



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: Mari Okabayashi, Chairperson
Area Planning Advisory Council**

DATE: January 22, 2010

SUBJECT: AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Date:	Thursday, February 4, 2010
Place:	City of Houston Health Laboratories 1115 S. Braeswood Blvd., 1st Floor (Media Center) Houston, Tx. 77030
Phone:	(713)794-9006
Time:	9:00 am – 12:00 pm General Meeting

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

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

**General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2010**

A G E N D A

- I. Call to order
- II. Introduction of guests and new members
- III. Approval of Agenda for February 4, 2010
- IV. Approval of Minutes for January 7, 2010
- V. Comments from Chair – Mari Okabayashi
- VI. Comments from the Area Agency on Aging – Thelma Samuel
- VII. Highlight Area Agency on Aging Staff – Pamela Jones
- VIII. Presentation – “Utility and Consumer Issues”
Tim Morstad
Associate State Director of Advocacy
AARP, Texas State Office
- IX. Standing Committee Reports (Written Reports)
 - A. **Transportation** – Lalita Sen, Marla Turner (projects and programs)
 - B. Advocacy/Legislation – Immy Papadopoulos, Betty Streckfuss
 - C. Support Services – Marilyn Vargiu, Monica James
 - D. Housing – Marilu Ellis, Patricia Baker
 - E. Nutrition/SMOW – David Roberts
 - F. Education and Training – Adele Gorody, Carla Vigilante, Jimmie Matthews
 - G. Membership – Becky Tobias
- X. Unfinished Business
 - A. Update on Older Americans Month Activities (Marilu Ellis, Adele Gorody)
 - B. Support Meals on Wheel (SMOW)

XI. New Business

- A. Housing Report (TDHCA) – Marla Turner, Betty Streckfuss, Eva Williams
- B. Advocacy Support for Subcommittees – Timothy Stewart

XII. Announcement(s)

***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 **Friday, February 19, 2010 at 3:30pm**. The location is **Area Agency on Aging, 8000 N. Stadium Dr., Houston, 77054**.

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

**General Membership Meeting
February 4, 2010
City of Houston Health Laboratories**

Meeting was called to order by Mari Okabayashi at 9:07 AM.

Mari Okabayashi began by recognizing David Roberts, long-time APAC Member and Director of Interfaith Ministries' Meals on Wheels Program, who is about to retire. Beverly Brownlow presented a special gift to David from AAA, and Mari invited everyone to stay for special refreshments after the meeting today in honor of David.

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

Agenda for February 4th meeting was approved.

Minutes of January 7, 2009 meeting were approved.

Comments from Chair – Mari reported that she recently was involved in an auto accident, and encouraged everyone to be especially cautious when driving, especially in inclement weather, such as what we are experiencing today.

Comments from AAA

Beverly Brownlow presented on behalf of AAA.

- Update on stimulus funds. All funds for home-delivered meals have been allocated and spending is on target. Congregate meals funds have been freed for use with any congregate meal programs, so these funds will be spent on time. There will be some new contractors, as well as existing ones involved in this program. The stimulus funds have enabled existing contractors to provide additional services and new contractors to add jobs, two of the stated goals.
- Our speaker today will talk, among other things, about smart meters. There will be an in-service meeting at AAA today on this subject. Those who attend will disseminate information in the larger community.

AAA Staff Highlight – There will be no staff highlight today.

Presentation – Today's speaker was introduced by Marla Turner. Today's presentation is "Utility and Consumer Issues" by Tim Morstad, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP.

Standing Committee Reports

Transportation Committee – Written report was provided by Lalita Sen and is available at the back table. Marla Turner reported on the January 13th meeting at AARP on transportation strategies. Goals were established.

- **Long Term Goal:** Improve access by expanding quality, affordable and reliable transportation options and improving neighborhood amenities to promote safe pedestrian and motorized mobility. This long term goal was from the Aging Agenda.
- **Intermediate Goal:** Make safety a top priority of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and all other transportation plans in the region.
- **Short Term Goals:** 1) Formalize Coalition, 2) Get Mayor Parker of Houston and City Council members to publicly support the Long Term Goal, 3) The City of Houston adopts a Complete Streets program as a model for access and safety in the region, 4) Determine other communities in the region and replicate Short Term Goal #3.

Unfinished Business

- **Update on Older Americans Month Activities** – Committee has reserved the Houston Garden Center for Thursday, May 20, 2010. Marilu Ellis, Adele Gorody, and Timothy Stewart have discussed some options. Adele shared that, because of resource limitations, a multi-event approach was deemed unfeasible. “Live Strong” is the annual AOA theme. Health related activities are being considered for the event.
- **Support Meals on Wheels (SMOW)** – Funds are still needed. The “can” is being passed around. Mari is trying to identify someone to match funds that are raised.

New Business

- **Housing Report (TDHCA)** – Mari, Betty, Eva, & Marla attended Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) public hearing. Eva made a number of recommendations to the committee, including statewide database of housing projects and emergency plan for utilities of housing facilities. Eva also asked for flexible due dates for rent because social security checks are staggered. Marla presented the recommendations on housing from the Aging Agenda. The committee was especially interested in the intergenerational home repair component. Betty Streckfuss noted that she was especially touched by someone who spoke at the hearing and encouraged TDHCA to keep the special needs of former substance abusers in mind, as they often have some special challenges in regard to obtaining and maintaining housing.
- **Advocacy Support for Subcommittees** – Timothy reported that the Advocacy Committee is in the process of determining its priorities relating to the 2011 legislative session and the Governor’s race. If you or your organization has any interests you’d like for the Advocacy Committee to pursue, please let them know.

A form will be emailed to everyone in order to facilitate the communication of possible topics of concern. You may also bring topics to the March meeting. A letter containing agreed-upon topics will be presented at the April meeting. Mari thanked the committee for their beginning their planning so far in advance of the session.

Announcements

Donna Moran announced that a networking meeting will take place in Katy at Grace Care Center on February 23, from 9 to 10:30 AM. Betty Streckfuss, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature will present an update on legislation. Also, DADS will do a three day training in Katy on March 16-18. Free CEU's are available.

Sandra Varela reminded everyone that the City of Pasadena's Ms. Pasadena Senior Pageant will take place on March 31, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Pasadena Convention Center. Please call Madison Jobe Senior Center for application, flyers & more information, 713-477-0175, or email seniors@ci.pasadena.tx.us.

Marilyn Vargiu announced that organizations are still needed for the Adopt-A-Senior Housing Community Program. Color flyers were passed out, and more are available if needed. More information can be obtained from Morgan Steinberg at 713-683-6584 or msteinberg@careforelders.org.

Mari reminded everyone that the APAC Steering Committee will meet on Friday, February 19th at 3:30 PM at AAA.

Meeting adjourned to committees at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter McFadden
Secretary