

**MINUTES  
OLDER ADULT SUBCOMMITTEE**

June 15, 2010  
Airport Hilton  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Planning Council Members**

**In Attendance:**

Stephanie Thal - Chairperson  
John Ryan  
George Fry  
Sophie Cabrera  
Adrienne Cedro-Hament  
Lin Benjamin  
Jennie Montoya  
Carmen Lee

**Planning Council Staff in Attendance:**

Michael Gardner  
Ann Arneill-Py  
Brian Keefer

**Others in Attendance:**

Kevin Furey  
Kurt Schweigman  
Marina Augusto  
Rachel Guerrero  
Adrienne Shilton

Noting that a quorum was present, the chairperson, Stephanie Thal, MFT, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Planning Council Member Issue Requests**

There were no issue requests at this time.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The chairperson, Stephanie Thal MFT, introduced herself and then the rest of the Older Adult Committee, presenters, and guests in attendance introduced themselves. The chair then apologized for not following up on the review of the committee's issue matrix as she had said she would. She indicated that she would follow through in the near future. The chair also discussed an Older Adult conference that she had attended in Bakersfield, and said it was a fantastic. She also said that she had a PPT from the meeting on elder abuse that she would share with the rest of the committee. She also indicated that the presenter may be an appropriate person to speak to the entire council when we are in San Diego, January, 2011.

**Committee Discussion of Racial/Ethnic Disparities**

The committee, for the second meeting, discussed the committee's presentations and how the older adult disparities are covered. It also talked about the 2006 older adult survey and how we are now using the latest survey and will compare the results. The committee also discussed how the older adults were the most underserved population and as a category they were third, behind Latino and Asian Pacific Islanders. Also, the MHB training data was mentioned, and staff said that the state data would be gathered and sent out to the committee.

**Workforce Report**

The committee received a report from Brian Keefer and Adrienne Shilton updating the WET training and updating the progress of the process. Several meetings that covered the subject not only in California but nationwide were reported on. There were 28 workforce and education training meetings in the last year. The current fiscal situation in California was mentioned as having a serious affect on future funding.

The presentation covered topics mentioned at the last meeting in April. These were financial incentives currently in place for training of individuals to work with older adults, and interagency agreements (19 state agencies) that are in place. Because the department has not yet released information regarding this latter project, the actual report cannot be released; instead the committee received a general report overview. Once the report is released by the department it will be shared with the committee.

### **Report from Department of Aging and Updates on the WET Issue Paper**

Lin Benjamin, from the Department of Aging, gave a report to the committee. Her report touched on two items, an update on the CMHDA Older Adult System of Care Committee Mental Health & Aging Workforce Education and Training (WET) Issue Paper and the next steps, as well as the results of CDA's review of the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Plans approved as of February 26, 2010 by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)..

Adrienne Shilton of the California Institute of Mental Health convened a conference call with the county MHSA Workforce Education and Training (WET) Coordinators and representatives from the MHSA Regional Partnerships. . They were presented with suggestions on how to use the MHSA WET funds to address the counties' workforce training needs for persons working with older adults and the importance of including system partners such as aging services providers in these trainings. The importance of providing training specific to older adults was emphasized and discussed. Available geriatric mental health training resources were discussed which are included in the WET Issue Paper. Ms. Benjamin described several training programs that are available throughout the United States. Blended training was one of the more interesting concepts mentioned. The statewide adult protective services training project was described. Alameda county programs were mentioned.. It is important to support the WET coordinators and recognize effective geriatric training programs they are utilizing.

Several recommendations regarding the 5- Year WET Plan were discussed including monitoring the extent to which WET strategies promote geriatric mental health education and the development of geriatric mental health specialists The insertion of older adult specific training language was suggested. Focusing on un-served and underserved older adults should be an important focus for the committee. Collaboration between the CMHPC Older Adult Committee and the CMHPC Human Resource Committee on WET issues should be a goal.

Regarding the recommendations in the WET Issue Paper, the committee felt that having one person as a contact individual to coordinate geriatric mental health training was a good idea. Discussion covered whether this should be located at the state level or at the county level.

Ms Benjamin suggested that the CMHPC Older Adult Committee in collaboration with the CMHPC Human Resource Committee monitor if the 5-Year WET funds are being used to promote geriatric training and develop geriatric specialists. This oversight would help

determine if the WET funds are being utilized as recommended in the 5-Year WET Plan specific to geriatric training. . **Presentation on Disparities in Services to Older Adult**

Following lunch, the committee received a report from Rachel Guerrero, Marina Augusto, and Kurt Schweigman on disparities in services to older adults.

Because of her pending retirement, Rachel stated that she would let Marina give the presentation to the committee.

Marina began by stating that she would report on the Reducing Disparities Project (RDP) and the five providers who have been awarded contracts. She presented on how these providers were going to address the specific needs of older adults.

Marina gave background on the RDP and explained the high hopes everyone has, nationwide, on the success of it. She explained each of the 5 contracted agencies and the background of how these 5 recognized groups were chosen. The contractor is tasked to identify and document, in their specific communities, what works for them and how the successes can be duplicated throughout the state.

Working with communities, providers, and CBO to identify those programs that have a track record of success was the project first task. The project will continue for 4 years. A further group was funded to facilitate the groups, gather the data, and produce the final report. Final recommendations to the department will be the ultimate end.

More information can be found at the Department of Mental Health's website at –

[http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Multicultural\\_Services/CRDP.asp](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Multicultural_Services/CRDP.asp)

Kurt Schweigman, project manager of Native Vision, explained his organization and identified the goals and projects he is involved with and working on through the Native American Health Center who has the contract with RDP. There are 107 identified Indian tribes in California indicating that there is a very diverse clientele. He stated that the cultural practices are very much a part of his groups activities and must be included in mental health well being. He described the community gatherings that his group is using to overcome the disparities found in mental health services to native older adults. Story telling and sharing from the elders was extremely important and interwoven in the programs. The native community greatly respects their elders.

### **Older Adult Survey**

Staff gave a report on the 2010 Older Adult Survey that was launched in June, 2010. It was sent out to all counties in California and will close June 26<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that this survey and the responses received will be able to identify the number and scope of older adult programs in the state of California. When the survey is over, staff will compare the results with an older adult survey from 2006 and present the findings to the committee.

### **Older Adult Target Population Legislation**

Staff gave a report on AB 2234 sponsored by Bonnie Lowenthal. The bill was identified by the legislative analyst's office as having a potential expense in the hundreds of millions of dollars if passed. Following a teleconference call, the sponsors decided to suspend action on this bill. It may be re-introduced next year with a clearer view of costs projected to incur.

### **Evaluation of Meeting and Future Agenda**

Committee thought that meeting was productive and that they received good information.

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Topics for the next agenda included having Carol Sewell present on the next steps for AB 2234, a report on the PEI component of the MHSA by Lin Benjamin, and a report on the older adult survey.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Gardner