

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, May 5, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Appointed Members: Colette Browne, Beverly Gotelli, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Roberta Murray, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, Raelene Tenno, and Kathy Wyatt.

(A quorum was established as eleven members were present at roll call. This board requires eight members to be present in order to establish quorum.)

Ex-officio Members: Alan Burdick, DLIR; Kenneth Fink, DOH; Kathy Ishihara, DHS; Dan Miyamoto, DOE; Curtis Motoyama, DOT; Christy Nishita, UH Center on Aging; Keith Ridley, DOH; and Sharon Yee, CMS.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff Present: Philip Ana, Aaron Arakaki, Derek Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Jomel Duldulao, Horace Farr, Tani Kalei Kagesa, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Candace Nakamoto, Lynn Niitani, Lani Sakamoto, Debbie Shimizu, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jeffrey Woodland.

Guests: Nathan Leo, Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation; and Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair.

PRESENTATION: Kenneth S. Fink, M.D., Director, Department of Health

Caroline introduced Dr. Fink. Dr. Fink shared his bio. He has lived in Hawaii for the last 15 years. He worked in the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D. C., where he met his wife. They returned to Hawaii to care for his wife's aging parents. Most recently, he was the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA. Previously, he was the Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools, Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division at DHS (i. e. the State Medicaid Director), and Chief Medical Officer for Region 10 of CMS.

Beverly expressed her gratitude to Dr. Fink for the efficiency and professionalism of the personnel in the DOH Vital Records office when she recently requested a death certificate.

Dr. Fink provided a presentation on DOH, its mission and vision, its values, and its priorities. (Presentation attached.)

Presentation highlights:

- DOH has 3,000 positions and 2600 employees, (i. e. 400 vacancies).
- DOH would like more kupuna to receive COVID-19 vaccine booster. Get vaccinated, get a booster dose, and get a second booster dose.

- Seniors are at risk for loneliness and isolation. Senior centers and other social spaces are important for interacting.
- Homelessness: *“How do we help seniors with housing?”*
- Workforce development is the priority. We need to pay better and create incentives. Workforce development should be housed and resourced in EOA.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April 14, 2023 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta announced that today's meeting is her last meeting. She will be babysitting her grandson in Santa Barbara on June 2, 2023.

Caroline and Stephen presented Roberta with a lei for her service on PABEA and as Chair.

Roberta announced that she will remain involved with PABEA as a community member on the Legislative Committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Beverly reported that the Committee met but did not have quorum. The Committee will develop strategies to advance the bills that did not pass this year, including, but not limited to, funding for the Healthy Aging Partnership Program, standardizing and enhancing Medicaid reimbursements, and hearing aids insurance coverage. The Committee will invite Senator Joy San Buenaventura and Representative Della Au Bellati to different meetings of the Committee. The Committee also will develop a strategy calendar. Stephen commented that a hearing aids bill will not pass without the support of public workers unions. He also commented that employers will resist legislation mandating hearing aid coverage because of the increase in healthcare insurance costs.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the Committee met this morning and reviewed the State Plan on Aging in detail. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program provided the Committee a presentation on State Plan Goals for Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Kathy Wyatt reported that the Committee is finalizing the details of the OAM event. Maui County's OAM event is taking place today. Hawaii county's event is scheduled for May 12, 2023. Kauai's event is scheduled for May 19, 2023. The City and County of Honolulu's event is on May 18, 2023. Kathy announced that all PABEA members and EOA staff are invited to the State OAM event on June 2, 2023 at 15 Craigside. John will circulate the volunteer signup sheet at today's meeting. Josephine will distribute the sheet by email to those who are not in-person at today's PABEA meeting. Kathy reminded attendees that RSVPs are needed for the meal headcount and to print name tags. The attendance fee is \$25. Honorees and dignitaries are not charged the attendance fee. EOA is producing a program booklet. Bios and photos of the awardees are needed by EOA as soon as possible to be included in the program booklet.

