

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, December 10, 2018
1:00 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

- 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 12, 2018 Meeting.**

Vice Chair, Jesus Leija motioned for the approval of the October 8, 2018 Minutes.
Motion to accept the minutes made by Victor Piñon and seconded by Rebecca Mays, motion passed without opposition.
- IV. **Chairman's Report.**
 1. **Welcome Visitors/Guests –Viola Monrreal**

Welcomed Marcos Gonzalez, our presenter and Emily Martinez, our CBCOG staff member and presenter as well.
 2. **FY18 Close Report & FY19 Status Report - Marcos Gonzalez with Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST)**

Mr. Gonzalez reported that CACOST's mission is to continuously improve the lives of South Texans by providing high quality health care, education, housing and economic opportunities to reduce poverty through services and partnerships. CACOST services 16 counties in South Texas, 9 of those counties are in the Coastal Bend region. CACOST provides various programs and services: Head Start, health centers, community services, early childhood programs, congregate and home delivered meals, energy assistance programs. He reported that CACOST serves congregate and home delivered meals and also provides transportation to Bee, Brooks, Jim Wells and San Patricio counties. Mr. Gonzalez reported that for FY18, CACOST was awarded \$259,000 for congregate meals, \$214,718 for home-delivered meals and \$43,171 for transportation. For benchmark they would serve about 5,100 meals per month for congregate meals, home delivered meals was 4,400 per month and for transportation's benchmark of about 800. For FY18, CACOST produced 43,145 congregate meals, 42,522 home delivered meals, and provided 5,362 transportation rides throughout the region. Gilbert Guajardo verified that these numbers are just the State's Title III program requirements. Mr. Gonzalez stated that they produce 20,000 meals a month for congregate and home-delivered meals. Taft kitchen is set to open in December. The original kitchen was in Aransas Pass but was destroyed due to Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Saenz asked if the center in Aransas Pass had water concerns, because CACOST could possibly apply for grants with the Texas Water Development Board. Gilbert Guajardo advised that if there issues with waste water to contact Theresa Finch, Environmental Specialist with the COG.
 3. **Update on CDBG Disaster Recovery - Emily Martinez, Regional Disaster Recovery Manager**

Ms. Martinez explained to the Council about a new upcoming program to assist homeowners affected by Hurricane Harvey. She announced the new program is called the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) for the affected areas of Aransas, Bee, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties. This program is being provided by the General Land Office (GLO) has received federal monies to provide the various projects for the affected areas. Mr. Leija asked if it is from the HUD office. Ms. Martinez confirmed it is. This program is geared for homeowners that did not have insurance and did not receive enough money or not enough money from FEMA for complete repairs on their home. The goal of the HAP is to (1) make repairs to the home and/or rebuild a new home and (2) make sure it is protected from wind or flood damage. For example, if a homeowner lives in a flood-prone area, the home can be raised to protect the home from flood damage. If the home repair exceeds \$65,000, which may be likely if a home has to be raised or any significant repairs inside, then the option will be to build a new home. Ms. Martinez referred the members to the handout and stated that in order to qualify for HAP, there are

requirements, a checklist on what is needed to qualify for the program. An applicant must prove they own their home via deed or tax records, proof of income for anyone that lives in the home (18 years and up). A question was asked about income limits, Ms. Martinez replied there is no income limits, but gave an example if a homeowner that owned a 4 bedroom home for 30 years, but now it's just the homeowner and maybe one other person living in the home, they will not get a 4 bedroom home rebuilt, the home will be rebuilt on the minimum specifications that is necessary. It may be a smaller house, but it will be brand new and more resilient and protect everyone in the future. HAP will check if you have received any other funds through insurance or FEMA monies. Property taxes will need to be paid up to date and homeowners need to make sure they are paid up to date on child support payments. The GLO has hired Grant Works to oversee and manage the program. They will open an office in the Six Points area in Corpus Christi and an office in the Rockport area. Ms. Martinez will pass information to Viola Monrreal. People who are interested can apply online or visit one of the office locations. There will be case workers. The proof needs to be uploaded into the computer. If someone has applied for FEMA and a FEMA representative came and assessed the damage, the case workers will ask for that documentation. If FEMA did not assess the damage, then Grant Works will send someone to assess the damage, but will need to be Harvey related. Grant Works will work with the homeowners to make sure they live in appropriate housing. The application process will begin online the first week of December, but the office will not open until after the new year. Grant Works hopes to expend the monies through the end of 2019, but there is no deadline at this time. Rental properties do not qualify for this grant. But what is new this time is manufacturing housing. If homeowner owns the land and has a manufactured home, the home will be eligible for the grant. But if the manufactured home is in an RV park or mobile home lot, it is ineligible for the grant. If someone has a trailer on a relative's property, but the trailer belongs to the person living in it, they can qualify. Ms. Martinez stated that there is so much money for this program. If you have any questions, to contact the HAP and they can assist. The only way someone cannot qualify for this program is if they received funds from FEMA from a previous claim (before Harvey) and were required to have insurance on the home for so many years and Hurricane Harvey was within those years, then they will not qualify for this grant. With this program, FEMA will require that the homeowner have 3 years of insurance on the home. The first year will be covered by the homebuilder. Years 2 and 3, the homeowner will have to pay for. The homeowner will have to sign an unsecured promissory note to promise that they will reside in the home for a minimum of 3 years and provide insurance during that time. If the home has to be rebuilt, the home builders will pay for everything, the demolition and the rebuilding. The builders say that they can rebuild the home in 90-120 days. They have contractors specifically working for this grant. If the home has to be built, the grant will not provide money for temporary relocation. It is the homeowner's responsibility to find housing during that time. The homeowner will need to take into a consideration about a new home is that the property tax value will probably go up as well as the insurance. So, homeowners need to plan for these things that may happen. Can a homeowner apply if they have already received insurance money? Ms. Martinez said they should try to apply anyway to see if they can still qualify. There is no repayment as long as the homeowner stays in the home for at least 3 years. The offices will begin taking in clients on January 2nd. Ruben Saenz told our members to make sure to thank our elected officials for making this kind of program exist.

