

# Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Meeting

Mono County Board of Supervisors Room  
452 Old Mammoth Rd.  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

**July 10, 2013**

## **Minutes**

Advisory Council Members Present: *Jim Copeland, Roger Rasche, Rachel Lober, Selma Calnan, Saul Sanabria, Phyllis Mikalowsky*

Other Attendees: *Jean Turner, Gina Ellis, Marilyn Mann, Denelle Carrington, Keri Oney, Kathy Peterson, Megan Foster, Fred Stump*

---

### **1. Call to Order of the Advisory Council**

Chairperson Jim Copeland called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Jean Turner, HHS/ESAAA Director, reported that there would be community presentations on Medi-Cal Managed Care coming to Inyo County. She informed the group that representatives from Anthem Blue Cross of California and California Health and Wellness would be giving their presentations on July 17, 2013, at Statham Hall in Lone Pine at 9:30 a.m., and at the Bishop Senior Center at 1:00 p.m. She added that they would also be giving their presentations in Tecopa at the Community Center on July 25, 2013. She said that these presentations would be helpful to the community, and also give the providers an opportunity to see the service area. She added that there were still many questions to answered, and that these sessions would provide a good forum for people to ask those questions.

Fred Stump, Mono County Supervisor, gave an update on the progress of Digital 395 and the potential of having the ability to video conference with the Walker Community Center. It was his understanding that there would be a drop at the site, and that video conferencing would be possible in the future.

Jim Copeland, ESAAA Advisory Council Chair, reported that he had visited the Walker Senior Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and that it was awesome! The group agreed that it was a model program that is highly successful.

### **3. Approval of minutes from April 3, 2013 meeting**

Motion Roger Rasche, seconded by Phyllis Mikalowsky to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Program Report: Marilyn Mann**

#### Services in Inyo & Mono

Marilyn Mann, ESAAA Program Director reported on the Program Services Report for Inyo and Mono Counties for the period of July 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013 that was included in the meeting packet. She said that the report was for both counties, and was not county specific. She went over the information in the report, noting that the numbers for services in Benton were included in the Walker numbers because Benton is not a designated site with the State California Department of

Aging. She informed the group that she would be holding a meeting on respite care services in Mono County on July 23, 2013. She explained that homemaker services were not part of the report, because each County provides their own homemaker services.

#### Ombudsman Services

Marilyn said that she was happy to report that Keri Oney was now recognized as the new Ombudsman Coordinator. She said that Keri is in the long-term care facilities weekly, and offers trainings to staff such as mandated reporting. She noted that the residential council had been reactivated at the Sterling Heights facility. Jean Turner welcomed, and thanked Keri. She added that in addition to being the Ombudsman Coordinator, Keri would be working as the volunteer coordinator for the Ombudsman program. Keri stated that although she works with the residents and the facilities, she is an advocate for the residents, adding that she can only do what the residents allow her to do. She said that the phone number for the program remains the same, (760)872-4128. Jim Copeland said he would like to thank Mono County senior program employee, Rick Williams for being a good pair of eyes for the seniors living in the Benton community. Kathy Peterson, Mono County Social Services Director, spoke about coordinating a meeting for Keri to attend a Mono County staff in-service to go over the Ombudsman program.

#### Legal Services

Marilyn reported that senior legal services were no longer being provided by Catherine Denevi, and that California Indian Legal Services had begun providing those services again.

### **5. Administrative Report:**

#### Allocation for FY 2013-14 - Denelle Carrington & Policy Issues – Jean Turner

Denelle Carrington, HHS/ESAAA Fiscal Director handed out three documents; *Area Plan Budget Display Allocation Differences from 12/13 to 13/14 Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging, Proposed FY 13/14 Cuts – ESAAA Final 13/14 Allocation, and Proposed FY 13/14 Cuts – ESAAA 13/14 Initial Proposed Allocation*. Jean Turner spoke about the initial funding cut of nearly \$150,000 reporting that she had been informed that the program would receive \$100,000 more that was originally projected. She spoke about efforts of local area representatives that had met with State Legislatures on the funding cuts. She said that her office received a revised allocation in June stating that they agency had received additional funding and was therefore revising the allocations, which resulted in additional funding for the local program. She explained that the Federal sequestration and State cuts would require a 3-month and a 9-month budget. There was discussion on future cuts and what could be done. Jean said that she and staff were working on scenarios for the Board. A comment was made that although the additional funding would help for this year, a proactive approach would need to be taken now to aid in decision making for next year. A suggestion was made to have a joint letter signed by both Inyo and Mono County Board Chairs be sent to the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), and start laying out an advocacy strategy in the fall to have a plan ready for the spring.

#### Hwy 6 Communities

Jean spoke about program staffing for the two counties saying that the each county had chosen to staff and take care of their own sites. She said that the Advisory Council had a history of giving good advice to the Board. Kathy spoke about the appeal of having meals for the Benton area come from Bishop, citing the benefit of home visits and hot meals. She stated that Mono County would still provide the staff to deliver the meals, but that the meals would be prepared by the kitchen staff at the Bishop Senior Center. Jean said that she would be conducting a workshop with the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and that this subject would be part of that discussion. When asked about volunteers, Jean replied that the county would love to

have a cadre of volunteers, but that was a policy decision for both Boards. There was discussion on volunteerism, and it was proposed that there be a meeting specifically on the subject at some point in the future. Supervisor Stump said he would be happy to write a letter to his Board in support of the idea of Inyo providing meals for the Benton area, saying that it would be cost effective and could improve services. Jean asked if there was a consensus from the group to change the services back to how they used to be? Advisory Council Member Rachel Lober, said the Bishop Senior Recreation Committee was working on a kitchen upgrade, and that there would be more freezer space. Jean noted that the Bishop Senior Recreation Committee was an example of great volunteerism. She added that they are a finely tuned, make-things-happen group.

**6. Discussion: outreach plan for over 60 Hispanic population**

This subject was carried over from the last meeting, and the efforts are on-going. A suggestion was made that it would be helpful to have someone who is bilingual help people complete the survey.

**7. Next meeting date to be confirmed – October 30, 2013 in Lone Pine**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the ESAAA Advisory Council would be held in Lone Pine on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.