



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* Marla Turner, Chairperson
Area Planning Advisory Council

DATE: March 21, 2007

SUBJECT: **AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Date:	April 5, 2007
Place:	Sheltering Arms Senior Services 3838 Aberdeen Way Houston, TX 77025
Phone:	(713)794-9006 (for Directions)
Time:	9:00 am – 12:00 pm General Meeting

SPECIAL NOTE:

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: Charlene Hunter James, MPH
Director, Area Agency on Aging

Encl: Agenda



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

**General Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 5, 2007**

A G E N D A

- I. Call to order
- II. Introduction of guests and new members
- III. Approval of Agenda for April 5, 2007
- IV. Approval of Minutes for March, 2007
- V. Comments from Chair – Marla Turner
- VI. Comments from the Area Agency on Aging – Mrs. Charlene James, MPH
- VII. Area Plan Proposal and Needs Assessment

Presentation – **Topic: “Summary of Meeting with APAC”**
Mr. Stephen Williams, Director
Houston Health & Human Services
- VIII. Standing Committee Reports (written reports only)
 - A. Legislation – Betty Streckfuss
 - B. Advocacy/Ombudsmen – Diane Persson, Kathy Bingham
 - C. Education and Training – Carla Vigilante, Jimmie Matthews
 - D. Transportation – Lalita Sen
 - E. Housing – Michael Nguyen
 - F. Membership – Frank Gemar
 - G. Nutrition/SMOW- Mari Okabayashi, Marla Turner
- IX. Unfinished Business
 - A. Subcommittee Goals for 2007
 - B. TSHL and AAA—comments by Mrs. Charlene James, Director of AAA
 - C. RFP and RFQ
- X. New Business
 - A. APAC display for AAA for May
- XI. Announcements

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

XII. Caregiver Catharsis

XIII. Adjournment to Subcommittees

XIV. Steering Committee will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 3:00pm at the Area Agency on Aging, 8000 N. Stadium Dr.; next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2007

APAC Minutes
Date April 5, 2007

- I. **Meeting called to order by Marla Turner, Chairperson.** A quorum was established.
- II. Members and guests were welcomed and introduced.
- III. Agenda approved
- IV. Minutes approved with no changes.
- V. **Comments from the Chairperson:**

Ms. Turner emphasized the value of involvement and volunteering; she urged all members to look for a “cause” and make a difference; one person can make a difference. Examples of involvement include legislative advocacy, CHIP, livable communities.
- VI. **Comments from Charlene Hunter James, Director of the Area Agency on Aging:** Mrs. James reminded everyone to pick up handouts , including the profile of Older Americans for 2006
 - AOA theme this year is “Making Choices for a Healthier Future; all seniors need to plan for their future.
 - AAA must streamline and coordinate services that are cost-effective and promote positive health outcomes.
 - Innovation, flexibility and options for long term care must impact how providers “do business”; she referenced a project in North Texas completed by the Ombudsman program and the local Catholic Charities---education of the public is essential.
 - Emergency management and evacuation preparedness for frail populations continues to be a major priority for Congress and especially for Harris County.
 - N4A—public policy briefing for various national issues includes livable communities, as well as social and civic engagement.
 - Older Americans’ Act is considering including a Title VIII for planning and development within local AAAs.

VII. Speaker: “Summary of Meeting with APAC”
Stephen Williams, Director Houston Health and Human Services

Mr. Williams reviewed the minutes from the APAC meeting held in March and asked for additional comments in the various areas:

Strengths: most agreed that they want to see our local AAA as the “go-to” agency in Harris County for information on senior services.

Limitations:

- No local, city, county funding for addition support of senior services, especially for services like dental.
- More accessibility and involvement of local officials.
- Greater opportunities for partnering and engaging faith based communities in aging contracting, services; problem with bonding requirements of the City.
- Concern of the future involvement of smaller cities in Harris County with City of Houston taking more visible role in AAA
- Need to increase planning and visioning within AAA.
- Increase value and involvement of APAC members in advisory and consulting roles.
- Need to increase the number of advocates in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; more oversight of small assisted living facilities.

Best Known For: The agency to contact for information on seniors and senior services.

Other: Mr. Williams may call for a joint meeting of members of the various “survey” groups as the planning stage begins. Members urged him to keep APAC in the loop. He is interested in “painting the picture” of what is needed in senior services then looking for funding.

The State will be doing some regional planning for access; this will include Harris County as well as HGAC AAAs.

APAC will call a planning meeting as soon as all input from other survey groups is gathered; survey minutes will be sent to Marla Turner for distribution to members.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports: Committees were asked to submit written reports for this meeting.

- A. Transportation**-Dr. Lelita Sen
- B. Advocacy**-Dr. Diane Persson, Katherine Bingham
- C. Housing**-Michael Nguyen
- D. Membership**- Frank Gemar
- E. Legislation**-Betty Streckfuss
- F. Nutrition/ SMOW**-Mari Okabayashi/Marla Turner
- G. Education and Training**-Carla Vigilante/Jimmie Matthews

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Subcommittee goals need to be sent to Marla Turner (Education & Training and Nutrition are completed).
- B. TSHL and AAA have a good working relationship; elections, etc. will continue as in past years.
- C. RFP/RFQ—current contracts are being extended due to changes in leadership and the planning process; the length of extensions should be final by the end of April.

X. New Business-

- A. May is Older American's Month: Dora Cruz, Theresa Chen and Dwayne Harris volunteered to assist the AAA staff with putting together a board for the HHS building lobby for the month of May.

XI. Announcements

- A. Betty Streckfuss encouraged members to attend the Texas Conference on Aging in Dallas scheduled for April 22, 23, 24.
- B. Mr. Navarro has been instrumental in moving legislation forward on elder abuse as a TSHL.
- C. Table the "Caregiver Catharsis" for the next meeting.

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

XII. Meeting adjourned for Committee Meetings

XIII. Steering Committee Meeting

Information will be sent on the next Steering Committee meeting.

Minutes submitted by Katherine Bingham.