

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 08, 2018
2:00 P.M.
Large Conference Room

Coastal Bend Council of Governments
Area Agency on Aging of the Coastal Bend
2910 Leopard Street; Corpus Christi, TX 78408

MINUTES

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- I. Call to Order. 2:05 p.m.
 - II. Pledge of Allegiance.
The Pledge of Allegiance to the National flag was led by Council Members.
 1. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas State flag was led by Council Members.
 - III. Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Meeting.
Chair Cindy Payne motioned for the approval of the December 11, 2017 Minutes.
Motion to accept the minutes made by Tony Ferguson, seconded by Rudy Cantu, motion passed without opposition.
 - IV. Chairman's Report.
 1. **Welcome Visitors/Guests –Viola Monrreal**
Acknowledged Christina Martinez from Duval County Elderly Nutrition Program.
 2. **Advisory Council Provider Performance Review Report–Explanation of services rendered and completed objectives for FY17 Closeout Report -Duval Elderly Nutrition Program- Christina Martinez**
Christina Martinez, Director of Duval County Elderly Nutrition Program, directed members to Handout 1. Report reflects from October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017. Total HHS Funding Benchmark for FY2017 was \$59,735 for Congregate and \$52,317 for Home Delivered meals. Total Proposed Units for FY17 (Including Local Units) was 45,315 for Congregate and 22,064 for Home Delivered. HHS Annual Benchmark of funded Units was 14,859 for Congregate and 11,179 for Home Delivered. HHS Monthly Benchmark Oct 16- Sep 30 (Meal Units) was 1,238 for Congregate and 932 for Home Delivered. The Reimbursement Unit Rate for Congregate was \$4.02, and for Home Delivered was \$4.68. Estimated Persons served for FY17 was 216 for Congregate and 88 for Home Delivered. Actual HHS Units Served through 9/30/17 was 14,859 for Congregate, and 11,179 for Home Delivered. The % of HHS Units provided through 9/30/17 and for the Project Period through 9/30/17 were both 100% for Congregate and Home Delivered. Christina also shared a slideshow presentation on some activities hosted by her department. The service area covers 5 areas, San Diego, Freer, Benavides, Realitos and Concepcion. Duval County elderly Nutrition Program also subcontracted with another agency out of the Valley and contracted with REAL transportation as well. There is a county wide celebration for Seniors in May that they are in preparation for. There is a prized bingo with prizes donated by Judge Carrillo and staff, and the election administrator/social service director Mrs. Ana Martinez. Ms. Martinez also shared with the group that the senior citizens from all 5 centers donated to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. There was a field trip for the seniors to the Corpus Christi Bingo that many of their consumers attended. There are courses offered for Promoting Healthy living in the center for their consumers to learn from. In addition there is a program for building flower beds for a vegetable garden. For Christmas, some of the area high school students donated goody bags for the seniors. Precinct #2 Commissioner David Garza donated 25 fans for the seniors during the summer which was beneficial to those that don't have air conditioning. There was a toy drive for Toys for Tots that the consumers were a part of. Precinct #4 Commissioner Rene Perez donated heaters, blankets and throws for their Christmas Bingo. *Mr. Ferguson asked about the total number of clients served.* Ms. Martinez responds 468 daily, all sites combined.
 - V. Action Item(s).
 1. **Area Plan Amendment-Viola Monrreal**
Viola Monrreal directed ACoA members to Handout 2 (yellow). Explained that anytime there is a change to the Area Plan, for example if something is added or deleted, it has to be amended. If something changes prior to the time it is due for renewal, that section must be revised to reflect that change and approved by HHS. The handout showed the inclusion of the Tai Chi for Arthritis for Fall Prevention. This program has been added and will be an addition to Evidence Based Programs such as the Matter of Balance program. Some of the verbiage to the section of the Area Plan which included Evidence Based funded programs was amended to include the Tai Chi for Arthritis for Fall

Prevention. Mrs. Monrreal shared with the group that \$3,000 was set aside specifically for the Tai Chi for Arthritis for Fall Prevention Program. The amendment has been submitted to the State for approval. *Rudy Cantu asked if there are any additional staff being added due to this change.* Mrs. Monrreal explained that there was no additional staff added however, a current staffs time has been allocated to the program as an addition to their current job responsibilities. Mrs. Monrreal shared that Sylvanna Gonzalez is the contact person for the program. Mrs. Monrreal explained that there are 3 contracted staff for the MOB (Matter of Balance) program and Sylvanna is the only certified at this time for the Tai Chi Program. Should an opportunity arise and funding allow Mrs. Monrreal would like to get another contracted staff certified as well.

