

# Utah Commission on Aging

## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014

**Time:** 12:00-1:30 PM

**Location:** Alta Club 100 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Attended = x	INVITED ATTENDEES	REPRESENTING
	<b>Members</b>	
X	Marion Davies on behalf of Karla Aguirre (proxy for Jon Pierpont)	Utah Department of Workforce Services
X	Representative Stewart Barlow	Utah House of Representatives
X	Barry Burton	UT Association of Counties
Excused	Michael S. Cupello	Public Safety Sector
Excused	Spencer Eccles	Gov's Office of Economic Development
X	Carol George (proxy for Spencer Eccles)	Governor's Office of Economic Development
X	Danny Harris (proxy for Alan Ormsby)	Aging Advocacy Organizations
X	Nels Holmgren (proxy for Ann Silverberg Williamson)	Department of Human Services
Absent	Gary Kelso	Long-Term Care
Excused	William (Bill) Knowles	UT Transportation
Excused	Tracey Larson	Financial Institutions
X	Alan K. Ormsby, JD	AARP, Aging Advocacy Organizations
X	Ivoni Nash for O. Fahina Tavake Pasi	Ethnic Minorities
Excused	David Patton	Utah Department of Health
X	Anne Palmer Peterson (Executive Director)	Utah Commission on Aging
Excused	Robert Rolfs, MD (proxy for David Patton)	Utah Department of Health
Excused	Senator Brian Shiozawa, M.D.	Utah Senate
Excused	Mary Street	Business Community
X	Mark Supiano, M.D.	Higher Education
X	Frances (Fran) Wilby	Charitable Organizations
Excused	Nate Talley (proxy for Kristin Cox)	Gov's Office of Management and Budget
Excused	Ann Silverberg Williamson	Department of Human Services
X	Troy Wilson, JD	Legal Profession
X	Bette Vierra	General Public
	<b>Guests</b>	
X	Mayor Ron Bigelow [member applicant]	West Valley City
X	Kristy Cottrell [member applicant]	AAA Davis Co./ UT AAA
X	Karen Hale	SL Mayor's Office
X	Shawn McDonough	SL Mayor's Office
Excused	Donna Russell	Office of the Public Guardian
X	Tim Tomer	Liberty Senior Center, Salt Lake County
	<b>Staff</b>	
X	Holly Abel	Program Coordinator, UT Commission on Aging (UCOA)
X	Jennifer Morgan	Program Manager, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
X	Rhonda Hypio	Program Coordinator ADRC

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Luncheon, Minutes Approval - Anne P.**

12:00 - 12:25 PM

Alan Ormsby motioned to approve the December minutes. Motion was seconded by Fran Wilby. The December minutes were unanimously approved.

**Bill: Medicaid Expansion** is the number one priority during this legislative session. The Supreme Court determined that States cannot be forced to cover the Medicaid expansion below 138% of the poverty level. The State has been studying this and making proposals. There is cost savings to the Medicare program when people receive ongoing, uninterrupted insured medical care. There is confusion regarding whether our state will move forward. The governor will be making the final decision. The first 3 years 100% is funded by the Federal Government, but an appropriation still needs to be made. The House is coming up with a proposal now.

**Bill HJR14: “Joint Resolution on Caregivers”** 365,000 hours of care are being provided per year for state residents by their caregivers. It is important that our state gives support to the home health care givers. Most people prefer to age in their homes with the help of their family. The numbers were based on a representative sample survey.

**Bill: SB14 “Long-Term Care Partnership”** This bill encourages people to plan for their future by creating an incentive for individuals to purchase long-term care insurance and estate protection. This would offer a large savings to the Medicaid program. Utah is one of only six states who have not yet enacted this partnership program.

