

**Minutes**  
**Alamo Area Council of Governments**  
**Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**July 10, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Lopez, Chairperson  
Patrice Doerries, Vice Chairperson  
Denise Usener, Secretary  
Coral Adema  
Veronica Arriaga  
Judge Diana Bautista  
Barbara Effenberger  
Brenda Engelmann  
Dr. Robert Fitzgerald  
Kelley Gallant  
John Green  
Lisa Loya  
Beverly Lutz  
Genevieve Manley  
Richard Muzquiz  
Eleanor Preston  
Marlene Richter  
Irene Scholz  
Raymond White  
Opal Word

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Sara Pichardo for Judge Carlos Garcia

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Regina Applewhite  
Billie Bell  
Marilyn Bullock  
Christine Cervera  
Darlene Evans  
Angela Fiedler  
Ginny Funk  
Carolyn Goodall  
JoAnn McFarland  
Lucille Rochs  
Michele Thacker  
Pam Thatcher  
Tina Woods

**GUESTS**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Deborah Billa  
Julie Sakelakos  
Alvin Arada  
Evangeline Diaz  
Henri Eaton  
Dan Goetz  
Linnie Martin  
Nelda Rodriguez  
Suzanne Ruff  
Annabelle Vazquez  
Candy Walsh  
Maria Wilson  
Wes Zernial

1. Robert Lopez called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Roll call was taken by Denise Usener and a quorum was established.
3. There were no citizens to be heard.
4. Opal Word moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2009. Ray White seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Nancy Dunn Thompson, Ph.D., Director of the Elizabeth McGown Training Institute gave a presentation on her organization. The institute provides instruction and training to caregivers on a variety of topics. Over 80 free videos are available on their website: [mmLearn.org](http://mmLearn.org)

They are sponsoring a Spirituality & Aging Conference on September 19, 2009 at 9:00 am at Our Lady of the Lake. The cost is \$10 and there are only 125 seats available, if you are interested go online to [mmlearn.org](http://mmlearn.org). She also passed out a bookmark with their information.

6. Debbie Billa highlighted her Director's Report that was in the mailout:
  - 2010 Texas Conference on Aging: Alamo AAA, DADS, T4A, TAAP will be Hosting this conference which will be held in Kerrville on March 21-24, 2010 at the Inn of the Hills Resort. More information regarding this conference will be coming soon.
  - Award Presentation: An Award presented to the Alamo AAA by the Department of Aging and Disability Services was presented to Henri Eaton for all her hard work during Hurricane season last year.
  - N4A Livable Communities Workshop was very interesting and brought many new ideas on how to make communities more livable for everyone but with an emphasis on seniors.

7. Staff Reports

Maria Wilson of Care Coordination and Caregiver Support reported again that there were many requests for income support for utility bills this past and current month. They have been doing many assessments in most of the counties for air conditioners. There are many organizations that are helping with fans, such as Comal Senior Center who has given out over 100 box fans. The Kerrville Coalition stated that they did not have many requests for help and Veronica Arriaga from Wilson County stated that they were contacting the utility company so they would not turn off electricity to seniors. Sara Pichardo from Charlotte thanks Alamo AAA fro the air conditioning units in their area. Maria also thanks everyone who brought school supplies for her Grandparents Raising Grandchildren project.

Dan Goetz of Access and Intake thanked Wesley Zernial for his time working with Alamo AAA and wished him well as he will be working for the San Antonio Food Bank. He then went over his handout on Legal Assistance and Legal Awareness contacts for Alamo AAA. Dan also stated that Open Enrollment starts on November 15, 2009 and asked for host sites for Benefit Counseling.

Linnie Martin, Ombudsman, stated that there will be a new Ombudsman Awareness Campaign starting soon and also they have a new logo. She stated that she and her staff have come up with a plan to recruit new Ombudsman volunteers in all of our 11 counties.

8. Consider and act upon FY09 Budget Amendment for the Alamo Area Agency on Aging. Debbie Billa stated that we need this budget amendment because we did not receive our funding until June. Judge Diana Bautista moved to approve the FY09 Budget Amendment. Opal Word seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Consider and act upon new vendors for the Alamo Area Agency on Aging. Debbie Billa stated that what is being proposed is to implement a new evidence-based medication management system that was developed by Partners in Care in California. This system will enable our care coordination staff to enter the medication taken by their clients into an automated system (RTZ Vendor Agreement), which will review the medications taken and send out alerts for possible contraindications. Then the University of Incarnate Word Feike School of Pharmacy (separate Vendor Agreement) will review and interpret the findings. Marlene Richter moved to approve these new vendors. Dr. Bob Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Consider and act upon ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Baptist Health Foundation for implementation of the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program. Barbara Effenberger moved to approve ratifying the submission to the Baptist Health Foundation. Judge Diane Bautista seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Consider and act upon appointment of two members from the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee to the Alamo Area Development Corporation Advised Fund Committee. This item was tabled.
12. The next meeting date of September 11, 2009 was announced.
13. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.