



**March 22, 2017**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Hotel Corque • 400 Alisal Road • Solvang, CA 93464**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Lisa Brabo, Holly Carmody, Mark Contois, Ruth Corona, Arlene Diaz, Suzanne Grimmesey, Joan Hartmann, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Mary Beth Lepkowsky, joyce ellen lippman, Yolanda Perez, Marco Quintanar, Arcelia Sencion, Lynda Tanner, Jeanne West, Ellen Willis-Conger

**Special Guests:** Amelia Abernathy, Dignity Health; Barbara Brownell, Dignity Health; Lilia Ramirez, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services; Adrianna Rojas, Lompoc Valley Medical Center; Ofelia Valdovinos, Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office; Courtney Warren, Dignity Health

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

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

Supervisor Hartmann opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **3. Approval of Minutes, January 25, 2017**

Vicki Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from January 25, 2017 and Jeanne West seconded the motion. Arlene Diaz abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **4. California Community of Constituents: Regional Coalition Report**

#### **• Approval of Guiding Principles (VOTE)**

Barbara Finch went over the Guiding Principles (found at <http://www.ccltss.org/about/our-guiding-principles/>) for the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports and asked the group if these were Guiding Principles that they would like to adopt. The group agreed to add these Guiding Principles to the Adult & Aging Network (AAN) Guiding Principles. Ellen Willis-Conger motioned to adopt the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports Guiding Principles; Heidi Holly seconded the motion and the adoption of the Guiding Principles was approved unanimously.

Barbara stated that she will be attending the Southern California Regional Meeting with Jennifer Griffin on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in Bakersfield. She added that a template for an AAN e-newsletter has been created with a summary of what the AAN has been up to for the last few months and what is has planned going forward. They will be reviewing this template and Barbara will bring it to the next AAN meeting.

## 5. **AAN Membership and Meeting Time/Location (VOTE)**

Barbara mentioned that after the last meeting there was a suggestion to discuss the following:

- How often should the meetings be?
  - The group voted in favor of continuing to meet every other month. The workgroups will be revisited at the next meeting.
- Where should the meetings be?
  - The group voted in favor of the meetings to continue being mid-county. Jeanne West abstained.
- How long should the meetings be?
  - The group voted in favor of the meetings being changed to 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Cheri Jasinski and Yolanda Perez opposed.

Supervisor Hartman asked about having a Steering Committee to help frame future meetings and move towards action items. Mary Beth Lepkowsky expressed interest. Supervisor Hartmann suggested that Barbara discuss options with her staff member, Alma Hernandez de Wilson.

## 6. **Introduction to the Santa Barbara Care Coordination Collaborative**

Amelia Abernathy, Supervisor of Social Work in the Care Coordination Department at Dignity Health, gave an overview of the Santa Barbara Care Coordination Collaborative. This partnership, which includes Dignity Health and CenCal, is trying to improve coordination across the health care continuum and address gaps in services. Needs and concerns included the following:

- Mental health
- Drug abuse - opioid epidemic
- Homelessness
- Coordination
  - What meetings are in the county?
  - Who goes to what meetings?
  - Who can you contact to get what you need for patients?
- Data collection
  - Discussing universal release forms
  - What is the target population?
- Geriatric services

Amelia mentioned that they are hoping their meetings are action oriented. She suggested having someone from the Adult & Aging Network (AAN) attend their meetings and bring that information back to AAN. Meetings will take place at Hotel Corque every other month and they are hoping to bring in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo together twice a year. Work Groups have been formed to address the needs and concerns listed above. Their focus is high-utilizers of hospital and emergency services, which includes older adults.

Barbara shared that bridging medical and social services is a priority for the California Regional Coalitions. The Santa Barbara Care Coordination Collaborative could provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships. There was also discussion about keeping the public informed – possibly through a symposium- and engaging communities in devising their own solutions. A suggestion was made to look for efficiencies that could ease the burden on hospitals, such as increased use of Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) directives to reduce prolonged and potentially unnecessary palliative care.

## **7. Local Impacts of the Proposed American Health Care Act**

- **Local statistics – Ellen Willis-Conger**
- **Congressman Salud Carbajal's Town Hall Meeting**
- **Concerns for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**
- **Opportunities for Coordination**

Ellen Willis-Conger distributed a sheet on how many people in our community could be impacted by changes in federal health care legislation (see attached - Mark Contois felt IHHS data was under-reported and will update information) Barbara shared that the House of Representatives is getting ready to vote on the replacement bill of the Affordable Care Act tomorrow. The changes in this bill, titled the American Health Care Act, have doubled down on tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans without making healthcare affordable for older adults as was promised by this administration. Older adults ages 55-64 would be hurt by the "age tax" which allows insurers to charge five times more for older adults. Impacts to older adults and people with disabilities would also be significant due to dramatic cuts in the Medicaid budget. Six in ten nursing home residents rely on Medicaid, and this bill could leave more people without needed care. A Representative can be reached at 1-866-426-2631.

Congressman Carbajal suggested at the town hall meeting that it is prudent to communicate with legislators at both the state and federal level, even if you think they agree with you. The legislative process is complex and it is important to keep the needs of older adults and people with disabilities at the forefront. The members were encouraged to stay informed about what is being proposed in the health care bills and in the budget and let the representatives know what is most important to them and to the people they serve. Joyce Ellen mentioned that there are a lot of organizations that have a lot of information on what is going on. She will send them to Gloria so that she can send them to the network. Lisa Brabo suggested keeping advocacy on the AAN agenda as a standing item.

## **8. Member Updates and Announcements**

- Joyce Ellen Lippman announced the deadline for nominations for the Older Americans Month, shared the date for The Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Council Annual Training Conference ( May 17, 2017), and announced that the 2017-2018 Santa Barbara County Senior Resource Directory is now available.
- Cheri Jasinski announced that Senator Jackson is putting forth SB-62 Affordable Senior Housing Act of 2017. The inspiration for this bill is Rona Barrett's Golden Inn & Village. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on this, please contact Cheri.
- Lynda Tanner shared that Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care will host a screening of Extremis on Wednesday, April 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Fleischmann Auditorium. Admission is free and registration is required.
- Jeanne West reminded everyone that DASH is now serving adults. This includes those with chronic illness, long term illness and people with developmental disabilities.
- Heidi Holly reminded members that The Friendship Center also serves veterans. They have a contract with the Veterans Administration for those individuals that need Adult Day Services. She also announced free workshops called "Ahead of Dementia." The next workshop is "Creating a Dementia-Friendly Home" on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Adjourn – Next meeting May 24, 2017**

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*