



**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES
PSA 26**

ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 7, 2020

9:30am

Health & Human Services Agency

Big Sur Conference Room

747 S. State St.

Ukiah, CA 95482

AAA Advisory Council Members Present:

Paul Branson - President

Nancy Nanna - Vice President

Joan Walter

Linda Schoeller-Boyle

AAA Advisory Council Members Not Present:

Janine Smith-Citron- excused

AAA Staff Present:

Dena Eddings-Green - AAA Program Coordinator

Kelli Page – AAA Program Manager

Amber Madero – AAA Staff Services Analyst

Others in Attendance:

Lynn Schlapkohl, Miranda Ramos, Paloma Patterson, Karl Parker

1. Welcome / Announcements:

The meeting is called to order by Paul Branson at 9:36 am. There are four (4) Advisory Council members present out of a total of five (5) active members. Introductions were made all around.

2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items:

- The Older Adults Needs Assessment Survey was released and is due to close the first week of March.

3. Presentations:

Elizabeth Morton, Redwood Coast Seniors Alzheimer's Day Care Program:

- Elizabeth explained that the Alzheimer's Day Care Program give those who suffer from Alzheimer's or Dementia the chance to socialize in a safe environment and also gives their caregiver much needed respite. She stated there is no charge for the program, but voluntary contributions are gladly accepted.
- Elizabeth stated there are currently 9 participants in their Day Program and they have 6 volunteers. The center also has a bus available to help participants get to the center, but there needs to be more awareness of the programs existence.

- Elizabeth stated the program has not received referrals from doctors even after reaching out to them.
- Elizabeth discussed the benefits of the socialization for participants and that the program encourages participants to discuss their feelings and struggles in a group setting.
- Elizabeth stated the program does a “Social Hour” where they have tea and hot chocolate and discuss many topics.
- Elizabeth stated they program had a fundraiser to buy I-Pods for the participants and it was extremely succesful and allowed the program to purchase them for all participants.
- Nancy mentioned that it would be worth while to connect with the Ukiah Senior Center and their Day Program.
- Eileen mentioned the Therababy program, which Elizabeth stated the Day Program does particpate in, and it is a wonderful opportunity for participants.
- Joan stated there is a knitting group at the Willits Senior Center that make clothes for the Therababies.

Karl Parker, Lake Links Presentation:

- Karl presented a power point to discuss the goals and accomplishments of the Lake Links program.
- Currently they are trying to raise awareness regarding the availability of services, a lot of individuals are unaware of what is available to them.
- Over the last 10 years Lake Transit has averaged 335,000 trips per year, 9,000 wheelchair boardings, and 9,600 dial a ride trips per year which over half are medical trips.
- Karl stated Lake Transit has been partnering with Lakeport Ministerial Association for the last 5 years to get people to the warming shelter and have averaged 1,300 trips per year.
- Lake Transit partnered with Adventist Health to get patients to medical appointments, they gave Adventist Health a vehicle that was not being utilized to help get clients to their appointments, there has been an average of 3,400 trips per year and the transportation is strictly for medical appointments.
- Karl stated the Pay Your Pal program which has been in effect for 4 years has served 127 clients, completed 12,000 one way trips, covered 288,000 miles, and reimbursed \$88,000.00 dollars to date. The program will reimburse up to 200 miles at 35 cents per mile and the client is required to find the driver themselves.

- Karl stated many have to travel out of county for Medical care, and they have prioritized medical transportation.
- Karl discussed the Medi-Links program which offers transportation to Santa Rosa for medical appointments 5 days per week. The suggested appointment window is 10:00-12:00, reservations need to be made 1 week in advance, and the round trip cost is \$20.00.
- Karl stated there is also a new program starting called Senior Excursions where Senior Centers can have the use of a transit bus 1 time per week to take clients on outings.

Paloma Patterson and Miranda Ramos, Community Foundation 2020 Census

Presentation:

- The Community Foundation is working closely with other agencies in order to increase participation in the 2020 Census.
- Paloma stated historically there has been low participation rates in Mendocino County, overall 71% last time 85% goal
- Miranda stated the Census Bureau hopes to have 75% of surveys completed online and the hope is that offering online response options will increase the access bases.
- Miranda stated the US Census bureau doesn't plan on sending invitation to po box holders, was able to get funding through United Way of Wine Country to send post cards to Post Of boxes at same time census sends to street addresses
- Miranda stated the barriers for seniors/disabled are not being able to access the internet, and many have stated they don't have time or desire to fill out the Census survey.
- Paloma stated their major goal is educating those who don't know about the new process to complete the Census survey.
- Paloma suggested creating access bases, where there are computers available for the community to use for Census completion or taking tablets to MOW clients and helping them complete the Census online
- Miranda asked the Council members what are resources to serve this pop that we have not thought of.
- Nancy suggested taking it on as a fundraiser, instead of raising money you raise the count, inform people that this helps get federal funding
- Eileen mentioned educating seniors that the Census Bureau will never ask for their social security number or credit card number.
- Miranda stated Plowshares will be helping distribute flyers to homebound clients.

