



HARRIS COUNTY

Houston Department of Health and Human Services  
Funded by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

# CITY OF HOUSTON

TO: ALL AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL (APAC) MEMBERS,  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: Marla Turner, Chairperson  
Area Planning Advisory Council

DATE: May 20, 2009

SUBJECT: AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

<b>Date:</b>	<b>June 4, 2009</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>City of Houston Health Laboratories 1115 S. Braeswood Blvd., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Media Center) Houston, Tx. 77030</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>(713)794-9006</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9:00 am – 12:00 pm      General Meeting</b>

**SPECIAL NOTE(S):**

**\*All APAC members are urged to attend the sub-committee meetings after the General Meeting. If your committee is not meeting, you are invited to attend the meetings of any of the other sub-committees. Officers are obligated to ensure a replacement for the meeting if they cannot attend personally.**

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact the Area Agency on Aging at (713) 794-9006.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Harris County Area Agency on Aging will provide for reasonable accommodations for person attending APAC meetings. If you require reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact the Harris County Area Agency on aging at (713) 794-9006.

xc: Deborah A. Moore, MBA  
Division Manager for Area Agency on Aging

Encl: Agenda



HARRIS COUNTY

Houston Department of Health and Human Services  
Licensed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

CITY OF HOUSTON

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**General Membership Meeting  
Thursday, June 4, 2009**

**A G E N D A**

- I. Call to order
- II. Introduction of guests and new members
- III. Approval of Agenda for June 4, 2009
- IV. Approval of Minutes for May, 2009
- V. Comments from Chair – Marla Turner
- VI. Comments from Area Agency on Aging – Deborah A. Moore, MBA
- VII. Highlight Area Agency on Aging Staff – Rowaida Zaidan
- VIII. Presentation – “Update on Aging Agenda”  
Janice Paul, PhD  
Senior Staff Analyst  
Houston Department of Health & Human Services
- IX. Standing Committee Reports (Written Reports)
  - A. Advocacy/Legislation – Immy Papadopoulos, Betty Streckfuss
  - B. Support Services – Marilyn Vargiu, Monica James
  - C. Education and Training – Adele Gorody, Carla Vigilante, Jimmie Matthews
  - D. Housing – Mari Okabayashi, Marilu Ellis
  - E. Nutrition/SMOW – Timothy Stewart, David Roberts
  - F. Transportation – Lalita Sen
  - G. Membership– Becky Tobias
- X. Unfinished Business
  - A. Evaluate Older Americans Month Activities
  - B. Update on Fundraising for H.o.M.E. Project
- XI. New Business
  - A. By-laws revisions



HARRIS COUNTY

Houston Department of Health and Human Services  
Funded by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

---

# CITY OF HOUSTON

## XII. Announcements

**\*Note:** All announcements must be written on the provided form to the Chair prior to the announcement.

**\*\* Note:** Subcommittee Chairs remember to bring written reports to monthly APAC meetings.

## XIII. Adjournment to subcommittees.

XIV. Steering Committee will alternate its meeting date each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 9:30am. The location is La Madeleine, 6205 Kirby Drive, Houston 77005.

Area Planning Advisory Council  
Harris County Area Agency on Aging  
General Membership Meeting  
June 4, 2009 – 9 AM  
City of Houston Health Laboratories

The meeting was called to order by Mari Okabayashi.

Guests and new members were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

The minutes of May 7, 2009 were approved.

**Comments from the Chair** – Marla Turner was not present. Mari remarked that the Older Americans Month Art Project at the Houston Garden Center on May 21 was extremely successful. 475 seniors attended for a day of painting and “Art Therapy.” It was suggested that seating for the seniors should be arranged at a future event like this one. Seniors from Ripley House and the Third Ward Multi-Service Center were among the attendees for this event. Cathy Wright donated doorprizes for the guests and Marilu Ellis was able to get art supplies donated from Texas Art Supply.

Mari also announced that there would not be a General Meeting in July, though the Steering Committee would still meet at 9:30 am at La Madeleine in Rice Village on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that Immy Papadopoulos review the Elder Justice Act at the Steering Committee and a discussion regarding APAC’s position regarding the act should take place at this time. The Steering Committee would use this time to conduct some planning in terms of advocacy, including having a dialogue about “next steps” for APAC with regards to the Elder Justice Act.

**Comments from Deborah Moore** - Deborah commented that AAA has been addressing the phone problem (hold time waiting for a person to answer) at AAA with an automatic system. AAA has been analyzing the number of calls handled by each person. Deborah asked that APAC members provide feedback and Deborah is very interested in hearing if the membership notices any improvement.

Deborah explained that AAA is concerned about the disbursement of the allocated stimulus money under the State’s direction. There is approximately \$700,000 dedicated to the Harris County AAA with the bulk of the funds directed to the congregate meal program with no option for transfer to the home delivered meal program. Deborah explained that AAA doesn’t know when they will get official notification though this was going to be discussed by DADS in a call later that day. According to Deborah, 75% of the funds must be spent by February 2010 or if not, the funds will no longer be available. This is a one-time

funding source. The funds have indeed been received by the State however, they have not yet been appropriated to the AAA agency as yet. This is a concern because of the short window for spending these monies.

