

## SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Kinsella, Vice Chairperson Britschgi, Commissioners Cooperman, Jones and Simon

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Paley and Truscelli

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bruce Utecht, Stephanie Douglas and Kathy Bede

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Chris Rodriguez and Zena Vigileos

The regular meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was called to order by Chairperson Kinsella at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City, California.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**M/S: Cooperman/Britschgi: Approve the April 9, 2009 minutes as written. Motion passed.**

### **ITEM 1 – SCAMS: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL & FINANCIAL ABUSE – R. Chris Rodriguez, LCSW, Health Service Manager, San Mateo County Aging & Adult Services & Adult Protective Services**

Chris Rodriguez explained that the goal of Aging & Adult Services is to help seniors, people with disabilities, and dependent adults live safely in their communities by maximizing their independence and enhancing their quality of life through protection, support, prevention and advocacy.

Assistance is available by calling the TIES Line at 1-800-675-8437. It is a 24 hour response program that is an entry point for Aging and Adult Services to consult or report to Adult Protective Services.

Adult Protective Services investigates allegations, consults with police/cross reports, considers options to protect assets, conducts assessments, collaborates with collateral agencies, provides case management services and assesses the need for conservatorship.

The agency also works with mandated reporters which include health practitioners, physicians, law enforcement, financial institutions, government agency employees, in-home supportive services providers, care custodians and the clergy.

Service is provided to adults 65years and older and dependent adults between 18 and 65years.

Reports are confidential and disclosed only to members of multidisciplinary teams.

Ombudsman is responsible for investigating allegations of abuse in licensed residential care homes and licensed skilled nursing homes. APS provides assistance to individuals in their homes or in acute care hospitals.

Strategies and interventions through case conferences can include APS assessment, public guardian, primary medical provider, police investigation, county counsel/district attorney, environmental health/code enforcement and mental health assessment.

Types of adult abuse are physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction and other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental suffering.

Those with hoarding behaviors and functional impairment may exhibit distress over not acquiring and discarding; emotional attachment to possessions; emotional comfort provided by objects; embarrassment; diminished value on the home and financial security; no access to kitchen,

bed and/or bathroom; high risks of falls; physical complaints as headaches, nosebleeds, respiratory problems and allergies; as well as weakened structural integrity of the dwelling. Potential warning signs of neglect can include decline in personal appearance, confused behavior, environmental odors, hoarding of paper, mail, trash, etc., financial claims of income.

Signs of financial abuse can be unusual financial activity, responding to telemarketers or lottery scams or giving large amounts of money to others.

Financial abuse is difficult to prosecute. Victims typically don't make good witnesses.

Significant manpower is required to establish a paper trail. Judges often order money returned instead of prison or jail time. Money is often lost through gambling, vacations, purchases, etc. Financial crimes are often seen as civil matters.

The primary risk factors for abuse are chronic mental illness, medical problems, diminished capacity, isolation from family, friends and community; depression, active substance abuse by client/family; high conflict in the family system.

Chris Rodriguez then showed an AARP video about scams and how they work entitled, 'Don't fall for a telephone line' and answered questions from the commissioners.

## **ITEM 2 – FACILITY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Joe Kinsella**

Chairperson Kinsella reported that the consultant for the new senior center building has been ill so there has been some delay in progress. The aquatic component is now being worked on. The draft report should be available within next couple of weeks which states the mission and goal statement as well as the facility review. The subcommittee will then review it and their comments will be included in a second draft. That document will be presented probably at the July Senior Affairs Commission meeting for comments. It will then go back to the Parks and Recreation Department and then to City Council.

## **ITEM 3 – DOWNTOWN 'SENIOR SUNDAE' – Barbara Britschgi**

Vice Chairperson Britschgi reported that the 'Senior Sundae' is in place and progressing for August 23, 2009. Big band music from the 1930s and 1940s will play and an ice cream social is planned. Anna of the San Carlos Senior Center is planning on bringing seniors from that facility to the event in their van. Other suggestions for the event were invited. The Senior Affairs Commission is planning on having an information table there.

Commissioner Simon recommended having information about upcoming SAC meetings stating when, where and what pertinent topics will be presented and discussed.

Commissioners Cooperman and Jones suggested information about the various senior centers in the area be available.

Bruce Utecht will contact Chris Beth and Lucas Wilder regarding the coordination and planning of the event.

## **ITEM 4 – TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – Jodi Paley**

Absent. No report.

## **ITEM 5 – FOCUS TOPICS REPORTS – All Commissioners**

Chairperson Kinsella stated that he had been contacted by Commissioners Simon and Jones regarding their focus topics. Commissioner Simon reported that she will contact the monthly speakers, review the marketing plan and focus on outreach.

Commissioner Jones reported that she had reviewed the marketing plan and outreach goals. Fair Oaks Senior Center is doing well with outreach. Their monthly newsletter is distributed to everyone at the center, Casa de Redwood, Safeway, the library, YMCA, and the Fair Oaks

Community Center. Birthday invitations for a free lunch are sent to everyone who has registered at the center. She suggested that the VMSC include the Fair Oaks Garden Day & Plant Sale in their newsletter and that FOOSC include the VMSC free movie dates, times and names of the movies in their newsletter. She also suggested that the two centers might occasionally share a combined event like a picnic. She also reported that in the past month there was no increase in the number of homeless people being served at Fair Oaks Community Center. Currently, the senior program feeds 2 homeless people daily and 4 or 5 homeless people come in weekly for food.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **-Veterans Memorial Senior Center – Stephanie Douglas**

Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Douglas reported that the deadline for the submitting items for the bimonthly newsletter is the second Friday of the previous month. June 12<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the July and August issue. She also announced the upcoming event at the VMSC.

- May 21, 2009 – Military Honorary Luncheon
- June 18, 2009 – Fundraiser at Chevy's Restaurant on El Camino Real in Redwood City – 25% of sales made between 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. will go to the VMSC – coupon/flyer must be presented.
- June 19, 2009 – Fathers' Day Luncheon
- July 2, 2009 – Dog Days of Summer BBQ

### **-Fair Oaks Senior Center – Zena Vigileos**

Zena Vigileos thanked Commissioner Jones' and her Red Hat Society group for sponsoring the Mothers' Day event at FOOSC. She also reported that Stanford's 'Strong for Life' program is excellent and is improving the health and strength of participants at FOOSC. A case manager will be at Fair Oaks within the next week or two.

## **Announcements**

Commissioner Cooperman reported that she attended the HHHC outreach meeting. They are working on the city's consolidated plan for 2010-2015. A consultant has been hired. Different groups will be consulted including service providers, social services, a joint meeting with SAC and HHCC, Legal Aid and people with disabilities regarding affordable housing. Once the information is summarized public hearings will be held before being presented to City Council.

Commissioner Simon reported that there will be 2 free housing seminars in May at Avenidas.

- Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – Subsidized and below market rate housing
- Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Reverse mortgages

## **Items for Next Month's Agenda**

- Updates on items discussed at this meeting and a guest speaker

## **Adjournment**

The regular meeting of the Senior Affairs Commission was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. It will be reconvened at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at the Fair Oaks Senior Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, California.