

Minutes
Bexar Senior Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Al J. Notzon III Board Room
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100
San Antonio, TX 78217-6228

Members Present

Sharon Baughman
Julia Castellano-Hoyt
Elsa Davis
Brenda Dever-Armstrong
Ed Dylla
Ruth Garcia
Milo Hoenscheid
Laurin Lee Jimenez, Co-Chair
Ruth Lofgren
Donald Moye
Dean Murphy
Sterling Neuman
George A. Walton, Chair
Dorothy Jo Weiss

Members Absent

Chris Alderete
Jana Cragg
Barb Dampman
Yolanda Dickson
Victor Garcia
Pattie Gunter
Ruth Jones-McClendon
Ida Kenny, Emeritus
Ernie Lopez
Barry Muth
Victoria Palm
Nancy Rheams
Marolyn Stubblefield
J. Elaine Talarski
Valerie Taylor
Jimmy Toubin
Lucille Wohlfarth

Staff Members Present

Laura Ledesma
Robert Gamboa
Nellie Garay
Nick Monreal
Gale Murden
Martha Ramirez
Martha Spinks
Paula Wanken

Alternates Present

Sue Bell for Elaine Talarski
Steve Saldana for Barb Dampman
Alice Rose Kennedy
Sue Ellen Lewis

Guests Present

Cyndy & Terry Bartelli, \$5Dining
Erin Knapp, RLTV
Oscar Garcia, SS Admin.
Nettie Karosi, Jordan Health Care Inc.

1. Meeting Called to Order by George Walton – Chair.
2. Roll Call by Ruth Garcia – Secretary. A quorum was established.
3. Citizens to be Heard:
 - A. Cyndy Bartelli, \$5 Dining co-founder – presented information regarding inexpensive dining-out meal options for seniors: www.5dollardining.com.
 - B. Erin Knapp, RLTV Business Development Associate – presented information regarding Retirement Living TV and asked for any volunteers to sign letters to be sent to cable companies to request RLTV programming to be included in their services. For more information on programming visit www.rl.tv.
 - C. Oscar Garcia, Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist – presented upcoming changes to Medicare Prescription Assistance eligibility criteria. All information regarding changes are on a fact-sheet publication that can be found

online at www.socialsecurity.gov. There is also a four-minute video that is available online to have the changes explained in an audio/visual format. The best way to apply for assistance is to complete the online form—a much more immediate response is given.

4. The Minutes of August 14, 2009 were reviewed. Upon review and consideration, Ed Dylla made a motion for approval; Donald Moye seconded; with no further discussion, the motion carried.
5. Chairperson's Report – George Walton.

BSAC Retreat

George opened the floor to suggestions/discussion/input regarding a BSAC Retreat:

- Information regarding the breadth of ACOG programs to be a better-informed representative of the agency.
- Discussion regarding goals of each subcommittee—determine if expanded role is needed, or even additional subcommittees.
- Strategic planning – desire to see BSAC and the subcommittees functioning more proactively vs. reactionary.
- Getting to know one another on the Committee – being able to draw on strengths/contacts of one another.
- Length/timeframe/frequency for retreat:
 - All day in order to cover all of the topics.
 - Full-day is hard for members who have other full-time commitments.
 - Five hours can be an effective length if 1 p.m. through dinner; gives members opportunity to be at their office half-day.
 - Saturday could be an option to allow for fewer distractions.
 - Have retreats on a regular basis to allow for consistency when members are cycling off the BSAC.
 - Recommended that first retreat be prior to January, when members are leaving and new ones are coming on.

George asked members to be prepared to share additional thoughts at the October meeting.

BSAC Mailouts

In order to conserve paper and postage costs, Chairman George Walton asked that all members report which format they prefer to receive BSAC mailings in—with e-mail being his preference—to Paula Wanken, Bexar AAA Administrative Assistant.

6. Director's Report – Martha Spinks, Bexar AAA Director, reported on the following:
 - A Falls Prevention Workshop for area providers was held September 10, 2009, in response to the Texas House Bill declaring September 21-25 as Falls Prevention Week. The sixth most common cause of death for seniors is falls-related injuries. Bexar AAA and Alamo AAA collaborated and assembled a toolkit of activities these providers could use with their clients.
 - A Regional Transportation Workshop was held August 20, 2009. Many great services and programs can be offered—but if clients are not able to get to them,

they will do no good—transportation is key. As a byproduct of the workshop, Bexar AAA has been able to assemble a grid of transportation providers that can be used by seniors to identify options for their transportation needs. This grid will be printed in senior directories.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Access and Assistance – no report.

B. Allocations and Monitoring – Chairman Ed Dylla reported.

- Ed Dylla made a motion for approval of the proposed FY 2010 Subcontractor Rates and Vendor List, Donald Moye seconded. Discussion followed regarding:
 - Question about why rates were different from one vendor to the next in the same service area. Bexar AAA Contract & Care Services Coordinator Gale Murden explained that the rates vary because the program size varies from one provider to the next, which means varying costs to operate each program.
 - Concern that City funding of programs is not increasing. Gale explained that the City is flat funding programs and Bexar AAA does what it can with those funds.
 - Need for increased competition for the City for the services they offer. Perhaps this will happen when the contract with the City is renewed.
 - “Case-by-case” as a contract rate doesn’t allow for a very informed decision by BSAC—the request was made for an average to be included. Gale responded by explaining that the variance in dollar amount between a small durable goods medical item and a large item is too great to identify a single amount, but an average could be included in the future. Without further discussion, the motion carried (Dean Murphy, Steve Saldana, Sharon Baughman, and Sue Bell abstained).

C. Family Caregiver Support – Nellie Garay, Bexar AAA staff liaison to the subcommittee reported.

- 2009 Grandfamilies Event to be held Saturday, September 19, 2009, at the YWCA on Castroville Road.
- No comments or questions regarding the written report as submitted.

D. Information, Special Events – no report.

E. Long Term Care Services – Donald Moye, Chair, reported.

- Written report was reviewed.
- Nick Monreal, Bexar AAA Managing Local Ombudsman, presented a brief report on the Goodwill’s Good Careers Academy and the Alamo College’s Healthcare Academy.
- No comments or questions regarding the report.

F. Nominations/Bylaws and Legislative – no report.

8. Alamo Service Connection (ASC) Steering Committee – Sterling Neuman, Chairman, reported.

In addition to the written report, Sterling added:

- The marketing subcommittee has been meeting to develop a “case for giving”, and will have more meetings prior to the next BSAC meeting.
- There has been a site visit in connection to the Weinberg Grant—the Alamo Service Connection has been identified as a key component in getting the word out to the community regarding Alamo TeleConnect. Transportation could be added in the future.
- Anyone interested in doing some work for Alamo Service Connection and wants to be on the Steering Committee should contact Sterling.
- No comments or questions regarding the report.

9. Next Meeting Date: Friday, October 9, 2009, 10 a.m.

10. There being no further business, Dorothy Jo Weiss made a motion for adjournment, Sharon Baughman seconded; the motion carried.