



March 25, 2015

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Department of Social Services

234 Camino Del Remedio

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

MINUTES

Attendance: Donna Beal, Hillary Blackerby, Lisa Brabo, Holly Carmody, Eloisa Chavez, Supervisor Doreen Farr, Dana Goba, Judy Goodbody, Jennifer Griffin, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Susan Klein-Rothschild, Daniel Nielson, Ernesto Paredes, Brad Parks, Yolanda Perez, Tamra Reza, Kathleen Riel, Mary Sheridan, June Sochel, Jim Talbott, Elizabeth Taylor-Linzey, Erin Weber, Margaret Weiss, Jeanne West

Staff: Barbara Finch, Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Supervisor Doreen Farr opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

- Jeanne West reported that the Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) has now been absorbed by the Department of Social Services. The contact person for this is Brad Parks, Division Chief for Adult Services at Santa Barbara County DSS.
- Eloisa Chavez shared that the questions from the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan-Listening session from the previous week are available online:
<http://sbfoodaction.org/how-to-get-involved/community-input/>

3. Approval of Minutes, January 28, 2015

Lisa Brabo motioned to approve the minutes from January 28, 2015 and Cheri Jasinski seconded the motion. Supervisor Doreen Farr abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Theme for Today: Transportation

According to the Elder Needs Assessment conducted by the Area Agency on Aging, transportation is number one of the top ten things that seniors will need help with in the future, and also ranked highly among the things that make it difficult to get help and services that seniors are already using. Barbara introduced the theme, suggesting that it is important to build awareness about community resources, to identify gaps and to discuss what we can do to enhance the services that are available to seniors.

5. Presentations:

• Transportation Services in North Santa Barbara County

Jim Talbott, Executive Director of SMOOTH Inc. in Santa Maria, gave a presentation about SMOOTH Inc. Surveys done by SMOOTH Inc. have indicated that 94% of their passengers have an income of less than \$2,000 a month, 43% indicate incomes between \$500 - \$1,000 a month, and 27% of seniors state that they have no other

transportation resources available. Jim also stated that 58% of their passengers are over 75 years of age and 23% are over 85 years old.

SMOOTH operates the Senior Dial A Ride program that provides transportation for senior residents in Santa Maria and Orcutt. They also run the Santa Barbara Health Care Center Shuttle that is funded by the County Department of Public Health. The shuttle picks up people from Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, and Santa Ynez, and drops them off to medical appointments in Santa Barbara three times/week.

Jim stated that transportation has always been one of the highest needs but also one of the last things that is ever budgeted. He would like to advocate for leaders to:

- Proactively budget for and consider transportation in budget and planning.
- Take advantage of the resources that are in place.

Jim (SMOOTH) and Ernesto (Easy Lift) are designated by the state and county as the local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA), with Jim having the Santa Maria Valley and Ernesto having the South Coast. There is no CTSA with the Central County area, which would include Lompoc and Santa Ynez. It would be difficult to fund it because of their population size, tax-base, and specific requirements of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), which is their largest funding source.

Supervisor Doreen Farr mentioned that all five Supervisors sit on the Santa Barbara County Association of Governance (SBCAG), which also includes one representative and alternate from each of the cities in the County. The SBCAG allocates money for various regional projects and transportation. One of the things that they do every year is hold a public hearing on "Unmet Transit Needs". In the South County, this is the responsibility of the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, but there is no North County equivalent. Over time, the cities have built their own transit agencies rather than coming up with a consolidated plan. This creates problems for people trying to get around in North County.

- **Specialized Transportations on the South Coast**

Ernesto Paredes, Executive Director of Easy Lift, gave a presentation on the history, local statistics, core programs, and the impact that Easy Lift has had on the community (see attached). Easy Lift is the south coast's provider of transportation services for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a nonprofit organization that is running the ADA services, they get funding from the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) and they are also able to fundraise. Easy Lift was created in 1979 as a project of the local Easter Seal Society and Community Action Commission. Ernesto mentioned that there has been an increase in transportation demand in the past year because of the Affordable Care Act. Previously, Easy Lift would deny an average of 5-10 people per month but last month they denied about 1,000 people. All of Easy Lift's partners are going to be working together and Ernesto stated that they have secured about \$200,000 extra dollars in perpetuity to meet increased needs. Programs offered include:

- Dial-A-Ride (DAR)
- Non Emergency Accessible Transportation (NEAT)
- Children's Accessible Transportation (CAT)
- Greatest Generation Accessible Transportation (GGAT)
- Other services that they offer include: Homeless Shuttle Community Shuttle, Emergency Evacuation, and Loaner Vehicle.