- Paloma stated with the postcard received via mail you will also receive a personal code to fill out the census online, the census made a statement that they have identified those who would be less likely to fill it out online and they will be mailing the census forms to those individuals.

4. **Action Items:**

4.1 Approval of meeting minutes for October 24, 2019 and December 2, 2019

M/S - Nancy/Joan – 0 Opposed – 1 Abstained, motion carried

4.2 Restructuring of Committees

- Rename the Nominating Committee to Nominating and Membership Committee.
- Paul stated he felt having a small group for a subcommittee is the most effective
- Paul stated he would like to further discuss the subcommittees at the next scheduled meeting.

4.3 Topics for Aging and Disability Coalition presentation on the Master Plan for Aging

- Transportation, Homelessness, Senior Center/Meal Programs

4.4 Advisory Council review and approval of new member applications for Lynn Schlapkohl and Cheryl Forberg

- Lynn Schlapkohl was present at the meeting and stated that she wants to learn about the senior centers and the AAA programs.
- The Council requested Lynn step out for a closed session to discuss her application.
- All members of the Advisory Council agreed to approve her application and asked that AAA staff include it on the next Governing Board meeting agenda for review.
- The application for Cheryl Forberg was tabled until the next meeting since she was not present.

5. **2020-2024 Area Plan**

- Dena expressed her gratitude for the work done by the Advisory Council members Paul and Janine on the Area Plan and Needs Assessment.
- Paul discussed the changes they recommended for the Goals section of the Area Plan.
 - Goal 1: We were satisfied with this as a goal
 - Objective 1g: Currently reads: "Increase the number of older adults who participate in Senior Center socialization activities." We agreed that "Senior Center" should be deleted to make this a broader objective. Likewise, under the "how" section of this objective, I think we should add a more general statement such as "Encourage social, recreational, cultural organizations and other community groups to actively engage seniors to participate in their activities and programs."
 - Objective 1i: Currently the "how" for this objective only calls for Tai Chi classes. We should expand this to include a more general "how" such as "Encourage other organizations to develop activities and programs that promote healthy living and disease prevention for seniors."

- Dena stated that the current wording could not be removed but the requested wording could be added to the Area Plan.
- New Objective: Coordinate with community partners on ensuring adequate affordable housing for seniors, and support efforts to resolve and prevent homelessness of seniors and other populations.
How: Support coordination of efforts to provide and fund affordable housing. Advise developers and service providers on the need for affordable and accessible housing for seniors. Advise and partner with other organizations focused on resolving homelessness.
- Goal 2: We were also satisfied with this as a goal.
 - We proposed adding a new objective under this goal as follows:
"Coordinate with other organizations to support the growth of senior-friendly transportation access to services." Under "Persons or Groups Responsible" for this objective list: "Lake Links, Lake Transit, Mendocino Transit, PSA 26 staff, PSA 26 Advisory Council, senior centers, medical providers and other community and transportation organizations." (Need to ask our Mendocino members for other agencies there.)
Under the "how" for this new objective: "Help disseminate information about transportation options to seniors and transportation referrals between agencies; Support volunteer driver recruitment and fund-raising efforts."
- 3. Goal 3: We were satisfied with this goal.

6. CSL Representative Report and Recruitment

- No report at this time.

7. Committee Meetings

- **Community Involvement and Advocacy Committee:**
 - Paul stated that he spoke with Jessica Pyska who is running for the District 5 Supervisor position regarding senior issues in Lake County.
- **Nominating & Membership Committee:**
 - Dena stated that Janine had expressed interest in helping advertise the subcommittees to get community members involved.
- **Legislative Committee:**
 - Paul discussed that the Older Americans Act is being reauthorized and gave meeting attendees a handout on the Governors Budget.
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Committee:**
 - No report at this time.
- **Needs Assessment/Health Promotion Committee:**
 - No report at this time.
- **Area Plan Committee:**
 - See above item 5 for comments

8. Presidents Report

- Paul stated he would be attending his first Triple A of California Council meeting on February 21st, he will be reporting on the activities in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

9. AAA Staff Report

- Dena stated the planning for the 2020 Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is beginning, this year it will be held in Lake County.
- Dena asked that the Advisory Council begin discussing possible Topics they would like to see and mentioned the instructor Patrick Arbor, which AAA has a scheduled conference call with along with UC Davis.
- Nancy stated she would like to see Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) offered for the conference.
- Eileen stated she would love to help with the project in any way she could.
- Dena reported that the Older Adults Needs Assessment survey is under way, individuals can fill out the paper survey or complete in online using Survey Monkey, and all completed surveys will be picked up from distribution locations the first week of March.

10. ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

**April 6, 2020
9:30am
Umpqua Bank
Community Room
805 11th St.
Lakeport, CA 95453**