Motion to approve Area Plan Amendment was made by Mr. Cantu seconded by Ms. Ana Martinez, motion passed without opposition.

2. Walk For Memory Funding-Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal shared with the group that in the Coastal Bend area there are 2 groups that conduct walks for Alzheimer's. One is the Walk for Memory, the other is through the Alzheimer's Association. AAA/ADRC is involved in both. The Walk for Memory is local and headed by Dr. Praderio. This year AAA/ADRC staff persons donated to the Walk for Memory and the Family Caregiver Specialist, Felipa Wilmot, did fundraising and gave half to Walk for Memory and the other half to the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This local "Walk for Memory" awarded a check of \$10,000 to the AAA for respite services for caregivers of dementia and other disabilities. *Frances Morrow asked who Face to Face is.* Mrs. Monrreal explained it is a local nonprofit organization spearheaded by Dr. Praderio. He is well known in the community as working with clients with dementia. He coordinated this so that funds would stay local and local families could be assisted with direct assistance. The money raised by Alzheimer's Association is mostly for research and is national. *Annita West suggested we extend a thank you card from the ACoA to the Face to Face organization for their support.*

Motion to approve Walk for Memory Funding and prepare a thank you letter was made by Ms. Mays seconded by Mr. Cantu, motion passed without opposition.

VI. Staff Reports.

1. Post Hurricane Report- Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal explained that at the last meeting in December, it was said a meeting would take place in regard to the decision of the COG to be one of the lead agencies in the Disaster Relief with GLO and FEMA. Initially there were agreements that were later changed by FEMA and the GLO. One was that any MHU (Manufactured Housing Unit) would not be the property of the COG. They would be requested from FEMA directly, then after the deadline of the use of the MHU by the evacuee was done the MHU would go back to FEMA. The other choice was that they would be purchased outright, then when the timeframe was over, it would be the COG's responsibility to sell the unit and reimburse FEMA the funds. FEMA came back and changed that decision to where the COG would purchase outright, and the COG would be the owner of the MHU and then dispose/sell and reimburse FEMA. The By- Laws of the COG do not allow the COGS to purchase these MHU's therefor this was not a viable solution for the CBCOG. In addition, the CBCOG did not have the cash flow required to hire and purchase equipment and set up office space for additional staff without an advance from FEMA and GLO. Initially FEMA and GLO stated that \$200,000 would be awarded upfront to be able to get the program off the ground but later came back and stated it would not be possible. Therefore, because it could take anywhere from 30-90 days for reimbursement the CBCOG came to the conclusion that it would not be able to move forward and be the local agency for this program. A letter was sent to FEMA and GLO after a meeting with the COG Executive Committee that stated that effective December 11, 2017 CBCOG would no longer be a partner in the Disaster Program with FEMA and GLO. *Rudy Cantu asked about the families who are still affected.* Mrs. Monrreal explained that AAA/ADRC are still receiving calls, that has not stopped. Information to the callers is being provided informing the caller what agencies can be of assistance to them. Mrs. Monrreal reminded the group that AAA/ADRC received \$75,000 in funding, so that individuals that call and live within the disaster areas can be assisted directly with food, transportation, clothing, provider services, utility assistance and health maintenance. In addition, the AAA received \$10,000 in gift cards, in increments of \$50.00 and \$100.00 which are allocated for assistance with food, clothing and gasoline. The AAA/ADRC staff have been out to the affected areas of that have been hit the hardest, Aransas and Refugio County. Half of the gift cards have been distributed. David Ramos has reached out to the local group with Nueces County that is also working with families that have fallen through the cracks and

have not qualified for assistance through FEMA. Some evacuees that received denials have gotten assistance by David through the appeals process. *Rudy Cantu asked if David has heard anything from the County Commissioners court that might have some funding to help?* David Ramos responds not that he is aware of. He will be meeting with this department in a couple of days to let them know about our agency's program and if they have any individuals this agency may be able to assist. *Rudy Cantu stated he would like to be there.* David stated he will give him the information. Mrs. Monrreal mentioned that during conference calls held twice a week for the disaster relief, number of individuals needing assistance was going down because people were finding solutions on their own. *Annita West mentioned that the Nueces County Commissioners Court may be fine for Port Aransas, but most of the affected areas were in Aransas, San Patricio and Refugio counties, not as AAA/ADRC, but the COG keeps in contact with the judges in those areas and letting them know about what is being done in Their areas.* *Becky Mays explains that she is in Rockport and they have monthly meetings and mentioned she referred a client to AAA/ADRC. Suggested that AAA make a presence available for these individuals.* Mrs. Monrreal agrees that can be done and will coordinate a time as to when once Ms Mays provides the contact information.

2. Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation Employee Donation- Viola Monrreal

Viola Monrreal referred ACoA members to gray handout 4. The AAA was contacted by a corporation out of Huntsville, Alabama called Intuitive Research and Technology Corp. They have employees that were living in the Rockport, Houston and Galveston areas that were hit by the hurricane. The employees wanted to help out somehow, so they held a fundraiser and came up with funds to help the affected areas. The AAA was awarded \$5,000 to be used specifically for wheelchair ramps for persons affected in the Port Aransas area. The AAA will use the \$5,000 as match funds and take some of the AAA funds set aside for home modifications and combine the two together to be able to have a greater amount of funding and be able to assist more than one and a half clients. The check was received on December 22, 2017.

3. 2017 Close Out Report- Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal referred ACoA Members to blue handout 5. The 2017 Close out Report was turned in to HHS. Each year after funding cycle ends a report must be turned in of all financials on what was spent and what is left over if any and how much will be carried over. The first page is a total compilation of all of the programs with the following pages providing information on each specific program; Administration, Data Management, Access & Assistance, Nutrition Services, and Services to Assist Independence. Mrs. Monrreal directed ACoA members to "Prior Fiscal Year Continuation Award" towards the middle of document. Under Administration it is \$212,439, Data Management is \$87,128, Access & Assistance Services is \$576,326, Nutrition Services is \$1,661,776, and Services to Promote Independence is \$447,149. Total of \$2,984,818. Under that is some Match requirement for some of these funding dollars. Some will vary from 10% to 25% match. The COG (Council of Governments) matches some of these funds. \$70,813 was matched under Administration, \$1,320 under Access & Assistance, \$1,306,387 under Nutrition Services, \$41,775 under Services to Assist Independence. Total match of \$1,420,295 for a total funding of \$4,405,113. This is what was submitted to the state. Mrs. Monrreal directed ACoA members to second to last page of document. It is an email in response to the review of the close out for FY17. There were 2 areas in question, Number of Unduplicated clients/estimated audience under Information Referral & Assistance and Number of Unduplicated clients/estimated audience under Legal Awareness. The deadline for this information is Friday January 12, 2018. Mrs. Monrreal directed ACoA members to the following page that reflects Carry over funds from 2017 that have already been carried over into the FY18 Planning Budget. Title III-B has \$55,827, Title III-C1 has \$13,534, Title III-C2 \$21,857, Title III-E \$51,298, for a total Carryover of \$142,516. There is an allowance of up to 10% in each category that can be carried over from one year to the next. *Mr. Aleman asks if this money is carried over because it wasn't used.* Mrs. Monrreal explains it is not used with the intention of having some to carry over as funding levels are always unknown. .

4. Benefits Counseling~ "Medicare Hot Topic" - Letty Ochoa

Ms. Ochoa Benefits Counselor explained there are new costs in Medicare. Some went up, some stayed the same. One of the changes is the Part A deductible had a \$24 increase from \$1,316 to \$1,340. The Part B premium did not change, stayed at \$134 for all those who came in new in 2017 and are coming in new 2018. Part B deductible did not go up either, stayed at \$183. This only applies to those who make less than \$70,000 a year. Filing Individual is \$85,000 or less, filing joint is \$170,000, filed married but separate \$85,000. This goes back two years, so if two years ago client was making above the \$170,000 as a couple, when it is time to go get Medicare must make them aware of changes. On the bottom of the handout explains the Donut hole which has gone up a bit to \$3,750. Once that is reached that is when you fall into the Donut hole and have to pay more for medications

until you reach a certain amount of out of pocket expenses and once that is met then you don't have to pay. New deductible for Part D is \$405.

VII. Committee Reports.

1. TSHL / Advocacy Committee Report- Mark Walsh

Mr. Walsh states that the TSHL is in the process of creating a survey to identify current needs of seniors and disabled adults of the eleven county area. Aiming for missing services, like exercise programs, social events, counseling, etc. The goal is to take these results to Austin to shed a light on them.

VIII. New Business

1. Birthdays- Viola Monrreal/ Monzeratt Silgero

Acknowledged January Birthdays- Cindy Perez January 8th, Johnny Segovia January 12th

IX. Announcements.

1. Reminders and Misc.- Monzeratt Silgero

Meeting February 12th at 2:00pm.

2. Other Announcements

- plaque for appreciation for Frances Morrow

- Lisa Oliver invited members to the City of Corpus Christi event, Mardi Gras Carnival open to ages 50+, \$8 at the American Bank Center.

- Frances Morrow spoke on the handout provided. A TSHL member who is blind has provided some information for caregivers.

X. Adjournment.

Chair Payne adjourned the ACoA meeting at 3:20pm.