

Minutes
Bexar Senior Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, October 10, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
Al J. Notzon III Board Room
8700 Tesoro Drive
San Antonio, TX 78217-6228

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Alderete
Sharon Baughman
Alex Davila
Elsa Davis
Victor Garcia
Ruth N. Garcia
Patti Gunter
Laurin Lee Jimenez
Ernie Lopez
Tito Villalobos Moreno
Dean Murphy
Steve Saldana
Valerie Taylor
George Walton
Dorothy Jo Weiss
Mary Will
Lucille Wohlfarth

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jana Cragg
Brenda Dever-Armstrong
Ed Dylla
Ruth Jones-McClendon
Marcia Katz
Ida Kenny
Donald Moye
Barry Muth
Victoria Palm
Marolyn Stubblefield
J. Elaine Talariski
Jimmy Toubin

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Yolanda Dickson
Alice Rose Kennedy
Estella Tyson (for Ed Dylla)
Glo Williamson (for Milo Hoenscheid)
Sue Ellen Lewis (for Ida Kenny)
John Sampson (for Barry Muth)
Sterling Neuman (for Jimmy Toubin)
Charlotte Hall

1. Call to Order – Ms. Mary Will
2. Roll Call – Ms. Ruth Garcia
3. Consider and act upon approval of the minutes of September 12, 2008.
4. There were no citizens to be heard.
5. Chairperson's Report – No report given.
 - Alex Davila of AARP gave a presentation on "Divided We Fail" and their efforts to get 750,000 pledged signatures to be delivered to Washington, D.C. in support of healthcare reforms and the strengthening of social security.

6. Director's Report – Ms. Carol Zernial, Bexar Area Agency on Aging Director

- Carol Zernial reminded everyone that October 15, 2008 is the last day for retirees and disabled veterans to file returns to receive the stimulus payment from the IRS.
- The Federal government passed a continuing resolution for the Health and Human Services budget and all programs are frozen at the FY08 funding level with the exception of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program who actually got an increase of \$2.8 billion in recognition of the higher cost of fuel.
- The Mental Health Parity Act finally passed. This requires insurance plans that do offer mental health benefits to provide coverage and financial parity with the physical side of their plan. However, the act doesn't require insurance companies to have a mental health plan.
- The Elder Justice Act failed to pass again this year.
- Emergency money for meals did not get attached to legislature that went through.
- The Administration on Aging (AoA) is celebrating Healthy Aging Month. The Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging (T4A) Texas Falls Prevention Coalition is one of six programs recognized nationwide. T4A is operating in seventeen regions, and have trained more people and more coaches in one year than all other programs combined.
- Ruth Nancarrow has been hired to develop a structure for a transportation co-op for the southwest side of San Antonio (SWOOP).
- The Bexar AAA will post a new mobility specialist position that will coordinate all specialized transportation in Bexar County. The grant to support this position is for three years.

7. Subcommittee Reports

- A. **Access and Assistance** – Carol Zernial reported the committee is currently reviewing and revising the BAAA brochure.
- B. **Nominations/Bylaws and Legislative** – Sharon Baughman stated the committee has nominated George Walton, Chair; Laurin Jimenez, Vice Chair and Ruth Garcia, Secretary for FY2009. A vote will be taken at the November meeting. She also requested nominations for alternates and members for 2009.

- C. **Long Term Care** - Nick Monreal noted the consortium is still working on Certified Nursing Assistant positions and training needs. The next committee meeting will be at the Bob Ross Center. He also reminded us that the "Money Follows the Person" conference hosted by DADS is October 20, 2008
 - D. **Alamo Service Connection** – Sterling Neuman stated the steering committee is looking for ways to change the direction and broaden the scope of the Alamo Service Connection. They are looking for ways to continue financing this effort. Also, an email newsletter is on the horizon.
8. Informational Items
- A. The Special Events Committee will coordinate transportation and entertainment for Senior Day 2009 at the State Capitol in Austin on Tuesday, February 10th, 10:30 a.m.
9. Meeting Adjourned.

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