



July 27, 2016  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Hotel Corque • 400 Alisal Road • Solvang, CA 93464

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Hillary Blackerby, Holly Carmody, Ashley Costa, Paul Didier, Doreen Farr, Fran Forman, Eric Friedman, Suzanne Grimesey, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Susan Klein-Rothschild, Joyce Ellen Lippman, Paulina Llamas-Aranda, Cynthia McNulty, Brad Parks, Mary Lou Parks, Yolanda Perez, Kali Peterson, Kathleen Riel, Patricia Sandoval, Lynda Tanner, Erin Weber

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Supervisor Doreen Farr opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Public Comment**

Kathleen Riel, from the Independent Living Resource Center, Inc., distributed pledge forms. Those who would like to volunteer in helping people get their vote out can fill this out and hand it back to Kathleen.

### **3. Approval of Minutes, May 25, 2016**

Hillary Blackerby motioned to approve the minutes from May 25, 2016; Cheri Jasinski seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **4. Legislative Updates**

#### **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors**

Supervisor Doreen Farr gave an update on the following three priorities that were discussed during the County's budget process:

#### **Transit**

- The County authorized allocations to SMOOTH in Santa Maria and the Santa Ynez Valley Transit.
- They will be building on the existing transit opportunities that are already available for seniors.

#### **Food**

- Supervisor Farr mentioned that a year ago they had a lot of entities come forward asking for money for food programs for seniors. This year, the application process changed because of the growing number in these groups.
- This year they were able to provide some money to the Buellton Senior Center, Solvang Senior Center, and Community Action Commission. Fran thanked Supervisor Farr for making sure that the County continues to work with those that provide food services. She added that they opened two new sites in Santa Barbara, Villa Caridad (St. Vincent's) and downtown at the Franklin Center and they will be starting conversations in Lompoc for two additional sites. They have also officially become a Meals on Wheels provider.

## Legislative Updates (continued)

### Healthcare (specifically the Public Health Nurse)

- The Board of Supervisors approved ongoing and one time money for a new Public Health Nurse position for geriatric in-home assessments. Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care will be providing this service. Susan mentioned that they will have the board letter ready for the contract and going to the next board meeting in August. Lynda added that they are very excited for this opportunity.

Supervisor Farr thanked Erin Weber, Susan Klein-Rothschild, and Dr. Wada for their work in helping pass the safe drug disposal ordinance. She added that a statewide program is still needed but they have not been successful in the legislature yet.

### California State Budget 2016-17

Hillary Blackerby distributed the Highlights of 2016-17 State Budget for the Adult and Aging Network (see attached). She added that a law for a phone line for folks to access information about the End of Life Option Act is pending along with Assembly Bill AB 2394, a bill on nonmedical transportation.

Joyce Ellen Lippman added that the budget included a onetime allocation to the California senior legislature in the amount of one half million dollars.

## 5. Local Priorities for AAN 2016-17

Barbara stated that the Strategic Planning for the Adult & Aging Network was done about three years ago. She asked the group to share their biggest concerns and primary focus areas for the aging and disability community. The group came up with the following:

- Affordable and accessible housing for seniors and those with disabilities
- Mental health services
- Caregiving and direct care for caregivers, including reimbursement for caregiving services
- Food
- Respite
- Older Americans Act grants have not increased in a decade
  - There is a lot of focus on system navigation but not on increasing level of services; not enough providers to meet the needs
- Cultural sensitivity and responsiveness to Spanish-speaking population
- Raising awareness about the geriatric industry at local colleges and universities to build the workforce
- Addressing a broad spectrum of age-friendly and quality-of-life issues to keep people healthy and self-sufficient
- Create an AAN Speaker's bureau to educate and inform on aging and disability issues

Supervisor Farr mentioned that she is excited about the money that they received and what they were able to do with it but she is concerned about getting money in the future. She added that issues to do with seniors are supposed to be a partnership between all levels of the government because the local government can't do it all. This includes the federal government, state government, and local resources. All levels of government have ways to raise revenue and they have priorities in their budget for how the money will be spent. The priorities need to be driven by the electorate and that means speaking out when an opportunity arises. She stressed that advocacy is very important.

## **6. State and Regional Advocacy for Aging & Disability Issues**

Kathleen Riel shared that the Independent Living Resource Center is collaborating with the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara to put forth candidate questions. If someone would like to work on a couple of senior related questions to ask the candidates, please contact Lindsey Baker.

joyce ellen lippman announced that Area Agency on Aging will once again have a candidate forum for the congressional candidates in September.