Ernesto mentioned that there is a need for assistance with prescription pickups. He would like to find a way for his drivers to provide this service.

Emergency evacuations are conducted in partnership with the Red Cross. Susan Klein-Rothschild mentioned that the Public Health Department has a list all senior living facilities and individual seniors who would need assistance in case of an emergency. They have a preparedness plan in place to help direct this.

- **HELP of Carpinteria**

Judy Goodbody, Executive Director of HELP of Carpinteria, presented on this all-volunteer nonprofit transportation service which has been in operation since 1988. HELP served more than 500 residents from Carpinteria last year and provides nearly 600 rides per month. The passengers must be ambulatory. They have 86 volunteer drivers and dispatchers. Donations are requested for the rides, \$1 roundtrip in Carpinteria and \$6 roundtrip to Santa Barbara. The passengers are not denied transportation due to lack of ability to pay. At the moment, HELP takes in passengers with walkers but not passengers with wheelchairs. Since the Affordable Care Act came into effect, there has been a higher need for rides to Santa Barbara. Judy mentioned that about 90% of their passengers are seniors. Donations from the passengers make up 25% of HELP's annual budget and the remaining 75% has been provided from foundations, individuals, local community organizations and the City of Carpinteria.

6. Discussion: Opportunities & Future Action

Jim mentioned that giving out free bus passes could have an adverse effect, since transportation services funded by the Transportation Development Act (TDA) must maintain a certain percentage threshold for farebox recovery. This means that the cash that people pay when they go on the bus has to pay for at least 10% or 20% of the cost of the ride. If it doesn't, the TDA allocations could be at risk.

Hillary Blackerby talked about a "How-To ride the Bus" group for Santa Barbara seniors who have been drivers their whole lives but now need to learn to take the bus. They learn how to get bus passes and are oriented to the bus system.

Ernesto mentioned that Easy Lift provides free transportation for any non profit.

Supervisor Doreen Farr brought up the idea of having a website for the County that is a transit trip planner. Hillary mentioned that Google Maps has some options for finding different routes.

Transportation innovations include a partnership between the Clean Air Express and tourism groups who want to transport visitors between the valley and Santa Barbara. Supervisor Doreen Farr also brought up the idea of making Santa Barbara a car free destination.

Eloisa Chavez mentioned that the senior grocery program has a home delivery component to it. Ernesto mentioned that Easy Lift could partner up with them and help with picking up and distributing the food or take the individuals to the food bank sites.

7. Theme & Agenda for May 27 AAN Meeting

The next AAN meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2015. CenCal Health will present information about their services, including services to address mental health concerns.

Supervisor Doreen Farr brought up the issue of safe disposal of unused medications. She and Erin Weber are working on an ordinance that they might want to take to the Board of Supervisors to extend responsibility to producers of medications. This is a huge issue for seniors and also for young people, as it can lead to accidental overdose. It also

impacts water quality because people flush medications down the toilet or down the drain. Erin Weber stated that there is a lack of convenient sites for residents of the county to dispose their medications. There is currently a small program through the Sheriff's Department called Operation Medicine Cabinet with nine sites at the substations throughout the county. They would like to expand the number of sites. Data shows that people are more willing to bring their medications to their pharmacy and they are hoping to get support from pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreens. Erin mentioned that there are rules for controlled substances specified by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), including the type of receptacles that must be used to collect the medications. She passed out an article from Noozhawk titled "Elderly are Particularly Vulnerable to Both Misuse and Abuse of Prescription Drugs".