V. Action Item(s).

1. Planning Budget - Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal reminded the members that there are three steps to the budget: (1) Planning - the numbers are based on previous year budget and consider the carry-overs, (2) Working budget (3) Approved budget. She referred to page A-2 for the total page of all programs. The following pages A-3 through A-8 are breakdown of each program. Ms. Monrreal gave a breakdown for each program. Under Administration for Title III programs and a 25% match, the total funds \$310,414. For Data management of breakdown of Title III programs and State General Revenue funds for a total of \$107,693. For Access & Assistance Services has a breakdown of Title III-B, Title III-E, Title VII EA, and Ombudsman program, Title III-E match, State General Revenue funds for Ombudsman (OMB), Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), and MIPPA Priority Area 2 for a total of \$518,133. For Nutrition Services, there is \$628,409 for Title III-C1 (congregate meals) and \$683,980 for C2 (home delivered meals), due to bigger population of older adults. These amounts is for the Coastal Bend region. There is a carryover from prior year of \$18,762 for C1 and \$44,297 for C2 for a total of \$1,762,174 for the planning budget. For Services to Assist Independence a total of \$583,048. A grand total of \$3,203,858.

Motion to accept the Planning Budget, made by Rebecca Mays, seconded by Tony Ferguson, motion passed without opposition.

2. Contracting Plan Summary - Viola Monrreal

Ms. Monrreal referred everyone to page B-1 - Contracting Plan. This is what we plan to give to the providers. She referenced the left column indicating each county and/or city that receives monies from the AAA. Mr. Leija asked if each county receives the same amount of money. Ms. Monrreal responded that they do not and she will explain why. For example, Aransas County Council on Aging, the planning budget was \$16,124, the revised adjusted of \$6,036 for a total revised amount of \$22,160 for congregate meals. For home delivered meals, it was projected at \$62,991, with a revised amount of \$17,309 for a total revised planning budget of \$80,300. For congregate and home delivered meals, the total will be \$102,460. The next column reflects the total number of units, what the agency is going to provide. It shows 9,700 units for congregate meals, and 23,300 for home delivered meals. The spreadsheet reflects how many units is funded through Health & Human Services (HHS), the benchmark for HHS units and their reimbursement rates. Aransas County Council on Aging would have to serve at least 322 congregate meals and 1,352 home delivered meals to meet their monthly benchmarks. It also indicates their unit rate is for the reimbursement. For congregate meals it is \$5.73 and \$4.95 for home delivered meals. Estimated persons served (all sources) unduplicated is 246 for congregate meals, and 192 for home delivered meals.

For the City of Corpus Christi's total budget is \$710,112

- Congregate meals
- Home delivered meals
- Benefits counseling.

For Community Action Corporation of South Texas, they will receive \$518,298

- Congregate meals
- Home delivered meals
- Transportation.

For Duval County, they will receive \$122,238

- Congregate meals
- Home delivered meals.

For Kleberg County, they will receive \$131,099

- Congregate meals
- Home delivered meals

For Live Oak County, they will receive \$50,240

- Home delivered meals

For Nueces County, they will receive \$142,473

- Congregate meals
- Home delivered meals
- Transportation

For Refugio County, they will receive \$44,630

- Home delivered meals
- Transportation

Jean Fields, the AAA's Nutrition Consultant who works with our nutrition providers on meal planning and their nutrition consultation will receive a total of \$31,106 which is divided into 12 months that she will get paid on a monthly basis.

Total congregate meals: \$814,429

Total home delivered meals: \$916,640

Total Title III-B Transportation Services: \$73,396

Total Title III-B Legal Assistance: \$17,086 – the City of Corpus Christi is contracted with AAA for benefit counseling

Total Nutrition Consultation: \$31,106

For a grand total: \$1,852,657

Mrs. Monrreal referred everyone to attachment A-9 and A-11 states that these sheets go together and is the Evidence Based Intervention (EBI) that is the Matter of Balance and Tai Chi programs. The AAA is projecting a \$63,208 and for data management, the AAA is projecting a \$107,693. This information is gathered from all of the AAA providers and it takes a lot of time for staff for supplies, telecommunication, etc. These pages go with Attachment B – Contracting Plan Summary.

