



May 24, 2017

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Hotel Corque • 400 Alisal Road • Solvang, CA 93464

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Amelia Abernathy, Dayton Aldrich, Chris Barnett, Mark Contois, Ashley Costa, Arlene Diaz, Jennifer Griffin, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Ashley Kruzel, Kristina Lauterio, Vianey Lopez, Cynthia McNulty, Mary Lou Parks, Yolanda Perez, Armando Rivera, Adrianna Rojas, Arcelia Sencion, Lynda Tanner

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

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

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **3. Approval of Minutes, March 22, 2017**

Cheri Jasinski motioned to approve the minutes from March 22, 2017; Heidi Holly seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

- **Feedback on Regional Coalition Newsletter**
- **SB is hosting SoCal Regional Meeting in July**
- **October 25-26, 2017 Advocacy Day and LTSS Summit**

Barbara Finch asked for feedback on the SCAN Foundation Southern California Coalitions newsletter that was sent to AAN members via e-blast. It highlighted AAN efforts to improve Long Term Services and Supports and included brief summaries from other counties across southern California. The newsletter can be found on the AAN website. The next edition of the newsletter will go out in the spring. Ideas for content are welcome.

Santa Barbara will be hosting the Southern California Regional meeting in July and participants will be preparing for the October Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. Barbara invited members who are interested in being part of the Advocacy Day at the Capitol or who want to participate in creating a Santa Barbara County elevator speech, to please attend the all-day meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Department of Social Services in Santa Barbara. The group was asked for suggestions about meetings with state legislators. Cheri Jasinski suggested meeting with Senator Jackson since she continues to be interested in senior issues. She also suggested meeting with the person who is the head of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. She shared that Senator Jackson's work group will be proposing the creation of a senior caucus.

Barbara stated that the annual Long Term Services and Supports Summit will be in Sacramento on October 26<sup>th</sup>. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

## 5. Advocacy

- **Current issues, opportunities, concerns**

Mary Lou Parks stated that Senate Bill 562, the Healthy California Act, is a single-payer bill that is moving quite fast through the Senate Appropriations Committee and is due to be voted on by June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She asked members of AAN to consider supporting it.

Cheri Jasinski shared that there is a working group advising Senator Jackson on senior issues. They have proposed five different bills that they are hoping she will carry. Senate Bill 62, Affordable Senior Housing Act of 2017, is progressing nicely and they have not heard any opposition to it. This bill is to create resources for starting affordable senior housing projects. The inspiration for this bill is Rona Barrett's Golden Inn & Village. The website will be established through the Governor's business office, where anyone can access information about things to consider and steps that are required. If they need support, there will be people in the Governor's office that can respond to them and give them that support.

Cheri also mentioned that they have asked for a standing committee in the Senate on Aging and Long-term Care but because it has to be staffed and the Governor is reluctant to spend extra money, they haven't gotten it. The concept of a senior caucus might help to fill the gap. Senator Jackson is helping them look for a chair and is willing to convene the first meeting to get it going. Cheri asked if AAN could provide training on how to be advocates.

Alma Hernandez shared that she has been working with The Fund for Santa Barbara and they are open to providing training, specifically for nonprofits on advocacy. They are also interested in knowing who is doing senior advocacy and seeing where they might be able to help out. The group was interested in learning more about the limits on nonprofits and advocacy. Barbara will look into having a presentation on this at a future meeting.

## 6. Creating a Strong Community Voice

Barbara reminded the group of the AAN mission to facilitate connection, collaboration, education and advocacy to improve the lives of seniors and adults with disabilities in Santa Barbara County. When Supervisor Farr and Supervisor Carbajal were Co-Chairs of AAN, they stressed the importance of engaging consumers and being sure that their voices are heard. Barbara invited the group to brainstorm and think about how to approach this task by answering the following questions. Results of the group activity were captured in a separate document (Attached)

- **How are we currently capturing the voices of seniors and people with disabilities?**
- **What skills or knowledge might need to be developed in those we are trying to engage?**
- **What are the barriers to creating a strong community voice?**
- **What is working for us?**
- **Where can we find potential champions and advocates?**
- **What strengths do older adults and people with disabilities bring to the table?**
- **What are our best ideas for engaging people of different ages and abilities?**

Barbara will give people the opportunity to look over these notes before identifying next steps and/or themes for a symposium.

## 7. Member Updates and Announcements

- Yolanda Perez gave an update on the Latino Elder Outreach Network (LEON). LEON's current membership includes representatives from thirty nonprofits, public and private entities. Their goal is to engage and empower the Latino community and educate the public about the needs of, and resources available to Latino elders. LEON acts as a clearinghouse for information, data gathering and best practices related to the needs of Latino elders.
- Cheri Jasinski announced that Rona Barrett will be expanding the Golden Inn & Village. The next phase is assisted living and memory care. The Rona Barrett Foundation will present a concert at the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Amelia Abernathy gave the following update on the Santa Barbara County Care Coordination Coalition:
  - The Coalition identified populations that they seem to struggle with the most - individuals who are homeless and people who have experienced mental health issues and substance abuse ("high-utilizers" of hospital services)
  - They are very resource rich and coordination poor. They need to develop better strategies for communication and information sharing - to know what is going on in different areas of the county.
  - Their workgroups have started to meet and are targeting specific needs:
    - gaps in services
    - how to collect and compare data
    - how to identify funding sources for program development
    - how to work together to develop programs that address the issues
  - They discussed how the Adult & Aging Network can support the Santa Barbara County Care Coordination Coalition and they are open to suggestions. Amelia invited members to participate in the workgroups that have been developed.
  - They are working on a Universal Release Form
  - Amelia will send out the Coalition and Workgroup minutes
  - Barbara suggested compiling a list of countywide network meetings to find out where people are already working together. She will put it on the agenda for the July meeting.
- Heidi Holly had the following announcements:
  - The Alzheimer and Brain Research Update will be on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30pm at All Saints-By-The-Sea in Montecito. They will be offering CEU's.
  - The Wine Down & Big Heart Awards are on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm at the Friendship Center in Montecito.
- Dayton Aldrich announced that 18<sup>th</sup> Annual State Street Mile will be on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. It will benefit the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Crime Victim Emergency Fund.

## 8. Adjourn – Next meeting July 26, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*