Deborah mentioned that AAA was involved in several summer projects. Stephen Williams, Director of Health and Human Services, has provided \$100,000 for AAA projects which must be spent this year. A discussion ensued about how we could spend the funds. Deborah wants to eliminate any waits on vision or hearing visits. They are also asking vendors to consolidate procedures /visits and to dedicate specific days for the AAA clients in order that AAA can use this money for these particular clients. Jane Baveineau suggested that the City money be spent currently on Disaster Preparedness Kits for the seniors which could be assembled now and could help so many seniors as we move into Hurricane season. This suggestion was well received by APAC and Deborah Moore. The Support Services Subcommittee of APAC will take this suggestion under consideration. Deborah explained that additional funds have also been received from the State for the nutrition program.

Deborah thanked and applauded APAC membership for their participation in the Senior Art Day. AAA received \$5000 to put on the event and Valley provided the sandwich lunches for the seniors. This enabled AAA to save funds for the Thanksgiving H.o.M.E. project.

Deborah also commented again about how successful the Moms Meal Program has been. The food is exceptional and the drivers do an excellent job of taking the food into the homes and storing it in the seniors' refrigerator freezers. The food meets the 1/3 RDI standards and AAA is trying to maintain 80-85 seniors on this project, who are not yet able to obtain the hot meals from Meals on Wheels. The program allows AAA to also provide meals to the many seniors in remote and rural locations. There are currently 525 seniors on the Nutrition waiting list and Moms Meals has been an excellent way to serve more needy seniors. Unfortunately the program is in jeopardy because as successful as this program is, it doesn't meet the standards set by DADS for number of hot meals provided. AAA will submit a waiver though DADS most likely will not allow a waiver.

**AAA Staff Highlight** – Rowaida Zaidan-Abdelkhalek, employed by the Area Agency on Aging for 5 years, discussed her responsibilities as an Administrative Associate in the Access and Assistance program.

**Presentation** - Prior to introducing the speaker, Adele Gorody of the Education and Training Committee mentioned that the new Senior Guidance Directory had been introduced to the public and 55,000 had already been delivered from the Red Cross Building. Dora Cruz and Walt McFadden assisted Adele on the delivery days and they handed out flyers for the Art Project event. Adele reviewed some of the changes in the new Senior Guidance Directory for the APAC membership, including adding a section to define the services of AAA and introducing APAC and the Silver-Haired Legislators in the Statewide section. Adele introduced Janice Paul, PhD - Senior Staff Analyst of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services who provided an "Update on the Aging Agenda".

Dr. Paul provided an overview of the Aging Agenda as a vision of Stephen Williams, Director of the Houston DHHS, and reiterated to the APAC membership that this could only be as relevant and viable as we make it. There was no guide or map to help the City know where the gaps in senior services were or what was needed by the senior constituency. Dr Paul explained that 8 different domains were developed .

She stated we needed to determine the needs of caregivers and seniors and how these needs meshed with what we thought was needed as we explored each domain. A limited survey was conducted and three top issues were identified including housing, health and well-being and basic needs. The Aging Agenda developed a set of recommendations under each domain with the ultimate goal of making the City of Houston friendlier to senior adults as time moves forward.

Dr. Paul mentioned that the Aging and Disability and Resource Center would be ready in the Fall and designed to provide support for seniors and disabled individuals and training for those who assist these individuals. Dr. Paul explained that quarterly updates on progress being made with the Aging Agenda would be provided by HHS and that it was important to align the Aging Agenda with the AAA Area plan. Dr. Paul mentioned that she will report back to APAC with an assessment of each domain and where each one is in working through the recommendations. Information would be collected by June 26 and then it will be determined where resources need to be allocated. Mention of the Aging Agenda must be inserted into grants and any media activity for increased visibility and support. Dr. Paul mentioned that the complete Aging Agenda document can be found on the AAA website.

Jane Bavineau suggested that the domain recommendations be converted into laymen's terms. She also suggested that we work on obtaining consumer input to determine priority settings so the true service gaps within our City could be identified by both the professionals and the consumers of services.

**Standing Committee Reports** – Immy discussed the Elder Justice Act and how especially the Texas legislators have not yet signed on to bringing this to fruition. She explained that we need Statewide involvement . It was mentioned that there were trainings for the aural and video witness program to be used to promote the Act.

Betty Streckfuss discussed that 12 resolutions were written into legislation, including the development of a Committee on Aging with endowments for travel.

**Unfinished Business** – The Older Americans Month Activities were previously discussed. An update on the Fundraising for the H.o.M.E. Project revealed that \$15,000 is needed to fund the project and currently we have \$9000.

Diane Persson resigned from APAC and also as Assistant Secretary.

**New Business-** It was discussed that the APAC By-Laws needed to be revised as AAA was now under a different committee. Dr. Ho and Burt Greenfield will work on the by-law revisions.

**Announcements** – Barbara Sitzman announced the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Madison Jobe Senior Center on June 17, 2009. She also acknowledged the wonderful work of Adele Gorody with the production of the Senior Guidance Directory and the many sponsors of the Directory who provided the financial support for this Directory.

Suzanne Perry Slavens discussed some Alzheimer Association events including Research Perspectives on Alzheimer's Disease on June 16<sup>th</sup> and the Alzheimer's Project on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Jewish Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Carla Vigilante from Texas HealthSpring.