Mr. Leija asked how does the \$1,852,657 compare to last year. Mrs. Monrreal replied that it is 10% higher from last year due to a 10% increase of carryover funds. Providers will also receive a 10% increase as well. Mr. Leija also asked if the AAA has maintained the personnel, Mrs. Monrreal responded that the AAA has increased the staff a little bit by hiring a full-time staff to replace a part-time staffer in information and referral, some hours for data entry and a small portion for family caregiving care coordination. Gilbert Guajardo primarily does the data entry as well as a part-time college student.

Mr. Ruben Saenz asked if the nutritionist is still the same for many years. Mrs. Monrreal stated that yes, Jean Fields has been working with the AAA since the 1990's. The AAA is required through procurement for the next cycle, so it may be Jean Fields next fiscal year or it may be another nutritionist. The state has changed the way we do business through the AAA. It has been done through the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) to go through the procurement process for contracts. Mr. Saenz asked if the AAA could provide a menu sample of the foods being served. Gilbert Guajardo can provide this information as Ms. Fields works on the menu cycle 6 months ahead. He was interested in the nutrition program in the Robstown area.

Mr. Saenz also inquired about the cost of meals if it was for delivered meals. Mrs. Monrreal responded that there are 2 costs one for congregate meals served at the senior centers, and the other for home delivered meals. Mr. Guajardo stated that \$4.95 is usually the rate for home delivered meals throughout the area. Each provider has to work through a workbook with HHS. It is a time-consuming process to follow the state guidelines to come up with the unit rate. All sorts of information is gathered from the driver to administration to the director, which portion of their salaries be charged to this, etc.

Mr. Saenz asked if the providers outsource the foods through Department of Agriculture, etc. Guajardo responded that through the Department of Agriculture, there is a program called Texans Feeding Texans that we utilize.

Henry Aleman asked what Benchmark projection for Kleberg County mean. Mrs. Monrreal responded that it shows 14,313 congregate meals and divide by 12, Kleberg is projecting 1,193 meals to serve every month. But he asks that they only serve 339. Mrs. Monrreal replied that the 339 is referencing individuals.

Motion to accept the Contracting Plan Summary, made by Tony Ferguson, seconded by Henry Aleman, motion passed without opposition.

VI. Staff Reports.

1. Advisory Bylaws - Viola Monrreal

Ms. Monrreal referred members to Attachment C for the ACoA Bylaws.

2. ACoA Member Letter - Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal mentioned that it was brought up by Frances Morrow about the excessive absences from some members. Monrreal stated that Christina composed a letter about the unexcused absences and can be asked to step down from the ACoA as a member. Cindy Perez was typed in error. The letter will have Cindy Payne as she is ACoA Chair.

3. Appointment of the Nominating Committee - Jesus Leija

Mr. Leija announced that a Nominating Committee is needed to help fill the vacancies in the ACoA. Mrs. Monrreal referred members to look at the roster. Henry Aleman, Gloria Cureton, Jesus Leija all have terms expiring this year. We need to find out if they want to renew their term for an additional five years. Also look into the vacancies in the counties and think of someone who may be interested in serving on the Council. Mr. Leija then asked the members if they would like to be on the nominating committee. Tony Ferguson and Henry Aleman volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. The ACoA needs 5 members. Possibly have a meeting in December.

4. Benefits Counseling - "Medicare Hot Topic"/Open Enrollment Event of the Month - Viola Monrreal

Mrs. Monrreal reported the two events the AAA hosted. The AAA hosted an Open Enrollment Clinic and invited insurance providers to assist as well. Appointments were scheduled and also had walk-ins. A little over 50 people attend the clinic from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was non-stop, clients were meeting with benefits counselors and providers. Last Friday, the AAA had a ToDD (Transfer on Death Deed) Clinic here at the office. Six attorneys volunteered their time for free and a state attorney that came down and assisted. Some cases were difficult. We had a notary public on hand to assist in notarizing the documents on site and then the clients can take their documents to the County to get it filed. Over 40 people came to the clinic. Some people came in with more than 2 deeds but the attorneys still assisted them. Then some clients came in with different questions to ask the attorneys. We were told that our AAA is the only one that provides this service.

VII. Committee Reports.

1. TSHL / Advocacy Committee Report- Mark Walsh

No TSHL Report given.

VIII. New Business

1. Birthdays- Christina Zapata

Chuck Schultz - November 3

IX. Announcements.

1. Reminders and Misc.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, December 10, 2018. We will have a potluck luncheon at 12 noon, the ACoA meeting will meet at 1 p.m. There will be a Christmas potluck sign up sheet at the back table. Make sure to sign up.

2. Other announcements:

Rudy Cantu stated that someone else should be assigned as TSHL representative to report to the ACoA about TSHL activities as they are just as important.

X. Adjournment.

Mr. Jesus Leija adjourned the ACoA meeting at 3:00 p.m.