

**Minutes**  
**Alamo Area Council of Governments**  
**Alamo Senior Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**May 14, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Lopez, Chairperson  
Denise Usener, Secretary  
Regina Applewhite  
Judge Diana Bautista  
Brenda Engelmann  
Darlene Evans  
Carolyn Goodall  
Ben Herr  
Marlene Richter  
Tiffany Rives  
Lucille Rochs  
Darin Zumwalt

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS**

None

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Patrice Doerries, Vice Chairperson  
Coral Adema  
Veronica Arriaga  
Billie Bell  
Christine Cervera  
Angela Fiedler  
Dr. Robert Fitzgerald  
Kelley Gallant  
Judge Carlos Garcia  
John Green  
Doris Haecker  
Lisa Loya  
Genevieve Manley  
JoAnn McFarland  
Richard Muzquiz  
Raymond "Ram" Ramirez  
Pam Thatcher  
Raymond White  
Opal Word  
Tina Woods

**STAFF PRESENT**

Martha Spinks  
Julie Sakelakos  
Alvin Arada  
Evangeline Diaz  
Dan Goetz  
Nelda Rodriquez  
Jim Rowland  
Candy Walsh

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. Brenda Engelmann moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2010 with the correction of number 6, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, last sentence from "at Argent Court/Atascosa" to "at the Workforce Center in Floresville". Judge Diana Bautista seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Martha Spinks gave the Directors Report and started out by expressing gratitude to the Alamo AAA staff for helping during this interim time. She announced that the Volunteer Luncheon would be taking place on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bright Shawl Banquet Hall and hoped that all the ASAC committee members would attend. Dr. Spinks stated that she attended the Floresville Focus Group for the 2011-2013 Area Plan and found it very helpful in getting input from this county and thanked everyone for their support in other counties' focus groups also.
6. Presentation by Ben Herr, ACOG Regional Transportation Director, on new transportation initiatives in the Alamo AAA region and the new Regional Transportation Committee.

Ben Herr gave an overview of ART's current status. They have:

- Bus service in all 11 counties
- 100 vehicles
- 70 employees
- Average approximately 9,000 rides per month
- Answer over 1,000 phone calls per day.
- Fixed route service
- Curb to Curb service
- Vehicles equipped with wheelchair lifts.

ART has been very successful with their new 1-way trip rates which are:

- \$1 in town
- \$3 in county
- \$5 out of county
- \$7 two or more counties

They only request to have clients schedule at least one day in advance so that they can plan the routes.

The types of rides they cover are:

- Medicaid medical
- General public
- Dialysis and medical appointments
- Work and school
- Grocery, pharmacy and other shopping trips.

Mr. Herr noted many senior organizations that use ART's services.

The new initiative that they are starting is Regional Coordination. Along those lines they are working on an ART Steering Committee, and formation of six sub-committees. Addressing senior issues will be an Urban Senior Subcommittee and a Rural Senior Subcommittee. The reason they are working on Regional Coordination is for:

- Better use of limited resources
- Try to provide rides to more people
- Share ideas among stakeholders
- Improve service
- Build a stronger more efficient network of transit
- Identify unmet needs
- Provide better communication
- and it's the right thing to do

Ben then introduced the new Regional Mobility Coordinator, Roy Munoz. Mr. Munoz asked ASAC members to contact him if interested in joining the Rural Senior Subcommittee.

#### 7. Staff Reports

- Dan Goetz stated that the Benefit Counseling staff received many calls regarding the Medigap policy change effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, Health Care Reform and Medicare Part B. He stated that if anyone is interested in having a presentation on these or any other issues to please contact him. Dan then thanked everyone for their support with all the focus groups and then gave a short presentation on highlights of the focus groups in several of the counties.
- Daisy Milnes then gave an update on the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program. A group in Stockdale has been formed and has been meeting regularly. However, they are in need of a new host site.
- Jim Rowland gave a handout and highlighted the current status of A Matter of Balance, Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP), Diabetes Self Management Program (DSMP), Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) and other projects.

#### 8. Consider and act upon a new FY10 vendor for the Alamo Area Agency on Aging.

Darlene Evans made the motion to approve the new vendor, Valued Relationships, Inc., dba Neighbor Helpline, with the new service of Emergency Services. Judge Diana Bautista seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Consider and act upon memberships for the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee.

Marlene Richter made the motion to accept the memberships of L.J. (Luvenia) Sherman-Brown to replace Sandra Langston of Experience Works. Lucille Rochs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. Information from the Committee:

Robert Lopez stated that the 2010 Texas Conference on Aging (TCoA) was an awesome conference and that the 2011 TCoA will be held in San Antonio.

Robert also announced the Frog Festival supporting the Comal County Senior Citizens Foundation will be held May 14. Go to [nbsenior.org](http://nbsenior.org) for more information.

Marlene Richter stated that she was involved with Older American's Month celebrations in many senior centers around the area.

11. Next Meeting Date: Friday, July 9, 2010.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.