



Funded through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Alamo Area Council of Governments

Minutes of the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Alamo Area Council of Governments

November 15, 2005 – 1:00 p.m.

AACOG Board Room
8700 Tesoro Dr., Ste 100, San Antonio, TX 78217
(210) 362-5200 / (866) 231-4922

Members

Linda Lee Davis, present	Carol Smith, absent	Beverly Lutz, present
Ginny Funk, present	Darlene Evans, absent	Carolyn Stauss, present
Carolyn Goodall, excused	Cheryl Bush, present	Denise Usener, excused
John Halloran, present	Linda Gonzales, absent	Pamela Vann, excused
Genevieve Manley, absent	Charles Donellan, present	Tina Woods, present
Judge Diana Bautista, excused	Regina Applewhite, excused	Glen Peterson, present
Raymond White, absent	Becky Byerly, excused	Barbara Effenberger, present
Bonnie Flagg, excused	Sherilynn Vineyard, present	JoAnn McFarland, present
Irma Gonzalez, excused	Robert Lopez, excused	
Ysabela Pena, excused	Laura Tuttle, present	

Guests/Visitors

Opal Word, Bandera County

Staff

Gloria Arriaga
Debbie Billa
Carol Zernial
Julie Sakelakos
Evangeline Avena

Suzanne Ruff
Nanci Struble
Candy Walsh
Maria Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Carolyn Stauss called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carolyn Stauss welcomed members and guests. Carolyn introduced Debbie Billa as the new Director for the Alamo Area Agency on Aging. Carol Zernial will be the new Director of the Bexar Area Agency on Aging.

III. ROLL CALL

Charles Donellan took roll call. Thirteen (13) members were present.

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Glen Peterson moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2005. John Holloran seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carol Zernial thanked the committee for their support during her short time as Director of Alamo Aging.

Debbie Billa discussed her background with the Texas Department of Human Services where she retired from in August 2003. She was previously the Director of the Bexar Area Agency on Aging. Debbie had handouts for legislation in Congress as well as a handout on Guidance for Organizations Providing Personalized Assistance for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. She stated there is a website that lists all plans for Texas at www.medicare.gov.

VII. REPORTS

A. RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION LIAISON

Beverly Lutz stated that they have been concerned about the fuel prices and have discussed this issue with TXDOT who is working on a program to see if they can help.

B. TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATORS (TSHL)

Barbara Effenberger spoke on the booklet they have developed regarding senior issues called "Many Voices" which can be obtained on the DADS website as www.dads.state.tx.us. She thanked everyone for their contributions to the Conference on Aging. She also stated that they are currently recruiting new members for the TSHL. Membership is at an all time low. She asked that if anyone had an interest or knew of anyone interested, to please contact her or any of the TSHL members.

Glen Peterson who is the chairman of the State Affairs Committee stated he discussed the reduction of funding to the AAAs and they will be investigating this issue.

C. ALAMO AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM REPORTS

- **CAREGIVER/CARE COORDINATION**
- **OMBUDSMAN**
- **MEDICARE/MEDICAID**

Maria Wilson stated that Alvin Arada has been hired to fill the Care Coordinator vacancy in her department and he will be starting on November 29. The written reports were sent in packets. No questions were asked of the staff.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY06 OFFICERS

Carolyn Stauss listed the nomination committee's slate of officers as follows: Chairperson-Charles Donellan, Vice Chairperson-Ginny Funk, Secretary-Bonnie Flagg. Cheryl Bush moved to approve the FY06 Officers. Glen Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. FY06 Members

Barbara Effenberger moved to approve Charles Donellan for another 3-year term. JoAnn McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. APPROVAL OF NEW VENDORS

Ginny Funk moved to approve the two (2) new vendors. Sheril Vineyard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. RATIFY ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ACCESS TO BENEFITS COALITION TO ENROLL LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE.

Tina Woods moved to ratify acceptance of additional grant funds from the Access to Benefits Coalition to enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in the Prescription Drug Coverage. Laura Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Tina Woods discussed the Dietert Senior Center's new fundraising Calendar (prominent community personalities on motorcycles) for their Capital Campaign. This calendar can be purchased at www.dietertseniorcenter.org.

Linda Lee Davis reminded everyone about the 3rd Annual Heirloom Appraisal Day, a fundraiser for the San Antonio Lighthouse, on November 19 at 10:30 at the Airport Convention Center.

Ginny Funk of the Alzheimer's Association announced that Robin Daley will represent the Alzheimer's Association as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. She also stated that November is National Alzheimer's Month and there will be the 5th Annual Memory Walk on November 5 in Pleasanton. These walks are not only to raise money but also to raise awareness about the disease. On November 29 they will be holding a Candlelight Ceremony at the University of Incarnate Word to honor those with the disease and those that they have left behind. They are starting a new program, which are support groups over the phone for those caregivers who are unable to leave their loved ones to attend a meeting.

Charles Donellan thanked Carolyn Stauss for her term as chairperson for the committee.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Friday, December 9, in the AACOG Boardroom.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Carolyn Stauss adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Carolyn Stauss, Chairperson

Date