8. Member Announcements

- Mary Sheridan reminded everyone, on behalf of Joyce Ellen Lippman, that the nominations forms for the Older Americans month awards are now available. They can also check online at <http://centralcoastseniors.org/>
- Cheri Jasinski announced that they are advocating to have April 16th declared as National Healthcare Decision Day. They want to remind people of the importance of having their healthcare preferences be communicated to their family members as well as their healthcare providers. She also wants people to be aware of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) so that the doctors know also know your decisions on your preferences.
- Jeanne West mentioned that Alliance for Living and Dying Well is having their 3rd annual "Get It Done Today!" on April 16th at the Santa Barbara Public Library's Faulkner Gallery. It is a free community-wide event to help people complete their advance health care directives.
- Hillary Blackerby will be sending Gloria the updated legislative tracking document and Gloria will be distributing it to the Network members. The Network can email Hillary with any changes at Hillary.Blackerby@asm.ca.gov.
- Holly Carmody invited everyone to Community Action Commission's Champions Dinner on Thursday, May 7th. They will be honoring Dr. Takashi Wada, Father Jon-Stephen Hedges, and Franziska Shepard.
- Margaret Weiss mentioned that the Healthier Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions is starting up for the spring. They have a daytime workshop starting in May and an evening workshop starting April 14th. She will also be sending an email for Lompoc's Senior Expo, which will be on May 15th.
- Donna Beal stated that their Dementia: Current Trends & Future Direction Conference is coming up on Thursday, April 30th. Jeanne West will be presenting at this conference on Advance Health Care Planning and Mary Sheridan will be presenting on The Dementia EcoSystem: The Caregiver as the indicator species.
- Donna Beal shared that they will be having the Savvy Caregiver Workshop in Carpinteria on April 1, 8, 15 & 22. It is 12 hours of training for family caregivers.
- Donna Beal also mentioned that the Alzheimer's Association will have their Advocacy Day in Sacramento on April 29th.
- Jim Talbott announced that Guadalupe will be holding an event called Ciclovía on Saturday, May 9th with open streets, health screenings, and much more.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz

A Nonprofit Charity - Est. 1979
**Easy
Lift**
Transportation

**I AM
EASY
LiFT**



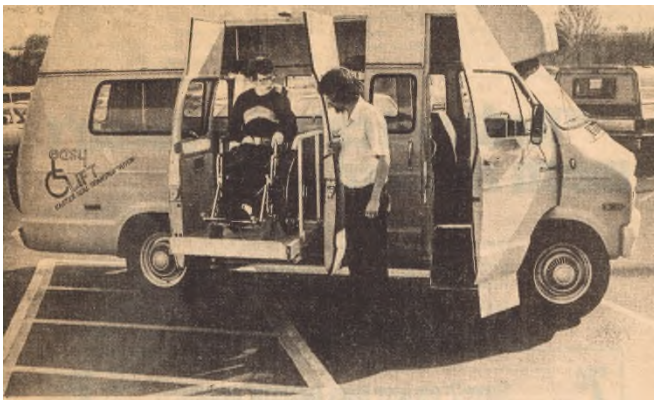


**WE ARE A
NON PROFIT**

MISSION

Easy Lift's mission is to fulfill our community's need for specialized transportation to allow individuals and organizations access to essential programs and services.

History



- ▶ Created as a project of the local Easter Seal Society in 1979
- ▶ Incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization in 1981
- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- ▶ Partnership with MTD to provide ADA paratransit service
- ▶ Designated CTSA service provider for south Santa Barbara county

Local Statistics



The City of Santa Barbara has the largest number of persons over 50 with 29,225 or 33% of the 88,410 citywide total (2010 Census).

Of the 63,751 adults over the age of 60 living in SB County, approximately 22,000 (35%) have some type of disability.

California has the largest number of older adults in the nation.

In California, the elderly population is expected to grow more than twice as fast as the total population and this growth will vary by region.

Adults over the age of 85 are the fastest growing segment of Santa Barbara County's population.

