

Minutes
Alamo Area Council of Governments
Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Meeting
January 8, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Lopez, Chairperson
Patrice Doerries, Vice Chairperson
Denise Usener, Secretary
Coral Adema
Veronica Arriaga
Darlene Evans
Kelley Gallant
John Green
Ben Herr
Sandra Langston
Lisa Loya
Genevieve Manley
JoAnn McFarland
Marlene Richter
Lucille Rochs
Irene Scholz
Michele Thacker
Raymond White

ALTERNATES PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Darin Zumwalt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Regina Applewhite
Judge Diana Bautista
Billie Bell
Christine Cervera
Barbara Effenberger
Brenda Engelmann
Angela Fiedler
Ginny Funk
Dr. Robert Fitzgerald
Judge Carlos Garcia
Carolyn Goodall
Richard Muzquiz
Pam Thatcher
Tina Woods
Opal Word

STAFF PRESENT

Mrs. Gloria Arriaga-Executive Director
Deborah Billa
Julie Sakelakos
Alvin Arada
Evangeline Diaz
Henri Eaton
Dan Goetz
Linnie Martin
Daisy Milner
Jim Rowland
Suzanne Ruff
Trish Slaton
Candy Walsh
Maria Wilson

1. Robert Lopez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Roll call was taken by Denise Usener, Secretary, and a quorum was established.
3. There were no citizens to be heard.
4. Michelle Thacker moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2009. Lucille Rochs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Swearing in of 2010 Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Officers and Members by Gloria Arriaga, AACOG Executive Director.

Ms. Arriaga swore in the following new member:
Sandra Langston

Ms. Arriaga swore in the following Officers
Robert Lopez, Chair
Patrice Doerries, Vice Chair
Denise Usener, Secretary

Ms. Arriaga then spoke on the programs of Alamo Area Council of Government and that the Board of Directors takes seriously what the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee brings before them. She also thanked the ASAC for their commitment to serving their particular county or area of interest.

6. Presentation
None

7. Debbie Billa highlighted her Director's Report that was in the mail out:
 - 2010 Texas Conference on Aging: The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Jerald Winakur, a local gerontologist who will speak on the current state of healthcare. There will also be a town hall meeting with the new Senior Legislative Committee on Aging. It looks to be an exciting conference so if you would like to register go to the website:
www.texasconferenceonaging.org.
 - Two new staff members have joined Alamo AAA. The first is the new Health and Wellness Specialist, Jim Rowland, and the second is the new grant specialist who will oversee the Neighbor Helping Neighbor grant project, Margarita (Daisy) Milner.
 - Debbie was elected as the Vice President of the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging for a two-year term.

8. Staff Reports
Maria Wilson of Care Coordination and Caregiver Support discussed that they were able to obtain heaters for all the clients in need during the cold spell that hit our area.

At this point, the Committee requested that a report be given at the next meeting on the number of people who were helped and in which counties.

Linnie Martin, Local Managing Ombudsman, handed out the new postcards for the Ombudsman program. She stated that her staff will be using a new program called OmbudsManager, to enter their information into the computer. This will make getting reports easier and more efficient.

Dan Goetz, Access and Intake Lead Specialist, introduced Daisy Milner as noted above and is moving ahead in Wilson County with the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program. He also congratulated Suzanne Ruff and Annabelle Vasquez for their work in the Medicare Open Enrollment. He reported that Intake, Referral and Assistance finally has 40 hour coverage with a new temporary employee. And also the Network of Care website is getting approx. 35,000 hits a month.

9. Consider and act upon ratifying the submission of a joint grant proposal with the University Of Texas Health Science Center School Of Nursing to create a Community Practice Based Research Network – Aging and Chronic Illness for Comal Atascosa, and Gillespie Counties.

Debbie stated that Alamo AAA would be a bridge with the goal of bringing to community doctors the most recent information regarding chronic illnesses for seniors. This would be a 2-year grant.

Lucille Rochs moved to accept the submission of the joint grant proposal as stated above. Darlene Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consider and act upon authorization for the Executive Director to submit a response to the Department of Aging and Disability Services for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Chronic Disease Self Management Program Announcement.

Patrice Doerries moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit the above response. Darlene Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Consider and act upon memberships for the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee:
New Members:
Raymond “Ram” Ramirez, Wilson County Representative
Darin Zumwalt, Comal County Representative
Ben Herr, Director of Alamo Regional Transit

Change the following from Member to Alternate:
Beverly Lutz, Manager of Alamo Regional Transit

JoAnn McFarland moved to accept the above memberships and change. Irene Scholz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Consider and act upon new FY10 vendors for the Alamo Area Agency on Aging.

Irene Scholz moved to accept the new FY10 vendors for Alamo AAA. Marlene Richter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. The next meeting date of March 12, 2010 was announced.

14. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

15. Discussion Item: Area Plan Focus Groups/Activities was moved to after end meeting. Guests Connie Turney and Winnie Rutledge from DADS discussed how the new Area Plan could be developed with the use of focus groups. They handed out booklets to help with the area plan and then everyone broke into groups for further discussion and action plans.