

Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Meeting

Inyo County Sheriff's Administrative Center
550 Clay Street
Independence, CA

April 2, 2014

Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present: *Roger Rasche, Rachel Lober, Phyllis Mikalowsky, Mary Jefferson, Matt Kingsley*

Other Attendees: *Jean Turner, Gina Ellis, Marilyn Mann, Denelle Carrington, Keri Oney, Krista Cooper, Artie Clark, Denise Muniz, Eddie Muniz, Bill Lutze, Megan Foster, Kathy Peterson*

1. Call to Order of the Advisory Council

Chairperson Roger Rasche called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

The Chairperson announced the public comment period. Chairperson Rasche commented on the letter that had been received from the Mono County Board of Supervisors dated March 4, 2014, saying that he appreciated that the Mono Board had taken the time to send the letter. Mrs. Denise Muniz addressed the Advisory Council, saying that she had been a cook with the IMAAA and now ESAAA program for 22 years. She spoke about some of the cost savings ideas that she had made including, billing people who attend congregate meals, having someone watch the money box, cutting meal deliver days, cutting costs on type of food that is ordered, and doing regular inventory. She went on to say that the cook staff knows their clients, and their specific food needs. Artie Clark asked what the status was on grant writing. Jean Turner responded by saying that the grant with the California Wellness Foundation would be ending soon, and that ESAAA senior program was ineligible because of having received the grant for two back-to-back years. Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley spoke about the Board of Supervisors decisions that they are faced with. Jean Turner said the commitment is not make decisions in the dark, and that she would be taking proposals forward to the Board of Supervisors in May. Denise Muniz added that the County of Inyo needs to implement a better recycling system, or people dumping in the desert will increase.

3. Approval of minutes from January 29, 2014 meeting

Roger Rasche requested that "keep things the way they are" be added to the ideas that had been proposed in section 5, Possible Ideas to Explore. A motion was made by Phyllis Mikalowsky, and seconded by Rachel Lober to approve the minutes of January 29, 2014, with the requested addition. There was no objection to the motion; motion carried.

4. Program Report: Marilyn Mann

Services in Inyo & Mono

Marilyn Mann, ESAAA Program Director distributed the ESAAA Program Services Report for Inyo and Mono Counties for the period of July 1, 2013 through January

31, 2014. She said that some of the numbers may be slightly off, but that the information going to the State is accurate. She is hopeful that the reporting system may be corrected by next meeting. She went on to say that the Ombudsman program being in-house has been great, and that the State has provided very positive feedback. She informed the group that the date for the 2nd quarter of California Indian Legal Services report should be December 31, 2013 not 2012. She went on to say that interviews would be held on May 9th for the supervisor position for the Lone Pine Senior Site and Employment and Eligibility program. She said that it has been very challenging to fill the vacant Program Services Assistant positions in Lone Pine, but that a new person was starting soon. She added that Debbie Walden was retiring from the Bishop Senior Program, and that Krista Cooper would begin providing oversight at the location, along with HHS Assistant Director, Linda Benson. She reported that the Big Pine Town Hall would be closed from April 7 – April 30, 2014 for building improvements. The meals for that community would be served at the Big Pine Methodist Church during the time of closure. She thanked Megan Foster from the Mono County senior program for her participation in a recent annual monitoring visit. Roger Rasche asked about client transport, and whether or not it was available for the Lone Pine seniors. Marilyn replied that there was someone there who could provide that service, and that someone could also be pulled from another site if need be.

5. Public Hearing on the Proposed Area Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Chairperson Rasche opened the Public Hearing at 10:41 a.m. Jean Turner stated that this was the time for people to provide input and have their comments captured to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting the following Tuesday. She spoke about the draft Area Plan Update that was attached to the agenda, noting that anything that was changed from the prior year's update was highlighted in yellow. She said this was nothing in the plan about the changes to the food program, since everything was still in the discussion phase, and nothing had been decided. Artie Clark asked if he could receive a copy of the original Area Plan. The plan is due to the State by May 1st. Marilyn Mann reported on the changes that she had made to the plan such as a training Inyo and Mono Counties staff participated in on Healthy Ideas, which is a program that identifies seniors who are having depression symptoms, and connects them with a staff person to create a plan of action. This information was in the Title III-D Health Promotion section. Jean Turner spoke about an Adult Services Nurse that would be available to do some in-home assessments to help offset some costs, since the Site Managers had done them before. She added that this position was not linked to the Area Plan. There was a brief discussion on the number of delivered meals versus frozen. Chairperson Rasche closed the Public Hearing at 10:59 a.m.

6. Recommendation to Governing Board for Approval of Area Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, with any modifications for Public Hearing input

A motion was made by Mary Jefferson and seconded by Phyllis Mikalowsky to recommend approval of the draft Area Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 as presented to the Governing Board; there was no opposition to the motion, motion carried.

7. Senior Legislature Representative

Jean Turner spoke about the Senior Legislature Representative and distributed the single application that was received during the open recruitment period. The application was submitted by Richard Cervantes. A secret ballot vote was conducted with the five Advisory Council members. The votes were collected and read aloud. The results were 4-YES and 1-ABSENTION. Ms. Turner said that Richard Cervantes

would be appointed to the position for a 4-year term, and that her office would inform him of the outcome of today's meeting.

8. Planning for future funding reductions; looking at options – update

Jean Turner said that she would be conducting a workshop with the Board of Supervisors and that she would give the Advisory Council advance notice of the date once it had been determined.

9. Advisory Council Membership Appointments

Gina Ellis gave an update on the status of Advisory Council membership appointments saying that there were currently four vacancies on the Council, and that four people had submitted letters of interest. She added that the recruitment would close on April 7, 2014, and should be ready to go before the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2014.

10. 2014 meeting dates and locations

The 2014 meeting dates were reviewed. Jean Turner noted that there may need to be a meeting in May before the workshop with the Board of Supervisors that would strictly be regarding the General Fund.

- May – there is a possibility that a meeting may be needed in May
- July 16, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. in Mammoth
- October 29, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. in Lone Pine

11. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.