

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE	FEBRUARY 22, 2016	LOCATION: 10 NORTH SAN PEDRO ROAD, RM 1019
PRESENT: Teri Dowling, Ralph Marchese, Salamah Locks, Allan Bortel, Sybil Boutilier, Jim Monson		
EXCUSED: Jody Timms, Chris Asimos, Lee Pullen, Ellie Bloch ABSENT:		
RECORDER: Gary Lara		
Next Meeting: 10 N. San Pedro Rd., Conference Room 1018 - Monday, March 28, 2016		

MINUTES SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><b><u>Agenda</u></b></p> <p>Chair Dowling called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. The agenda was approved as written.</p> <p><b><u>Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The January 25, 2016 minutes were approved as written.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b><u>Chair's Report</u></b></p> <p>Chair Dowling reported on the following items:</p> <p>The Older Adult Economic Security Task Force had its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting recently. The committee has been divided</p>	

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

into workgroups which will focus on branding, developing a list of resources and outreach. There will be an application process to apply for \$25,000 in funding from the Aging Action Initiative. This funding will be for the purpose of hiring an individual to coordinate community presentations and events, printing materials, web site development and branding.

Chair Dowling reminded the Executive Committee there is a task force coming together in order to plan the topics and venues for the General Commission meetings during the next fiscal year. Commissioner Marchese is the Chair. Other commissioners participating on this committee are Locks, Boutilier, and Bloch.

**Director’s Report**

Lee Pullen, Director of Aging and Adult Services was unable to be present today due to previous commitment related to a Health and Human Services all-day strategic planning retreat.

**Action Item:**

None

**Discussion Items:**

- a. Policy for releasing commissioner’s contact information:

Chair Dowling noted the current policy for this procedure which is noted as follows. When a member of the public requests to contact a commissioner, staff currently takes the requestors contact information and forwards it to the commissioner informing them a member of the public wishes to contact them. Dowling asked if any of the Executives were in objection to the current policy.

Commissioner Boutilier noted commissioners should be accessible to their people; however, Commissioner Bortel noted there is a large area for abuse including unlimited use of spam. Bortel suggested county email addresses for each commissioner. Commissioner Locks suggested a universal

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

address. Admin Gary Lara reminded the executives of the universal county email address: [agingandadult@marincounty.org](mailto:agingandadult@marincounty.org) which is currently utilized on the commission page on the [www.livelonglivewellmarin.org](http://www.livelonglivewellmarin.org) website.

Chair Dowling felt it is best to be consistent with the other boards and commissions within the county. Admin Gary Lara will contact the Clerk at the Board of Supervisors to find out if a universal practice is in place. Item tabled until next meeting.

b. Debrief: meeting with H&HS Director Grant Colfax:

Commissioner Locks provided an update on the recent meeting with Health and Human Services Director Grant Colfax. Present at the meeting were Director Pullen, Chair Dowling, Former Chair Monson and the Chair of the Planning Committee, Jody Timms. Locks felt it was a very productive meeting. The agenda planning meeting held prior to the discussion with Dr. Colfax proved to be very beneficial in moving towards ongoing advocacy for the needs of older adults across all of Health and Human Services. At the meeting, Commissioner Timms spoke to areas outlined by the needs assessment which represents all of the Board of Supervisors’ interests. The following are the requests made to Dr. Colfax by the commission:

- 1. Advocate for the needs of older adults across Health and Human Services (e.g. mental health, substance use/abuse)
- 2. Help identify research opportunities that address issues facing older adults that can ultimately support better services and programs.
- 3. Ensure that there is a place holder in the budget that can support piloting and implementing new and innovative programs/services that are indicated by the assessment.

Locks also noted the connection between Dr. Colfax and Dr. Louise Aronson, Professor of Geriatrics at the UCSF School of Medicine and the importance of further cultivating relationships within these

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

organizations.

Chair Dowling noted this meeting was a good first step and will send out the complete list of talking points discussed during the meeting.

c. Recent Laura Law’s Decision:

Definition: Laura’s Law is a California state law that allows for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment. To qualify for the program, the person must have a serious mental illness plus a recent history of psychiatric hospitalizations, jailings or acts, threats or attempts of serious violent behavior towards self or others.

Chair Dowling asked the executives if the commission wants to go on record with an opinion in regard to the recent decision by the Marin County Board of Supervisors not to adopt this law in Marin based on the recommendations by Health and Human Services Director Grant Colfax.