**Bill: HB 267 “Aging and Adult Services Amendments”**. This legislation is often referred to as the ‘Elder Abuse Bill’. It will put current Adult Protective Services authority in statute which will allow them to investigate suspected cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

**Bill: HB 244 “Voting and Voter Registration Amendments”** – This bill would prohibit Utahns from voting in state and local elections unless they provide proof of citizenship upon registration. A recent study showed that 7% of American citizens do not have ready access to US passports, naturalization papers or birth certificates. By this criterion alone, this would create a barrier for over 121,000 Utah citizens to address a problem that we don’t actually know exists. The approval of this bill could be of particular serious detriment to our seniors who often do not have their documentation.

**Budget** issues were touched upon. The Medicaid Expansion needs additional funding, in order to move forward with its programming. Renewal of Caregiving funding for Area Agencies on Aging which was approved last year, but seeks renewal this year. Of particular note were the Adult Protective Services funding for an additional \$250,000 appropriation which would greatly help this already underfunded program. Also, the Home and Community-Based Services funding for important programs that allow seniors to age in place as they desire.

### **Issues to Watch**

#### **Air Quality, Payday Lending Regulation, Campaign Financing, and Utilities**

**Loan Repayment Program** through the Office of Rural Health – An Amendment was passed to expand the program for all Geriatric Healthcare Providers and in all areas. That was successful with the support of David Sundwall. The Commission scored a victory passing that amendment. Unfortunately the program has been unfunded for several years but Rep. Tim Cosgrove has submitted a \$300,000 one-time request to executive appropriations to fund the program this year. ,

**Mayor Bigelow** asked a question about Commission advocacy of bills. Anne explained that in the past we have advocated and even proposed bills. Addressing the entire body, she asked “Are any of these bills particularly useful for the Commission to officially support going forward?”

**Mark Supiano:** Proposed the Commission formally advocate for the Loan Repayment Bill

**Danny Harris:** Encouraged the Commission to support HJR 14 “Joint Resolution on Caregivers”

**Anne** queried Rep. Barlow on how we might best support the list.

**Rep. Barlow** suggested:

1. Be focused as a group and a committee on a list
2. Have a day on the hill and talk to your representatives. Make a contact tomorrow at Senior Day. Tomorrow they register at the State office building at 9 am and at 10 am it begins. The Capitol building tour begins at about 11 am. Rotunda Lunch at 12 noon with invited Legislators. Anne and Rhonda Hypio will be attending this event tomorrow.

**Rep. Barlow** mentioned another bill not listed called the “Nanny-Cam” bill which is being presented to allow family members to place a camera to watch a loved one in care centers.

**Mark Supiano** moved that the Commission goes on record to formally support the HJR 14

Motion was seconded by **Alan Ormsby**.

**Commission Members Voted Unanimously** to advocate for funding of the Workforce Loan Repayment Act and “Joint Resolution on Caregivers”.

**Alan Ormsby** mentioned a bill for next year to keep an eye on which will allow additional funding for aging related programs. The number and name for that bill will be assigned next year.

### 3. Report on Meeting with Lt. Governor Cox – Anne P.

12:40 - 12:50 PM

ePOLST update: **Bette Vierra** and **Troy Wilson** were thanked for their participation on the most recent meetings.

**Lt. Governor Cox** was very interested and receptive about the aging issues in the state and the Commission’s goals. He is particularly interested in Options Counselling, and state-wide help for aging veterans and all others.

**Marion Davies** – mentioned an “Older Workers Guide” created by DWS. There is a gap in the workshops the DWS offer. A lot of them are saying there is a barrier due to their age and lack of knowledge of technology. Workshops are offered in many locations. A computer skills workshop is being offered. It is available online. They are working on sharing the link and getting the news out. **Holly** will get the link from Marion for the website and share with members. There is a pilot program running with Veterans on Unemployment Insurance – a majority of people who are veterans are also older workers. A primary goal is to get them employed at age 50+. They have a high placement rate.

**Alan Ormsby** would be happy to get the word out to AARP about the Older Workers Guide and DWS workshops through their newsletter, Facebook, etc. Marion will contact him.

