

MARIN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Legislative Task Force Meeting
Friday, May 6, 2016

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Ellie Bloch, Sybil Boutilier, Teri Dowling, Judi Kirshbaum, Judy Dick, Madeline Kellner, Joan Lubamersky, Lee Pullen and staff Michele McCabe

Ellie and Sybil spoke about their trip to Sacramento to attend committee hearings and talk with Legislators.

Support, timing and advocacy for state budget proposals and initiatives were discussed and will be incorporated into next year's schedule.

AB 2406, Junior Units was discussed and the group came to a consensus that they support the concept but this particular bill may not be the appropriate vehicle.

The Legislative Task Force of the Commission on Aging voted to recommend support of the following budget adjustments and bills, presented as follows in order of priority:

1. Budget Adjustment – Senior War on Hunger

Summary: This budget proposal would increase the Senior Nutrition Budget by \$5.4 million. This funding would provide approximately 730,000 more meals to older adults across California. This funding also has the potential to save the state over \$61,000,000 in nursing home costs per year. For more information, see Appendix A.

Sponsors: California Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the California Commission on Aging.

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #13 (page 10).

2. Budget Adjustment - Adult Protective Services Training and Support Program

Summary: This budget proposal asks for a \$5 million investment to provide additional resources for a statewide Adult Protective Services training program. For more information, see Appendix B.

Sponsors: California Welfare Directors Association, the California Commission on Aging, and the California Elder Justice Coalition.

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #14 (page 10).

3. SB 1002 Senator Monning

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a toll-free telephone line to respond to inquiries regarding the End of Life Option Act. The Department would be required to respond to inquiries in multiple languages. The bill requires DPH to ensure that the telephone line has a protocol for responding to callers in crisis. For more information, go to: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/sen/sb_1001-1050/sb_1002_cfa_20160425_100918_sen_comm.html

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #13 (page 5).

Status: Appropriations Suspense.

4. AB 1584 Assembly Member Brown

Summary: This bill reinstates the cost-of-living adjustment for the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled and indexes the maximum Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment benefit to the federal poverty level. For more information, go to: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1551-1600/ab_1584_cfa_20160418_163527_asm_comm.html

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #10 (page 9-10).

Status: Appropriations Suspense

5. SB 1655 Assembly Member Dodd

Summary: This bill increases the personal needs allowance amount in a medical institution or nursing facility. The bill requires the Department of Health Care Services to annually increase this amount based on the percentage increase in the state Consumer Price Index. For more information, go to: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1651-1700/ab_1655_cfa_20160404_161119_asm_comm.html

Sponsor: California Senior Legislature

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #13 (page 10).

Status: Appropriations Suspense

6. SB 1452 Senator Wieckowski

Summary: This bill specifies that a conservatee retains the personal right to receive electronic mail. The bill provides the court authorization to issue an order specifically granting the conservator the power to enforce the conservatee's right to receive electronic mail or directs the conservator to allow electronic mail to be delivered to the conservatee. For more information, go to: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/sen/sb_1451-1500/sb_1452_cfa_20160406_165446_sen_floor.html

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #14 (page 10).

Status: Referred to Judiciary

7. AB 2497 Assembly Member Wagner

Summary: This bill replaces the existing California Senior Legislature Fund with the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund (Fund) as a voluntary contribution fund on the personal income tax return for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016. For more information, go to: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_2451-2500/ab_2497_cfa_20160509_181136_asm_comm.html

Sponsor: California Senior Legislature

Alignment with Marin County Legislative Policy Guidelines: Section D. Health and Human Services, #13 - 14 (page 10).

Status: Hearing 5/11 in Appropriations

The next meeting date was discussed. The group agreed that end of June – beginning of July would be a good time for the meeting. Staff will look for a room and a time most members can meet.

Staff requested that members bring their calendars to the next meeting so that meetings for 2016 – 2017 could be set.

Next meeting: TBA - end of June or beginning of July