



SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, March 20, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall, 5ES

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trini Garza, Chairman
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Julia Suarez-Macias (Dist. 6)
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sarah B. Wick (Dist. 14)

VACANCIES

District 4
District 5
District 8

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cannon Flowers (Dist. 7)

SENIOR SERVICES STAFF

Cobbie Ransom, Administrator
Ana Camacho, Caseworker
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker
Valencia Hooper Alexander, Manager
Olivia Cruse, Volunteer

GUESTS

Patrick Jackson
Aqwana Long
Valda McClain
Jearldine McDaniel
Heather Silver
Janice Thomas
Debi Weiner

CALL TO ORDER

Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. City Council Member, Adam McGough, District 10, stopped by to visit before the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lydia Simpson requested one revision: Age Well Live Well coalition members participated on Senior Days during the Texas State Fair. John Johnson made a move to approve the minutes with one correction. Ms. Simpson seconded the motion.

OVERVIEW OF OLDER ADULT SERVICES PROVIDED BY JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)

Debi Weiner, Director of Older Adult Services at JFS, presented an overview of the program. JFS is a nonprofit, social service and mental health agency founded in 1950. The focus of the program is to enable people to maintain independent living for as long as safely possible by utilizing the strengths and family resources available to them. The care management program provides a variety of in-home services and counseling for as long as needed. The four major components of the program are: (1) care management and coordination services for independent living; (2) the Kosher home delivered meals program; (3) personal resource

organizers program (bill paying, checkbook balancing and paperwork) and (4) the homemaker service program. JFS works with everyone in the community, has a friendly visitors program, a program for Holocaust survivors to help keep them out of nursing homes, limited financial assistance to help pay for medications and other critical expenses, a guardianship program, support groups for caregivers, grief and pain management, benefits assistance, consultations with adult children, information, referral and counseling services by Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Service area includes the City of Dallas and surrounding suburbs. JFS uses a sliding fee scale for services. JFS also has a food pantry covering a 20 zip code area.

Valda McClain, Lifeline Community Outreach Manager, presented information on the Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service offered by JFS with no contract or cancellation fee. Veterans, caregivers of a Veteran, and active members of the military receive a 30 percent discount.

SENIOR EMERGENCY MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM UPDATE

Patrick Jackson, Program Manager, presented an overview of the City of Dallas Home Repair Program. The Emergency Repair Program has funding for home repairs to address the health and safety needs of seniors and people with disabilities. Mr. Jackson proposed a 10 percent increase in funding for home repairs for 2017-2018 and requested SAC support to repair 17 to 20 additional houses. Volunteer groups are needed for the People Helping People Program.

UPDATES ON SENIOR PROGRAMS

Cobbie Ransom, Administrator, updated the Commission on the Office of Senior Affairs (OSA) programs:

- Senior Medical Transportation Program was launched on March 15th.
- Senior Dental Program is effective as of today.
- Senior Ombudsman Program is currently underway.
- Senior Employment Program received two proposals. The Senior Source was selected. The target start date is April 1.

UPDATES ON SENIOR INITIATIVES

Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports

Syl Benenson reported on the budget committee. She plans to attend the District 13 meeting tomorrow night. The City Manager is hoping to hear from the Commission on what the SAC would like to see in the 2017-2018 city budget.

Sarah Wick reported that the Communications and Technology Committee is scheduled to meet at 4:00 p.m. today. The committee has been working on the city newsletter.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Elder Safety Awareness and Health Committee had a good fact-finding meeting today. Members discussed House Bill 161 making it mandatory for financial institutions to report elder abuse without any repercussions. He encouraged everyone to go on the website provided to read Senate Bill 2.

Bill Gart invited all of the Commissioners to attend the Housing Committee meeting on March 21, 2017. Committee members toured the fully furnished, 400 square foot cottages built to provide housing for people who are homeless.

Mary Ann Sparks announced that the Transportation Committee is scheduled to meet on March 21st. She talked about the Council meeting she attended. Cannon Flowers would like to draft a petition for the SAC members to sign and take to their City Council members to encourage them to pursue Council Member Sandy Greyson's request to review Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) spending of transportation money for seniors.

Ms. Wick reported on Age Friendly Communities. She attended the Community Support and Health Services meeting (Domain 7) at AARP. One of their action items is to establish an inventory of community resources.

Mr. Ransom has been working with Susan Williams with AARP on the final draft of the Age Friendly Communities Plan for the City of Dallas to present to the City Council in June for approval. Mr. Ransom invited all of the Commissioners to attend the next Age Friendly Communities Plan meeting to provide input on the plan.

Ms. Simpson reported on Age Well Live Well. Coalition members are in the process of developing the website and planning to reschedule the committee's trip to the City of Tyler in April to learn about their televised program for seniors.

OFFICE OF SENIOR AFFAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ransom announced that the CC Young visit has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 20th at noon for lunch and a tour. Eight Commissioners raised their hands to vote in favor of this date. Mr. Ransom requested any edits of the annual report be submitted by the end of the day.

NO CITIZENS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Benenson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.