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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

SENIOR AFFAIRS
COMMISSION



SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Monday, March 19, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas City Hall – L1FN Auditorium

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, March 19, 2018

Convened: 12:07 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:44 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Sharyn Fein, Chair
Carmen Arana (Dist. 1)
Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)
John Johnson (Dist. 3)
Myrtis Evans (Dist. 4)
Carl Raines (Dist. 5)
Jearldine McDaniel (Dist. 6)
Deloris King (Dist. 7)
VACANT (Dist. 8)
Mary Ann Sparks (Dist. 9)
Jeri Baker (Dist. 10)
Bill Gart (Dist. 11)
Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)
Syl Benenson (Dist. 13)
Sarah Wick (Dist. 14)

Guests Present

Thomas Costley
Janice Thomas
Oscar Tovar
Susan Williams

City of Dallas Staff Present:

Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Jessica Galleshaw, Managing Director
Cobbie Ransom III, Senior Affairs Administrator
Valencia Hooper-Alexander, Manager Senior Affairs
Heather Silver, SAC CAO Liaison
Yesenia Valdez, Secretary
Ana Camacho, Caseworker
Myckycle Hart, Caseworker
Lynn Jenkinson, Caseworker

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order**

Sharyn Fein, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) monthly meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. **Approval of February 2018 Minutes**

Syl Benenson made a motion to approve the February 2018 minutes. John Johnson seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes with no corrections.

3. **Charlotte Huffman, Investigative Reporter, WFAA**

WFAA Investigative Reporter, Charlotte Huffman, presented research and evidence of elder abuse in Texas nursing homes involving issues contributing to these shocking statistics:

- Texas is America's number one worst nursing home state for the fourth consecutive year.
- Texas ranks 46 in the US for quality of long-term care.
- More than a quarter of all nursing home complaints that state regulators received in 2017 came from nursing homes in the Dallas area.
- Abuse rate at Texas nursing homes is nearly 4 times the national average.

Ms. Huffman wonders why Texas consistently ranks at the bottom of the barrel? After a year of research, two reports were compiled on separate issues:

- **Criminal Caretakers:** In 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Inspector General conducted a study and found the majority of nursing home workers who were caught abusing or neglecting nursing home residents that year had at least one violent conviction prior to the incidence of abuse or neglect in the nursing home. Why are violent criminals allowed to care for our most vulnerable Texans? In Texas, nursing homes can hire certified nurse aides with criminal histories, legally, due to loop holes in state regulations. State Representative Bill Zedler plans to introduce legislation in 2019 requiring FBI background checks for nursing home employees.
- **Drugged and Dying:** Nursing home staff often drug the elderly by administering powerful, potentially fatal drugs, antipsychotics or Opioids. An anonymous source revealed that "Take this lady to China" means to drug the nursing home resident to sleep. Texas is one of 16 states that does not have a minimum staffing requirement in nursing homes which directly applies to the drug overdose.

Nursing HomesWfaachannel8
chuffman@wfaa.com
 214-977-6480

Carl Raines, Chair of the Senior Safety and Health Committee, made a commitment to focus on reducing the number of sexual assaults and rapes in nursing homes in Texas by tackling nursing home issues with medications, pay scale of nurse aids, lack of funding and lobbying to change laws regarding criminal histories and ratio of nursing home staff. Ernest Tosh, Attorney, specializes in nursing home abuse and neglect cases in Texas.

4. Chair Report – Sharyn Fein, Chair

- Nine Commissioners (Jeri Baker, Syl Benenson, Marlene Cohen, Myrtis Evans, Deloris King, Jearldine McDaniel, Mary Sparks, Carl Raines, Sarah Wick) raised their hands in favor of attending a goal setting meeting facilitated by Dennis Coleman on a Monday morning. Commissioner Fein will schedule the meeting.
- Ms. Fein announced that Barbara Barbee, will serve as the Liaison to Dallas Park and Recreation. She would like for one of the SAC members to attend their board meetings and to let her know if interested.
- Ms. Fein met with Melodía Gutiérrez, an AARP Associate State Director, who would like to work with the Commissioners on outreach and advocacy in Districts 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8. The Commissioners will let Ms. Fein know if interested in meeting with Ms. Gutiérrez.
- May 14, 2018: Coffee Networking at the Senior Source at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Fein will send Myckyle Hart and Cobbie Ransom a list of events to share with the Commissioners.
- Ms. Fein announced that Ms. McDaniel will step down from Chair of Transportation and welcomed Myrtis Evans, the new Chair of Transportation.

5. Senior Affairs Commission Committee Reports

- Commissioner Benenson, Chair of the Budget Committee, announced that the first of three City Council meetings is on March 28, 2018. Second meeting will be held on May 9, 2018. Third meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2018. The Budget Committee will meet to work on writing a recommendation to present to the full Commission for approval.

Ms. Benenson distributed information on the Ombudsman Program pertaining to each district along with a list additional, Ombudsman programs if funding is approved.

- Commissioner Raines reported that the Senior Safety and Health Committee met this morning. They discussed World Elder Abuse Day on June 15, 2018, the Senior Safety Summit at the Potter's House on May 18, 2018, and the gun surrender project.

Mr. Raines requested a motion to allow the Senior Safety and Health Committee to send a letter in support of the continued enforcement of the existing program to disarm violent offenders. Commissioner Johnson made a motion that the SAC support the gun surrender program to disarm violent offenders including domestic abusers. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- Bill Gart, Chair of the Housing Committee, asked the Commissioners to call their Councilmember's office to request a copy of the Comprehensive Housing Policy. He complimented Commissioner Simpson for raising \$5,000 to \$6,000 for an event for seniors.
- Ms. Simpson announced that the Age Well Live Well Symposium will take place on March 23, 2018 at the University of North Texas Dallas and invited the Commissioners to attend. She shared a flyer about the All of Us Research Program to help researchers understand why people get sick or stay healthy and encouraged the Commissioners to join.
- Commissioner Sparks reported that the Socialization Committee is working on their goals. Representatives from Dallas Park and Recreation, Celebration Magazine, and Methodist Healthcare System agreed to speak at the committee meetings. Ms. Sparks attended the opening ceremony for the Senior Games. She distributed a handout: 25 Ways to Stay Active. Ms Sparks pointed out that physical activity is not only good for your health but also helps to prevent social isolation.

6. Office of Community Care / Senior Services Announcements

- Valencia Hooper Alexander reported on MayFair 2018. With no advertisement, 86.5 out of 100 tables have been committed. She is currently taking nominations for honorees via email. Mr. Hart will email the link for nominations of seniors to be recognized at the MayFair event to the Commissioners. The City of Dallas will host two educational sessions at the MayFair event on the psychological aspects of socialization and keeping our minds active.
- Mr. Ransom and Mr. Hart will assist the Commissioners with activating their city email accounts.

7. Citizens' Comments

Susan Williams, AARP Associate State Director, announced a series of events sponsored by AARP and the City of Dallas. She will email event flyers to the SAC.


Oscar Tovar, Contracts Manager, Dallas County Health and Human Services, Older Adults Services Program would like to strengthen his partnership with the SAC. He will connect with Commissioner Evans.

Janice Thomas related personally to the presentation on nursing home abuse after visiting her mother in a nursing home in Tampa, FL. She is concerned about the Bridge being closed until June and the homeless being on the street.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m. The next SAC meeting will be held on April 16, 2018 in the L1FN Auditorium.

APPPROVED BY:



Sharyn Fein, Chair
Senior Affairs Commission (SAC)