**Anne** suggested that **Marion** make a list of top employers who frequently hire the older workers

#### **4. Planning for Utah Intergovernmental Roundtable, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12:50 PM - 1:10 PM

At the last meeting it was proposed 2 hours would be devoted to discuss changing aging dynamics at the Roundtable. Organizers would like us to focus on healthcare, housing and transportation issues. Also a request to look into presenting mental health issues for aging. What does the Commission feel should be proposed?

**Fran Wilby:** College of Social Work has been examining needs of people 55+ on caregiving, housing, and transportation. They have new data now and they would be willing to present. Mark Supiano encouraged the researchers to present data in a poster at the upcoming Center on Aging research retreat.

**Jen Morgan:** A new ADRC Funding Opportunity for 2014 was announced by Administration for Community Living (ACL), more details will be available in April. Utah ADRC's funding began in 2009, we will be completing our 5<sup>th</sup> year in September. Ultimately, the Utah ADRC would like to cover 100% of the State, though until this future funding is detailed, the ADRC Program office will wait to pursue additional sites.

**Fran Wilby:** Neighbors Helping Neighbors program has had 3 referrals to Adult Protective Services for financial exploitation of elderly people they are helping. The APS has very limited resources to help these people.

**Nels Holmgren:** Suggested we need to present demographic data on Utah's aging population, such as Pam Perlich's presentation

The fastest growing exploitation crimes are financial crimes against elderly. Adult Protective Services (APS) requires a lot of coordination with prosecutors and police. It should be noted that APS cannot remove people from their homes or protect like Child Protective Services (CPS).

**Nels** also mentioned that there is another Caregiver Resolution on the table to help people remain in their homes and age in place.

#### **5. Upcoming Meetings / Location discussion**

1:10 – 1:20 PM

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30 PM at the new Salt Lake County Public Safety building. 475 S 300 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

#### **6. Other Business from Commission Members**

1:20 - 1:30 PM

**Urban Land Institute** – Breakfast Meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30 am – 10 am. They are bringing in a national speaker. The cost will probably be around \$25. **Anne** will send an email link to this event once it is available.

**Jen Morgan:** VA Options Counselling Update. There is a Readiness Assessment taking place through a national study. 50 sites are contracting with the VA. The Utah program is slotted to begin at

Mountainland/Orem Area. Veterans can be referred to create a self-directed plan and stay in their own home and not have to go to a care center.

## 7. Meeting Adjourned

1:30 PM

### **2014 Meeting Schedule for Utah Commission on Aging**

Bi-monthly meetings are held from 12-1:30 PM unless noted. Upcoming dates and locations:

- **April 9<sup>th</sup> - Salt Lake City Public Safety Building** 475 S 300 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
- **June 11<sup>th</sup> – Tenth East Senior Center** - 237 S 1000 East Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
- **August 13<sup>th</sup> - Utah State Capitol**, East Senate Building, Spruce Room 350 N. State Street, SLC, UT 84114
- **October 15<sup>th</sup> - TBA**
- **December 10<sup>th</sup> - TBA**

### **Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

## **Center on Aging 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Retreat**

*"Successful Aging: Years to Life and Life to Years"*

**March 24-25, 2014**

University of Utah Guest House Conference Center - 110 Fort Douglas Blvd, Salt Lake City, UT 84113

- **Monday March 24 – 3:00 – 6:00 PM - Poster Session**
- **Tuesday March 25 – 8:00 am – 12:00 PM – Keynote Speaker and Symposia**  
Keynote given by: Dr. Diana Kuh, Professor of Life Course Epidemiology at University College London, and director of the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, and the MRC National Survey of Health and Development. In addition to Dr. Kuh, there will be six symposia topics to choose from.

Event is free of charge – Please register at [www.aging.utah.edu](http://www.aging.utah.edu)

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