do we bring our community together differently to strengthen our safety net and what is it going to take to support our caregivers that are providing this support for our seniors?" Once we know what we have and don't have, it will be easier to advocate for what we need and how we can do it. It is good work and rewarding but it does take time and focus. Cheri suggested continuing these conversations to determine initiatives that would create resources. Supervisor Farr stated that we want to design a seamless system of care - finding seniors a place to live and helping them meet their needs. Fran Forman commented that although a seamless system is always the goal, the reality is that it is rarely seamless for providers because there are issues with who is accountable for paying for needed services. What brings change in the community is when providers are aware of each other, work with each other, plan together and create programs together.

Supervisor Farr emphasized the need for members to advocate, not only for those who are very low-income but for people with a variety of needs. A lot of times the most people that need to get involved in voting are those that don't or can't. Seniors tend to vote and get involved but it is up to us to identify solutions and then go out and advocate.

Local Conversations, continued...

People need to realize that things are not automatic. They need to advocate to get money to support solutions. Kathleen Riel, President of the Local Chapter of AARP, hopes to get them more involved in advocating at the local level.

Joyce Ellen offered additional insights, pointing out that when you look at the voting patterns of seniors, they are not a progressive group. They are basically representative of the community. Their votes are the same. You would think they would be voting for their best interest but you don't see that as often as you might expect. AARP chapters may have a wonderful group of people but the best advocates are those that who are not struggling themselves. Kathleen is struggling to build any advocacy from the current group. That is why AARP advocacy comes from the state or national level. We need to look locally at demographics, population matrix, frailty years, what programs are needed, what we have - look at North, South and Central, and see what is not available in our community.

Cheri suggested having the group do an inventory where everyone comes with information on their own areas and talks about what we still need in this community. Mary Sheridan asked Cheri to organize what's on her mind and send a request to Barbara along with questions she would like the group to ask themselves before the meeting re: the initiative. Supervisor Farr suggested that this could be addressed at the November meeting and possibly evolve into a workshop.

7. Themes & Agendas for September / November AAN Meetings

The next AAN meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 2015. The group decided on the following topics:

- Dementia & cognitive impairment (postponed)
- Cheri will email Barbara her ideas on the initiative that was discussed at the meeting

8. Member Announcements

- Ellen Willis-Conger announced that the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department is initiating a health assessment of the community to understand the current health needs of residents in Santa Barbara County.. They plan to release the status report in March of 2016.
- Dana Goba announced that she will be leaving Cottage Health in three weeks and she will be joining the Central Coast Medical Association.
- Supervisor Farr mentioned that Erin and Susan have done a great job on the outreach for the drug take back program and they have had successful meetings in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. Some of the feedback supports the idea that pharmaceutical companies should be the ones to fund the program. They will continue with individual outreach and will be going back to the Board in October.
- Supervisor Farr also announced that there are a couple senior housing projects under construction in Solvang and in Santa Ynez.

9. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz