

# DENVER COMMISSION ON AGING

Minutes – 11.19.09

Present: Sandi Armstrong, Muriel Arvay, Joe Halpern, Phyllis Hirschfeld, Erin Kruse, Mary Madrid, Cecil Bethea, Morris Price, Sr, Juanita Rio-Johnston, Chris Wanifuchi, Joyce Butler, Bill Lundgren, Benita Muniz, Vicki Jordan, Michelle Williams

Excused: Fern Osborne, Jamie Malone, Dre’ Dufford

Guests: Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Chandra Matthews, Anthony Aragon, Loretta Martinez, Colette Lafosse, Carolyn H. Bluhm, Frank McGovern

TOPIC	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE/PLAN
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes were approved with two changes. The first was to change SCHIP to SHIP program on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> page, 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph. The second was to eliminate the sentence in the Advocacy Committee report that it is down to 2 members.	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<p>Three soon-to-be commissioners were introduced: Benita Muniz, Joyce Butler and Bill Lundgren.</p> <p><b>Advocacy Committee – Sandi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-AC “identifies issues affecting the quality of life for seniors in the City and County of Denver, works to increase awareness of the needs of seniors and advocates on their behalf.” Will update website to accurately reflect this revised statement and purpose. We need to make sure to communicate to Loretta when changes need to be made and provide correct content. Chris suggested making website an agenda item so Loretta knows at each meeting what changes to make. Anthony suggested it goes to Outreach Cmte.</li> <li>-Discussed proposed Zoning Changes for Living Streets. Currently gathering input on impact to seniors. Suggest inviting speaker to Commission meeting if DCOA is interested.</li> <li>-The Committee meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month 10-12 in the Malone Building (14<sup>th</sup> and Ogden). Going to summarize progress on 2009 activities.</li> <li>-Going to invite Mindy Barton, Director of Legal Services of the GLBT Community Center of Colorado, to upcoming meeting</li> <li>-The Committee had written a letter, which was approved by the Executive Committee, regarding enacted and potential budget cuts that would affect seniors on the state level. Anthony said letter was approved by Lucia and asked who it should be distributed to in addition to Governor (all legislators or just Denver officials?) Fern suggested that it was too late but that we save it as a template for future efforts. Sandi said it is frustrating to coordinate the process and it slows down the efforts. The Committee will decide whether or not to send the letter. Jayla commented that while the issue isn’t as hot as it was last month there is interest and value in sending it.</li> </ul>	

-Sandi said that the Committee learned during the last legislative session how quickly things move and decided to concentrate efforts on other advocacy areas because it is difficult to move fast enough. Anthony and Muriel attend CO Senior Lobby meetings and stay on top of issues.

-Chris said that by sending the letter the Commission is elevating its profile and letting people know we exist. Cecil asked why we can't write our legislators as individuals and the response was that we can. However, as individuals we must make a disclaimer that while we are Commissioners we aren't representing the Commission for that issue.

**Outreach Committee – Mary**

-Colette Lafosse, a new volunteer with the Committee, attended meeting.

-Next meeting is Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 at 1825 York. Must park on Gaylord.

-Focused discussion on outreach to other Commissions, how to get on Channel 8's calendar for PSA, how to get more seniors to attend meetings, outreach to different communities, and fundraising opportunities.

-Loretta shared that some Commissions are getting sponsorships from other organizations and money can run through City. DRCOG is planning on sending some funds to each County Council and is willing to sponsor events. DCOA has \$450 in budget that must be spent by end of December.

-Gala Ball – Cecil sent out 53 letters requesting donations. Anthony has received two rejection letters and 500 free coffee cards from McDonalds. December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Downtown in the Plaza Ballroom from 7-10 pm. Please let Mary know if you can attend.

**Partnership Committee – Phyllis**

-Goal for December is to establish relationships with other Commissions. Bill is going to be liaison with Disability Rights Commission and Muriel with Women's Commission. We are going to attend meetings to start conversation and let them know we can partner on issues affecting their communities and seniors.

-Anthony said that next year is 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA and will be working with Commission for People with Disabilities. Latino Comm is having a town hall in the first quarter of next year.

**Nominating Committee – Phyllis**

-Vice Chair position is still vacant and leads into Chair role. Let Phyllis or Sandi know if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

-Anthony suggested an orientation process for new commissioners. Phyllis and Sandi are working on that issue.

