

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS

August 6, 2021

Zoom Online Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Gary Simon called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

PRESENTATION:

John McDermott, State Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO). (Presentation attached.) The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) was established by federal and state statutes. The LTCO identifies, investigates, and resolves complaints that are made by, or on behalf of residents, and related to action, inaction, or decisions that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents of long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, adult residential care homes, assisted living facilities, and other long-term care settings.

During the presentation, John introduced the contracted Long Term Care Ombudsman:

- Maui – Brent Freedman
- Hilo and Kona - Jackie Gardner
- Oahu – Jomel Duldulao
- Kauai - Shirley Simbre-Medeiros

John also introduced Jazlyn Wandasan, M.S.W., who is contracted with the LTCOP. Jazlyn created and designed the graphics for the LTCOP literature, including the new brochure. She also helped with LTCOP PSAs and with updating the LTCOP training manual.

For information or to make a referral, call the State Long Term Care Ombudsman program toll free number at 1-888-229-2231.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called at 12:05 p.m.

Present:

Appointed Members: Shelly Abe Ogata, Colette Browne, Beverly Gotelli, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Roberta Murray, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, Kathy Wyatt, and Barbara Yamashita.

(A quorum was established as thirteen members were present at roll call. This board requires eight members to be present to establish quorum.)

Ex-officio Members: Victoria Fan, University of Hawaii; and Kathy Ishihara, DHS (joined meeting at 12:00 p.m.).

EOA Staff & AAA Staff: Aaron Arakaki, Thomas Atou, Caroline Cadirao, Sasha Dimon, Jomel Duldulao, Brent Freemont, Jackie Gardner, Josephine Lum, James Mariano, John McDermott,

Lynn Niitani, Debra Shimizu, Shirley Simbre-Medeiros, Deborah Stone-Walls, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jazlyn Wandasan.

Members of the Public: Raelene Tenno and Pamela Witty-Oakland.

Guests: Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy for AARP Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 4, 2021 and the July 2, 2021 Zoom online PABEA meetings were approved as circulated.

PABEA MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Caroline thanked everyone for their work during the pandemic and provided a presentation, "*Tips for Virtual Meetings*".

CHAIR'S REPORT

Gary asked for feedback on having a strategic planning or a planning meeting to guide PABEA's endeavors this year and whether to have such a meeting during our existing monthly meeting or to schedule an additional meeting for strategic planning or planning.

A motion was moved, seconded, and approved for EOA to poll (with the caveat that such a poll complies with applicable rules) members' preferences on conducting a planning meeting (i.e. yes or no) and whether to dedicate an entire existing PABEA monthly meeting, to dedicate part of an existing monthly meeting, or to schedule an additional meeting for planning.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Barbara Service reported that the Committee met yesterday, August 5, 2021. New Committee members include Leslie and Raelene.

In the 2021 legislative session, only one bill (crimes against seniors) of the five Kupuna Caucus priority bills passed. The four priority bills which did not pass include:

- Our Care, Our Choice Act (amending the Act);
- Long term care facilities inspections;
- The Kupuna Caregiver bill (relaxing the 30-hour employment requirement and adding the option of Kupuna Caregivers directed services to the Kupuna Caregivers Program); and,
- Long term care insurance lapse or termination notice.

The bill for health insurance coverage for hearing aids also did not pass. State Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) Executive Director Kirby Shaw is willing to work with PABEA in support of the bill next session.

A bill to establish and fund six full-time LTC ombudsman positions was not introduced in the 2021 session.

The Committee will revisit the four Kupuna Caucus bills which failed, the hearing aid bill, and the LTC ombudsman positions bill to support the bills in the 2022 legislative session.

Barbara reported that Aaron and Caroline provided the Committee a presentation on EOA's participant directed program.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Shelly reported that the Committee will be meeting later this month.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Kathy presented the EOA ad celebrating Kupuna Recognition Day printed in the July 23, 2021 issue of the Star Advertiser. Kathy acknowledges the late Representative Mele Carrol for her support of kupuna and Kupuna Recognition Day.

Caroline saw a digital version of the ad in the Mililani Longs Drugs Store.