Commissioner Bortel noted if this issue hinged on aging issues, the commission would jump on board; however, since that is not the case Bortel stated the commison should not take a position on this decision at this time.

Chair Dowling asked the executives if this was something the commission needs to address and does it relate to the work we’re doing? Dowling noted this issue is resolved at the moment. The decision was made to table this item and refer it to the Health and Nutrition Committee.

d. Develop Retreat Planning Committee:

Chair Dowling volunteered to take the lead as the planning coordinator for the full day commissioner retreat this fall. Dowling will make an announcement to the full commission at the next meeting for additional volunteers for the retreat planning committee.

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

Commissioner Boutilier declined to participate on the retreat planning committee; however, she will forward the information from last year to Chair Dowling for planning purposes.

Commissioner Bortel liked the Unitarian Church as a venue for the retreat and noted we should have a good facilitator.

Commissioner Locks noted the importance of a well-defined event that has meaning for the participants. Chair Dowling agreed to come back to the executives with a proposal of specific objectives of what to expect from the retreat.

**Committee Reports**

- **Health and Nutrition:** Commissioner Asimos was unable to be present today due to the Health and Nutrition Committees’ “Being Mortal” presentation at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center.

Commissioner Locks made the following comments:

- 1) Attended an SSI/SSP advocacy meeting that was “eye opening” and provided a good educational opportunity. There is a current bill, AB1584, being discussed which will restore the COLA to increase the base grant by \$21 over the next four years. Noted Director Pullen mentioned funding is available from the Aging Action Initiative to pay for group transportation costs to Sacramento.
- 2) The next series of “Being Mortal” presentations are Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center and Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the community center in Bolinas.
- 3) “Inform & Connect” workshop on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Homeward Bound of Marin. This is a free, interactive training designed to support those who help older adults access resource referral information. There are two more of these workshops scheduled on April 20<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) “Detect & Connect” workshop on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Whistlestop’s Jackson Café. The

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

purpose of this evening seminar is to learn how to detect behaviors that might reflect mental health or dementia issues and how to compassionately respond and connect these individuals to resources.

- **Housing and Transportation:** Commissioner Bortel discussed activities taking place at Marin Village. Mill Valley has a men’s group currently meeting at the Sweetwater Music Hall.

The committee continues to focus on issues of rising rents and how it affects seniors. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 20 N. San Pedro Rd at 1:30 p.m.

- **Legislative Task Force:** Commissioner Bloch was unable to attend today’s meeting.

Commissioner Boutilier will confer with Aging Program Coordinator Michele McCabe about the task force meeting schedule. At the next meeting, their project is to review recommendations, if any, on the different bills.

The task force recently welcomed two new members: Laura Eberly, Community Organizer at the YWCA of San Francisco and Marin and Jennifer Andrade from the Marin Housing Authority.

- **Planning Committee:** Commissioner Boutilier noted the committee reviewed all of the other commission committee objectives. Program Coordinator Amy Dietz will send the final draft of Area Plan 2016-2020 to the committee by March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Committee will then review the document prior to meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business/Other:**

There was a discussion regarding on going housing challenges and lack of availability. Bortel noted Marin seniors have no place to move if they want to trade down to another location. The cost for residency at the Redwoods is \$3,500 per month. It was noted that St. Vincents is a good location for development; however, after the developmental hearings held in 2007, things fell apart due to the economic downturn.

**MINUTES SUMMARY**

**ACTION  
TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY**

Chair Dowling noted Commissioner Bortel has done a wonderful job as the Chair of the Housing and Transportation Committee.

Commissioner Marchese noted he is passionate about affordable housing and noted the commission should take a hard line stance on this issue.

Commissioner Boutilier noted Pilgram Place is an excellent model for affordable housing for older adults.

Commissioner Monson provided an update on the Healthy Aging Symposium. This year’s event is scheduled for Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites. This year’s theme is “Trail Blazers in a Changing World” with a focus on illustrating the different avenues of aging. The keynote speaker has not yet been identified. The close of the program will feature a special recognition of retired Health and Human Services Director, Dr. Larry Meredith.

Commissioner Marchese provided a brief update on planning the topics and venues for the General meetings for next fiscal year. Marchese noted the response from the commission has been slow in regard to receiving suggestions for new venues. No presenters or themes have been decided upon yet but stressed there should be an alignment with meeting locations and themes. The Executive Committee will decide on themes for next fiscal year during their spring meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, March 28, 2016 from 10:30am to 12:00pm.