<p><b>Age Matters Initiative – Anthony Aragon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-City Agencies, City Council and Mayor’s Office have been looking at enhancements the City can make.</li> <li>-One example of the recommendations is to have a “bring your parent/grandparent to work” day next year. Every Monday in May next year they will be doing a fall prevention presentation at a senior/rec center. Going to be very collaborative in these outreach/education efforts.</li> <li>-Presenting recommendations to Mayor in December. If you have any suggestions let Anthony know. Goal is to make sure agencies are looking through a senior lens when making decisions. Asking Mayor for a liaison from every agency to represent aging issues.</li> <li>-One outcome of the Initiative is the creation of a Universal Design Advisory Board; another is the video interviewing seniors.</li> <li>-Morris asked how this will address the needs of Veterans. Anthony said that the plan is encompassing Veterans and not excluding their needs. Morris commented that there is a perception that the City of Denver has abdicated its responsibility to Veterans to the City of Aurora. Anthony suggested meeting with the City’s Veterans liaison.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Office on Aging Report – Anthony Aragon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Anthony is going to serve as Chair of DRCOG’s AAA Advisory Committee on Aging starting in January.</li> <li>-Anthony asked that we use the balance of the Commission’s funds to purchase gift cards for the Gala Ball. Sandi suggested that we utilize funds to book a facilitator for January’s retreat instead. Anthony said that Nita Henry has done an excellent job at other retreats he has attended.</li> <li>-Anthony has been meeting with Senior Law Day and is partnering in the planning.</li> <li>-Anthony and Benita met with Jeremy Bloom to learn more about his Wish of a Lifetime Foundation. Anthony has been invited to join the Board of Directors and he is going to partner with DA’s office to target low-income seniors.</li> <li>-CO Senior Lobby is doing a legislative kickoff on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pipefitters Union Hall at 6350 N. Broadway, 12-6 pm.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DRCOG – Chandra Matthews</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chandra’s responsibilities include ensuring contractors are in compliance with contracts and overseeing Information and Referral services.</li> <li>-DRCOG is the Area Agency on Aging and is responsible for assessing the strengths and needs of older adults, planning for those needs, and distributing OAO and State dollars for seniors.</li> <li>-Advisory Committee on Aging which has Funding Subcommittee (Joe is now chairing). The Funding Subcommittee is getting ready to release RFPs for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. In advance of that release, the ACA tries to understand the priority of needs in the community. The process used to include each County Council on Aging (in our case the Commission) reviewing every proposal but the feedback was inconsistent. Now they use a</li> </ul>	<p><b>Each Commissioner</b></p>

	<p>survey to understand needs in each County. Chandra distributed a copy of the survey and clarified some questions. <b>She has requested that each CCA compile results into one document. Needs compiled document by middle of December. Needs to be sent to Sandi by Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> so she can compile</b></p> <p>-There is a staffed, dedicated phone line for Information and Referral. Returns calls within hours. Makes “warm” transfer/referral by calling with client to referral agency.</p> <p>-Online database is being developed. It provides one consistent source with updated information for all staff and the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have sent out almost 900 profiles to service providers and have received about 200 back. CM doesn’t want to launch it until it is better populated and she needs our help to reach out to service providers to create profiles.</li> <li>• Community Resource Specialist will remain in place to provide the human touch.</li> <li>• Can post Commission meetings to the website calendar.</li> <li>• Chandra conducted a demonstration of the beta website (not yet live) and the different features and functions it has. She hopes to do a launch event, or a series of events, to promote the website. It will go live after the first of the year.</li> <li>• Sandi asked about special recognition for providers who have received Project Visibility Training so GLBT seniors know agencies that they feel safe contacting. Chandra will look into this option.</li> <li>• The website is available in several languages. It received praise from many of the Commissioners.</li> <li>• Chandra is available to do presentations to outside groups.</li> </ul>	<p><b>needs to complete the DRCOG survey and send to Sandi by 12/10.</b></p>
<p><b>Announcements and Other Business</b></p>	<p>-The annual DCOA retreat is scheduled for Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. More information will be provided once the retreat committee meets.</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Highland Senior Center  2880 Osceola  9:30-11:30 am  If you would like to stay for holiday lunch, let Mary know in advance.</p>	