

## DENVER COMMISSION ON AGING

Minutes – July 16, 2009

Present: Cecil Bethea, Jr., Juanita Rios-Johnston, Muriel Arvay, Dre' Dufford, Mary Madrid, Phyllis Hirshfeld, Sandi Armstrong, Chris Wanifuchi, Morris Price, Sr., Michelle Williams, Erin Kruse

Excused: Joe Halpern, Jamie Malone, Barbara Martin-Worley

Guests: Anthony Aragon, Kelly Blair Roberts, Michelle Halliburton, Bea Scott, Amy Quinn

TOPIC	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE/PLAN
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes were approved as corrected. (Jamie Malone's name was misspelled and corrected)	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnership Committee: Phyllis reported that cmte members are attending one meeting from each County Council on Aging. Five of seven have been visited and the remaining two will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The cmte will bring a report in August.</li> <li>- Outreach Committee: Mary reported that Jamie finished the business cards and she handed some out to all Commissioners and guests. Mary contacted Channel 8 about a PSA and is awaiting a response. Cmte is working on a poster/flier to advertise future meetings. This meeting is first meeting held out in the community; next will be in October, probably at Cook Park. Cecil mentioned that he attended an AARP health fair and through Benefits CheckUp learned he was eligible for a free fishing license. Anthony encouraged Commissioners to saturate areas around future meetings sites with information.</li> <li>- Advocacy Committee: Dre' reported that the cmte has been meeting with other advocacy organizations in existence (Pat Tunnel-formerly of Ombudsman Program; Pat Stanis) to learn how to be more effective with advocacy efforts. Anthony suggested the Older Americans Coalition and Colorado Senior Lobby. He will distribute the minutes from their meetings to Commissioners. Muriel also attends both of those meetings and reports back to cmte.</li> </ul>	
<b>Office on Aging Report – Anthony Aragon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is an intern in the office this summer who has updated the Elder Resource Guide. He has 1,000 printed copies left in office. Changes can be made to the electronic version and updated online. He will work with Partnership Cmte to make corrections and create a one page version.</li> <li>- King Trimble Senior Tea will be held Wed., July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11-1 at the City Park Pavilion hosted by Councilwoman Carla Madison.</li> <li>- Spring into Health went really well. He thanked Commissioners for active participation.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Office on Aging Report continued– Anthony Aragon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anthony serving on committee for Mayor’s Gala Ball. It will be Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Denver Convention Center.</li> <li>- There will be a District 4 Senior Resource Fair either Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> or Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8:30-12:00.</li> <li>- He is working with DHS at nine community centers to do direct constituent outreach beginning in August.</li> <li>- The City is starting the new fiscal year in a \$120M deficit based on next 18 months projection. The state is starting the new fiscal year \$954M in debt. He has heard that entire agencies within the state might be eliminated and there are ongoing concerns about job cuts at the City.</li> <li>- The Homestead senior tax exemption will be up again for cutting during the next legislative session.</li> <li>- Fern has been working with the Undersecretary of Agriculture to advocate for improving meals for seniors nationally. She has also been working with the State Department on Aging to reduce the food stamps program application from 27 pages to 2 pages. There is a pilot project in Denver and if it goes well it will be rolled out nationally.</li> <li>- Anthony commended the Commission for a job well-done.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Nominating Committee – Phyllis Hirshfeld</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are currently 5 vacancies on Commission.</li> <li>- Cmte is finalizing who can stay and who is term-limited. Anthony has provided a matrix of different constituent groups that we want to get involved. Currently there is one applicant. Cmte/Commission is seeking more seniors for involvement.</li> <li>- If you know someone who is interested send applications to Phyllis and Sandi who will review and pass on to Anthony.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phyllis will send out profile and application to Commissioners for wider distribution.</li> <li>- Anthony will post on website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Age Matters Initiative – Phyllis Hirshfeld</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lucia has done a good job of bringing senior issues to all City departments. The last act is to create a video of seniors exploring the impact that changes or future changes will have on their ability to be active and engaged in community. Assistance from DCoA is being sought to identify seniors willing to participate. A planning meeting will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Webb Building. Bring a sack lunch- 11:30-12:30. Contact Loreen Ferris at 720.913.8472 if interested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phyllis will let Jamie know so it can be added to calendar.</li> </ul>

<p><b>DRCOG – Kelly Blair Roberts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jayla is working on improving DRCOG’s reports to each County Council and will be providing the new reports soon.</li> <li>- Web-based directory update: there is a continuing effort to get service provider profiles collected and put into the database. A beta site will be ready later this summer. Sandi suggested that the database include an indicator if the service provider has received Project Visibility training.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community Questions and Input</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phyllis provided a DCoA overview for guests. She asked how they heard about the meeting. One guest heard about it through her Councilman and the other from the flier at the Montbello Rec Center. Bea Scott thanked group for meeting at Rec Center and asked how we advertise. She suggested reaching seniors through church bulletins and HOAs, as well as the Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. She said John Smith from the Far Northeast Newspaper would be another resource.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Service Provider Presentation – Dave Barnhart – City Attorney for Adult Protection Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Barnhart’s team consists of himself, 1 paralegal and 1 legal secretary. He practices strictly in the probate court for issues related to guardianship, conservatorship, wills, etc. It is a highly specialized arena.</li> <li>- There are 15 APS caseworkers in Denver who receive 120 calls per month. The APS intake hotline is 720.944.2994. They have increased their outreach activities lately.</li> <li>- Colorado does not require elder abuse reporting despite legal efforts to make it mandatory.</li> <li>- The goal of each case is to assist people in maintaining their independence but will go so far as obtaining guardianship. There are different response times for different situations.</li> <li>- The office is seeing an increase in financial exploitation by family members which requires a constant interface with the DA’s office and the Public Administrator’s office. They don’t deal with financial issues; they get help with them.</li> <li>- Denver not prepared for “silver tsunami.” Fewer and fewer nursing homes/assisted living facilities are accepting Medicaid patients. The mental health system is also unprepared.</li> <li>- What can you do? Make others aware of problems: doctors, bankers, lawyers, etc. If you notice a change in someone pay attention to it. Refer seniors to the Denver Probate Court for assistance with estate planning.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30</li> <li>Volunteers of America (2660 Larimer Street)</li> </ul>	