

Minutes
Bexar Senior Advisory Committee
Friday, June 9, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Alderete
Sharon Baughman
Julia Castellano-Hoyt
Laura Cisneros
Alex Davila
Elsa Davis
Ed Dylla represented by Estella Tyson
Victor Garcia
Ruth Garcia
Marcia Katz
Ida Kenny
Ernie Lopez represented by Cynthia Hinojosa
Yvonne Lozano
Tito Villalobos Moreno
Winn Murnin
Sterling Neuman
Alicia Rodriguez
Steve Saldana
John Sampson
Rev. Gene Sheppard
J. Elaine Talarski represented by Sue Bell
Mary Will
Lucille Wohlfarth

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Honorable Ruth Jones McClendon
Winn Murnin
Nancy Rheams
George Walton
Dorothy Jo Weiss

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

None

1. Call to Order – Mr. Sterling Neuman called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call – Ms. Elsa Davis called the roll as reflected above.
3. Consider and act upon approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2006 - – Upon consideration, a motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and passed
4. Citizens to be Heard (Limit to Three Minutes) - None
5. Director's Report – Ms. Carol Zernial informed that the House of Representatives did pass their version of the FY07 Budget and proceeded to cite funding amounts for specific categories within the Older Americans Act Aging Programs. There is also a letter circulating in Congress sponsored by various representatives from Maine, Oregon and Ohio, asking for \$43 million, to reimburse AAA's for expenditures incurred in Medicare Part D over the past year. The National Council on the Aging is opposing changes in the law; under the Deficit Reduction Act, Medicaid applicants as of July 1st, are now required to prove citizenship with no provision for hardship. The two documents to prove citizenship will be a birth certificate or passport. A picture of Secretary Carbonell doing her testimony for the Older Americans Act reauthorization and a copy of her speech was distributed. Ms. Zernial further stated that she has been invited to the CDC in Atlanta in September to talk about the program and the environmental protection agency has also asked for representation. The State is looking at consumer directive care and a focus group is being held that the AAA's will participate to

determine whether there is a role for the AAA's in assisting persons that want to do this type of care. Ms. Jackie McDonald, the Associate Commissioner on Aging resigned. An article regarding the HHSC plan was circulated. At last month's AACOG Board of Directors meeting, Senator Van de Putte made a presentation to Ms. Tina Smith and presented a flag that had been flown over the Capitol to Tina for all of her work in educating the community, the volunteers and spearheading Medicare Part D enrollment in Bexar County.

Ms. Zernial proceeded to inform BSAC members of the Joint City/County Commission on Elderly Affairs. The City of San Antonio and Bexar County, the staff and the programs we work in partnership and are very happy with that partnership. However, there have been some ongoing discussions at the Joint City/County Commission level regarding where the Aging and Disability Resource Center might be best located. The State is offering this grant to the AACOG/Bexar Area Agency on Aging as a pilot site; therefore, BSAC members were made aware that there are discussions at the Joint City/County Commission; their next meeting is going to be held on June 14th, 2006 at 1:15 pm on Zarzamora and that some of the members of the Joint Commission are discussing some of our programs. The concern with the Aging and Disability Resource Center is that the funds have not been received and that any kind of appearance that we all are not on the same page can be very disruptive and could cause the AAA to lose funding. Ms. Zernial proceeded to advise that if the Joint City/County Commission has any concerns or ideas, positive or negative so that it may be a joint discussion. Ms. Zernial further asked for continued support on all of the AAA's programs and a meeting will be set up between the Joint City/County Commission chairperson together with our BSAC chairman in an effort to discuss any concerns.

6. Chairperson's Report – Mr. Sterling Neuman presented Certificates of Appreciation to sponsoring organizations and contributing individuals who supported our Older Americans Month activities.
7. Special Reports
 - A. Presentation from VIA Metropolitan Transit – Mr. David Frost addressed BSAC members on the fare cost, being one of the lowest priced in the country. He further informed that only 25% of their overall budget received comes from federal funds; they do receive capital assistance which is used to purchase new buses and VIA Trans Vans. As for operating assistance, the cost of fuel, wages, salaries/benefits for staff mostly comes from the sales tax collected. Mr. Frost further indicated that when it comes to senior transportation there is a gap. There are a few ways in addressing this gap; one would be to locate funds for these services; the second approach would be to take the existing services and make sure that they are as efficient and as effective as they can possibly be. In October 2006, a staff person will be added who will be devoted to senior transportation planning. Also, as a result of Austin legislation, the Texas Department of Transportation has been charged with developing plans for coordinating transit services throughout the State.
8. Subcommittee Status Reports
 - A. Access & Assistance – No report
 - B. Allocations and Monitoring – No Report
 - C. Family Caregiver Support Program – No Report
 - D. Information and Special Events – Ms. Sharon Baughman thanked Ms. Hyde for all her efforts during the Ice Cream Social; she also thanked Mr. Manolo Zaldivar. The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon went well and all activities planned during the month of May were very successful. Ms. Baughman further informed that the Senior Day 2007 at the Capitol has been set for Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the State Capitol.

- E. Long Term Care – Ms. Yvonne Lozano personally thanked Mr. Monreal and Ms. Calderon for their hard work and support. She further thanked Ms. Zernial, Mr. Neuman and the subcommittee members for their support as well. Based on the evaluation forms, the symposium was well attended and received very positive comments.

Mr. Tito Moreno briefed BSAC members on his attendance at a meeting in which there was quite a bit of discussion dealing with Money Follows The Person and whether he could have someone come down from DADs to provide further information. Mr. Moreno stated that he has made contact and a representative will be present for their next meeting.

- F. Nominations/Bylaws and Legislative Subcommittee – Mr. Steve Saldana directed BSAC members to their handout regarding consideration of the Bylaws. The subcommittee moved for approval of the Bylaw amendments. Upon consideration, the Bylaws were approved as distributed. Motion passed.

Mr. Saldana asked for ratification of Ms. Betty C. Childs, Alternate for Ms. Ruth Garcia. Upon consideration, ratification was approved.

Mr. Saldana presented an update on White House Conference on Aging Local Implementation Strategies Forum recently held at Catholic Charities, Inc. Former Commissioner Hines was present at this forum who presented on the different committee levels from the WHCoA and all of the different amendments that were presented.

9. Informational Items – Mr. Saldana reminded BSAC members that Project Cool, a collaborative between the City of San Antonio, Catholic Charities, KENS-5, St. Vincent de Paul and others have started a fan program in which fans are distributed free to seniors. Anyone can call United Way at 211 to find out where the closest place to pick up a fan for a senior.
10. Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned