



# CITY OF HOUSTON

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

---

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

**FROM: Marla Turner, Chairperson  
Area Planning Advisory Council**

**DATE: September 21, 2009**

**SUBJECT: AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 1, 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  
Funded by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

# CITY OF HOUSTON

---

---

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

General Membership Meeting  
Thursday, October 1, 2009

### A G E N D A

- I. Call to order
- II. Introduction of guests and new members
- III. Approval of Agenda for October 1, 2009
- IV. Approval of Minutes for September, 2009
- V. Comments from Chair – Marla Turner
- VI. Comments from Area Agency on Aging – Thelma Samuel
- VII. Highlight Area Agency on Aging Staff - **Rosalind Augustine**
- VIII. Presentation – “Important Elder Law Issues that Affect You & Your Family”  
Pi-Yi Mayo, Attorney at Law  
Board Certified Elder Law Attorney
- IX. Standing Committee Reports (Written Reports)
  - A. Advocacy/Legislation – Immy Papadopoulos**, Betty Streckfuss
  - B. Membership– Becky Tobias
  - 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. Support Services – Marilyn Vargiu, Monica James
- X. Unfinished Business
  - A. Update on Adopt-A-Housing Project
  - B. Update on SMOW Fundraising Campaign
  - C. Review and Confirm APAC Membership Roster
  - D. APAC ByLaws Revisions

XI. New Business  
A. Holiday Party

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, October 24, 2009 at 9:30am**. The location is **La Madeleine, 6205 Kirby Dr., Houston 77005**.

**Area Planning Advisory Council  
Harris County Area Agency on Aging**

**General Membership Meeting  
October 1, 2009  
City of Houston Health Laboratories**

Meeting was called to order by Marla Turner at 9:18 AM.

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

Agenda for October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was approved.

Minutes of September 3, 2009 meeting were approved.

**Comments from Chair** – It has been a busy month. Committees are working very hard, moving forward with agenda items we've had for a while now. This has been a year full of accomplishments.

**Comments from AAA** – Thelma Samuels presented on behalf of AAA.

- Larry Dawson wishes everyone a happy federal fiscal new year.
- A couple of contractors' letters had to be changed because of issues at DADS.
- Beverly Brownlow shared with Steering Committee on Saturday that funding is a bit short starting out this year. Wanted to do level funding but will do 3 to 4 percent reduction. Hope that additional money will be available, but cannot be guaranteed. Such funds usually come through in second quarter of year, around January.
- Stimulus funds have been received. We have also received 160,000 in additional Ike funds. Will use these funds for major repairs that could not be completed under the original grant. These will address existing needs on waiting list only. Will not be publicized.
- We have 30 contracts in place for provision of 19 different services. Good news that contracts are starting on time. One goal of RFP had been to involve additional providers so that seniors would have more choices. A list of contractors will be provided by email.
- Mrs. Moore is doing well. Not certain of return date. Has another surgery scheduled in November.
- AAA website is being updated and thoroughly redesigned. Should be up and running by November 1. Immy Papadopoulos asked questions about how website is publicized and how information is disseminated to persons who do not have web access. Senior Guidance Directory and did advertisements on cabs. 211 also makes referrals to AAA. Kroger pharmacies place information on prescription bags. Dora Cruz asked about brochures, which were once available. Thelma said she'll get those, including little info cards, for next meeting. Link from City of Houston's website. Dora recommended agencies adding a link to AAA on their websites.

**AAA Staff Highlight** – This month’s highlighted AAA staff member is Rosalind Augustine. Rosalind is a Senior Clerk with the Area Agency on Aging. She started as a contract employee with the City of Houston Health & Human Services/Area Agency on Aging Department in January 2007 and became a full time employee in October 2007. Rosalind provides telephone and clerical support for the department. She has been married for 21 years and has two children. Her hobbies are gardening and fishing.

**Presentation** – Today’s speaker was introduced by Lynn Foley. Pi-Yi Mayo, Attorney at Law and Board Certified Elder Law Attorney presented on “Veterans Affairs.”

**Standing Committee Reports** – Today’s report is from the Advocacy/Legislation Committee.

- Immy spoke about the Elder Justice Act. Orin Hatch, one of the authors, has added it as an amendment to the Health Plan, which already has about 600 amendments. Immy is concerned that the EJA is effectively buried and nobody can predict what will happen with it. It doesn’t seem as though there is anything that advocates can do right now. Will have to wait for passage of Health Plan to formulate a response/strategy. Immy noted that our two senators have never signed on as supporters of EJA.
- Tim reported that the Ryan White Act expired yesterday. Has not yet been reauthorized.
- If you have success in gaining support from legislators, please let committee know so they can add name to database of legislators supportive of seniors.
- Betty Streckfuss reported that the Silver Haired Legislature election will take place on odd years, opposite to that of state legislature. Primary objection from legislators in Betty’s experience to EJA is that it represents “more government.”

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Update on Adopt-A-Housing Project** – Marilyn Vargiu reported that October will be an exciting month for this initiative. 15 projects have indicated they’d like to be adopted and 6 organizations have committed to adopt. On October 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:00 PM there will be a meeting at United Way providing information and orientation to prospective adopters and adoptees. Please help spread the word about the upcoming meeting.
- **SMOW Update** – We have been awarded the \$5,000 Community Investment Grant from United Way for which we had applied. Now at about \$16,000 raised. \$710 raised at past APAC meetings, plus matching money bringing to about \$1,419. Additional \$178.00 raised today. Bids will be put out for 4,000 meals.
- **Review and Confirm APAC Membership Roster** – At last Steering Committee, roster was reviewed and a substantial number were identified that have not attended meetings in quite some time. Some were not even known by any of the Steering Committee members. Diplomatically worded termination letters will be sent. If we receive any response indicating desire to continue, they will be allowed to do so, provided they start attending meetings. The roster has

implications both for mayoral appointments as well as membership composition due to membership ratio requirements in bylaws. Let Mary Baumann know if you happen to have turned 60, as this will affect our age balance.

- **APAC Bylaws Revision** – Bylaws were distributed at last meeting for review. Floor was opened for comments. Moved and seconded to accept revisions. Motion carried.

### New Business

- **Holiday Party** – Holiday Party is usually held at the December meeting. Chairs are needed. Dora Cruz will chair. December meeting is at the Multi-Service center on High Star. Anyone who has ideas or would like to help should speak with Dora.

### Announcements

Mari Okabayashi announced that the Citizens Congress III, sponsored by Bluebring Houston, will be held Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall E. She also distributed informative flyers about the 2010 Census and encouraged APAC members to promote participation. It is estimated that in 2000, only about 61% of Houstonians were counted. It is important that accurate data be gathered, since government funding for programs is often tied to population.

Adele Gorody announced that the Senior Guidance Directory will present “Solving the Caregiver Puzzle One Piece at a Time” on October 29<sup>th</sup>. APAC members are encouraged to make nominations for the Pacesetter Award for Professional Caregivers and Family Caregivers. This will be a benefit luncheon and community lecture to raise funds for the Senior Guidance Directory.

Carla Vigilante announced that the Houston Gerontological Society, U of H Graduate College of Social Work and St. Joseph Medical Center will host “The Longevity Revolution: The Benefits and Challenges of Living a Long Life.” This is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual R.J. DeBottis Lecture on Aging and the presenter is Dr. Robert Butler. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> with reception at 5:15 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM.

Jane Bavineau announced that a demonstration grant for Aging in Place for Houston Area awarded to Neighborhood Centers. Only 14 awarded in the country. 4 neighborhood-based initiatives. Resulted from multi-agency collaboration. This is a tremendous boon for Houston.

Meeting adjourned to committees at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter McFadden  
Secretary