CORE PROGRAMS

Dial-A-Ride **DAR**

Non Emergency
Accessible Transportation **NEAT**

Children's Accessible
Transportation **CAT**

Greatest Generation
Accessible Transportation **GGAT**

**WE ARE
EASYLIFT**

OTHER SERVICES:

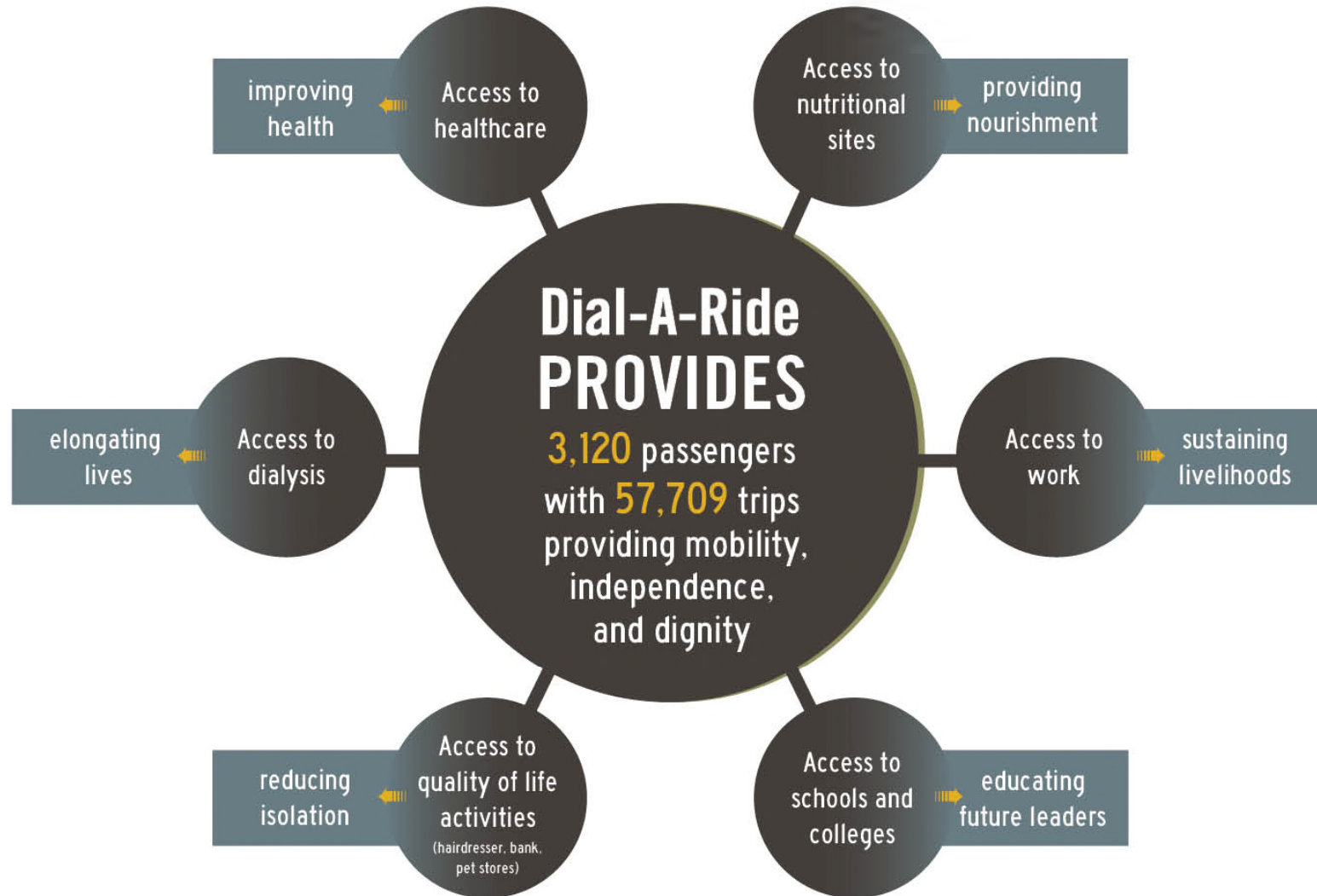
Homeless
Shuttle

Community
Shuttle

Emergency
Evacuation

Loaner Vehicle

MAKING AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY:





Marjorie & Joe Shipp



Carmen Finn

**WE ARE
EASY LIFT**



Louise Harvey



Michelle Avitia

CAT Community Partners



UNITED BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Camp Writter • Carpinteria • Goleta • Lompoc • Westside Santa Barbara





**WE ARE
EASY LiFT**





WE ARE COMMUNITY



**WE ARE
EASY LiFT**