## **7. The SCAN Foundation & Community of Constituents Initiative**

Kali Peterson gave a presentation on The SCAN Foundation and California's Community of Constituents Initiative (see attached). The three main focus areas for the SCAN Foundation are: Coordinated Care for the dual eligible (those that are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid/Medi-Cal), Person Centered Care (for those with Medicare only), and Long Term Care Financing. The Community of Constituents initiative includes their Sacramento-based California Collaborative as well as county-based Regional Coalitions throughout California.

The California Collaborative includes 35 statewide organizations that pay membership dues. They represent consumer and advocate organizations, older adults and people with disabilities, and institutional and home- and community-based services providers. They have become a trusted source of information in Sacramento when it comes to Long Term Services and Supports. Regional Coalitions may designate a representative to sit in on their bi-monthly calls.

The Regional Coalitions began when The SCAN foundation started funding twelve Regional Coalitions that covered twelve counties. They are now up to twenty-one Regional Coalitions covering forty-five counties. Kali mentioned that the relationship with Santa Barbara County is still being developed and she feels that the Adult & Aging Network might be a good fit for this initiative. All of the Regional Coalitions represent older adults and people with disabilities. They focus on how to educate each other, how to get to know each other as providers or advocates, and how to be more impactful with the Board of Supervisors and elected officials. Representatives from each coalition come together once a month for a webinar and their interests determine the content. Northern and Southern Regional Meetings happen twice a year. The SCAN Foundation also hosts an annual conference where all the Regional Coalitions and members of the California Collaborative get together in Sacramento. The agenda for this conference is driven by the membership. This conference usually happens the day after the SCAN Foundation's annual Summit on Long-Term Services & Supports. This year the Summit takes place Tuesday, September 13, 2016. It is open to everyone and free-of-charge. Barbara will send the link so that those who are interested can register. It will also be posted on the website.

Kali highlighted successful advocacy efforts that included leveraging dollars received from SCAN . Regional Coalitions have raised 12 million dollars in the last three grant cycles in new or saved dollars for long term services and supports. Another benefit of participating in the initiative is that coalitions share what they are doing and borrow innovative strategies from one another. SCAN takes information from the Coalitions to Sacramento so that the same messages can be advanced throughout California. Kali concluded by mentioning that they are the only foundation solely dedicated to long-term services and supports. She hopes to engage the Adult & Aging Network in a more formal way as part of this initiative.

## 8. Central Coast LTSS Coalition & Options for AAN Participation

Barbara mentioned that she and Jenn Griffin have talked about the possibility of bringing the work that The SCAN Foundation has been doing to the Adult & Aging Network (AAN) and somehow merging with what is already being done in this county. The coalition has a small grant of \$10,000 for two years and it supports two people from the coalition to attend the regional meetings, the summit, and to participate in the webinars. Right now, Barbara and Jennifer are these two people. Barbara gave the group a few options:

- Create a new group outside of AAN that focuses on long term service and supports
- Agree as an AAN to be the LTSS Coalition and figure out what that will look like
  - Create a LTSS Coalition Work Group?
  - Have a standing agenda item on LTSS priorities?
  - Engage other members in calls, conferences, summit attendance?
  - Develop new strategies for linking with statewide, regional, and federal organizations?

Susan Klein-Rothschild made a motion to have the Adult & Aging Network become the SCAN Foundation's coalition for the Central Coast. Holly Carmody seconded the motion and the decision was approved unanimously.

AAN members will discuss Work Groups and priorities at the next meeting. The group would also like to have the coalition topic as a standing item on the agenda for all future meetings.

## 9. Updates and Announcements

- Barbara Finch announced that the Adult & Aging Network will be sponsoring a table at the 2016 Senior Expo. If there are agencies that won't have a table, but would like to have their information at the AAN table, please let Barbara or Gloria know. The Senior Expo is Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Earl Warren Showground's from 9-1pm.
- Heidi Holly mentioned that the Friendship Center will have the Brain Fitness Seminar For Life, a 6-week seminar, on Wednesdays from August 3<sup>rd</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>. They will also have a seminar on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7p.m. called Money Matters.
- Joyce Ellen Lippman announced that the North County Farmers Market will be on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> in Santa Maria and on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lompoc. In South County, it took place on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> in Carpinteria, and will also happen on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> in Santa Barbara, and Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> in Goleta.
- Patricia Sandoval stated that the Partners in Care Foundation currently has room in their Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP). If anyone is in need of their services in care management, please contact them.
- Barbara thanked Brad for all of his contributions to the Adult & Aging Network and wished him well in his retirement.

## 7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*