Kathy and the RAC would like to promote kupuna robustly and widely. Kathy welcomes information and news about kupuna (e.g. activities, events, awards) for her to disseminate and distribute.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

Caroline reported that:

- EOA received \$7 million from the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
- EOA received \$158,000 in vaccination funds for the ADRCs.
- PSAs by EOA on the COVID-19 vaccination campaign have been televised on KHON2.
- EOA and DOH are sponsoring an intergenerational vaccine PSA. One features the players from the championship UH volleyball team and kupuna.
- Public health nurses are focusing on vaccinating difficult-to-reach populations, including difficult to reach kupuna and families.
- Pop-up vaccination sites continue.
- ACL has revised its reporting structure.
- Caroline and EOA staff have begun preliminary discussion on the next State Plan on Aging due July 2023. The plan will have four focus areas with timelines.
- The Kupuna Vaccination Outreach Group (KVOG) is strategizing and focusing on in-home vaccinations.
- KVOG has had preliminary discussion on booster shots.
- A County Executives meeting was held and hosted by the Kauai Elderly Affairs Agency. Discussion items included successes and barriers, the Kupuna Caregiver program, the workforce shortage, and the use of American Rescue Act funds.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION

Sasha Dimond, the Information and Assistance Coordinator with EAD reported that:

- EAD is actively recruiting for Community Service Specialist Level III positions. The job position is posted via Department of Community Service's Facebook and LinkedIn sites.
- EAD is building relationships with the University of Hawaii and its Social Work Department.

- EAD is updating its policies and procedures, including working at home and in-person home assessments, due to COVID-19. Marsha Tamura, Program Specialist, is working with EAD on revising the policies and procedures.
- Kapua Luta, former Grants Manager, is now an Assessment Unit Supervisor.
- Employee Wellness Program was introduced by RSVP Coordinator Kim Itagaki to promote employee wellness, i.e. maintaining and improving staff morale and preventing burn out and fatigue.
- EAD's Title III award regarding extension of the contract to September 2022 and adding Recovery Funds is with the City Council. The 15 day hold for review will end on August 19, 2021, at which time EAD can route the extension for signatures.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING:

No report was offered as Horace Farr is on vacation and no representative from HCOA is present.

KAUAI AGENCY OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS:

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha reported that all staff are reporting back to the office. ADRC staff are making in-person contact with clients and are meeting with clients outdoors. Senior centers are opening next week but congregate dining has not yet resumed. The restaurant gift certificates program continues.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING:

Deborah Stone-Walls thanked Caroline for the productive county executives meeting and thanked all for their work for kupuna and their families. Deborah's last day at MCOA is today. Deborah will learn on Monday, August 9, 2021 on the results of her application for Chief of Programs and Services with US for Aging (formerly n4A – National Association for Area Agencies on Aging) in Washington, D.C. The Chief of Programs and Services oversees nine programs and works with AAAs. James Mariano has accepted the temporary assignment as the MCOA Executive effective Monday, August 9, 2021. James announced that he is looking forward to working with PABEA.

Congregate meal sites are reopening. All sites will be operational by August 13, 2021. The food truck vouchers program will be phased out by December 31, 2021. More than 900 clients are receiving COVID-19 relief related meals.

MCOA is hiring for six vacancies in access and assistance. MCOA is behind by one month in responding to requests.

Marilyn thanked Deborah for the progress she made in services and supports to kupuna on Maui.

Colette complimented Deborah on her professionalism, compassion, and knowledge and offered best wishes on behalf of all to Deborah.

KUPUNA CAUCUS:

Caroline announced that today's Kupuna Caucus agenda includes:

- A presentation by Caroline on Kupuna Recognition Day;
- A presentation by Representative Troy Hashimoto on the status of the eviction moratorium;
- A presentation by State Insurance Commissioner Colin Hayashida on long term care insurance rates; and,
- Announcements on future Kupuna Caucus meeting topics.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Rick announced that Kokua Council will be hosting its annual legislative priorities meeting on August 23, 2021. Rick is available to present a virtual hui on progressive relaxation for caregivers. Interested persons can contact him. The virtual hui is presented in association with Faith Action. Rick has retired from Generations Magazine. Generations webinars will continue and will be handled by Cynthia Arnold. The Generations radio show also will continue.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Victoria Fan provided an update (attached) on the UH Center on Aging (COA).

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No statements from the public were offered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 3, 2021, 11:30 a.m., PABEA monthly meeting (via Zoom)
- Upcoming AARP Hawaii Events, including Infection Prevention House Calls: Cleaning and Disinfecting in a COVID-19 World: What You Should Know, Friday, August 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
- HPGS Biennial Conference, Wednesday and Thursday, September 15 & 16, 2021
- Effective October 24, 2021, dial area code 808 + telephone number to make local calls.
- Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition Annual Members and Friends Luncheon, Friday, November 12, 2021
- American Society on Aging Annual Conference, April 11 – 14, 2022

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Gary adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.