Kathy thanked Lynn Niitani and Candace Nakamoto for their assistance with the booklet. The last meeting of the Committee before the OAM event is scheduled for May 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Rick presented the recommendation of the Committee for its slate of nominees for the 2023 – 2024 PABEA Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair:

- Nominee for Chair: Beverly Gotelli
- Nominee for First Vice Chair: Stephen Lung
- Nominee for Second Vice Chair: Raelene Tenno

Voting will be held at the June PABEA meeting.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No reports were offered.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Alan reported that two key bills, HB 314 and SB 430, which proposed appropriating funds to the DLIR Office of Community Services (OCS) to administer a food security program not limited to seniors, died in their respective conference committees. Alan announced that OCS has been awarded by the USDA an additional \$156,000 per year in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to increase the number of seniors served by the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Approximately 1,680 participants will be added to serve a new total of 10,600 seniors. Eligible seniors receive \$50 worth of coupons. Seniors may apply by visiting the website of their respective service provider: Hawaii Foodbank for Oahu and Kauai; Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council, HCEOC, for Hawaii County; and Maui Economic Opportunity, MEO, for Maui. All providers are soliciting applications from seniors aged 60 and over. Coupons may be redeemed from participating vendors from April 1st – October 31st each year. Applications also are available on the OCS website. Alan is available at phone 808 586 8670 for questions.

Christy reported that UH is wrapping up its school year. Graduation is next week. Over the past academic year, the UH Center on Aging (COA) has built its capacity. COA now has six fulltime and part-time faculty and staff and eleven graduate assistants who are growing COA's capacity to perform good work in the community, including new projects on the horizon. The Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, which houses COA, has a new Dean, Alex Ortega. He will be arriving in August 2023. Christy will prepare a briefing packet for him to learn about COA, its initiatives, its future educational and research plans, our professional networks, including the aging network, and our communities. COA is grateful for its partnerships with EOA on developing the Alzheimer's Disease State Plan and on workforce development related efforts. COA also is grateful for its partnership with EAD on listening sessions and on gathering quantitative data to support EAD's area plan on aging. COA continues to strengthen its ability to be a resource in the community. New resources are available on the COA website, including infographics and GIS maps, for community partners to use in planning, resource decisions, and grant writing. The data include percentage of older adults by zip code, percentage of older adults living alone by zip code, percentage of older adults in poverty by zip code, and disability status of older adults by zip code. Go to <https://www.hawaii.edu/aging/storymap/>. The story maps currently only include Oahu, but COA is working on neighbor island GIS maps, which might be available in the summer.

Curtis Motoyama, the ex-officio designee for the Department of Transportation, introduced himself. He currently is the Civil Rights Coordinator in the DOT Office of Civil Rights and previously worked at the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

Dan Miyamoto, the ex-officio designee for the Department of Education, introduced himself. He currently is the Administrator at the DOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design and is the Program Manager for the Federal Adult Education Program.

Kathy Ishihara reported that the Medicaid redetermination process has had no major problems. She commented that Dr. Fink will be an asset to DOH. DHS staff were saddened when he left his position as Med-QUEST Administrator in 2015.

Keith commented that he had nothing to add to Dr. Fink's presentation and nothing further to report.

Sharon Yee, Local Engagement and Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) San Francisco Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, reported that Captain Tom Duran, CMS Pacific Area Representative, retired at the end of December 2022. CMS is recruiting for that position, knowing the importance of the jurisdiction. Sharon is stepping into the role in the interim. CMS is now serving over 174 million lives, which includes 65 million Medicare beneficiaries, 12 million dually eligible Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries, almost 86 million Medicaid only beneficiaries (excludes the Children's Health Initiative Program), and 16 million lives in the marketplace. Under Medicare, every month, CMS distributes a National Training Program (NTP) flyer that lists upcoming trainings, new products, and recordings that have been posted to the CMS NTP website. The Thursday, May 11, 2023 webinar presentation will focus on immigrants and Medicare. Other updates also will be presented. New products that were announced this month include CMS brochures on Medicare benefits, Medicare and home health care, Medicare hospice services, and the home health benefit. Regarding next week's ending of the Public Health Emergency, CMS extended over 100 flexibilities. Some flexibilities will expire. Those that will continue and that might be of interest are those that surround telehealth benefits through other authorities, including the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Some of those flexibilities will continue until 2024. Those continuing flexibilities include access by Medicare beneficiaries to telehealth services in any geographic area of the United States (i. e. not only those in rural areas), access to telehealth services from the homes of Medicare beneficiaries, and access by some Medicare beneficiaries to audio-only (without video) telehealth services. Those who have Medicare advantage plans might have additional benefits. They need to check with their plans. Regarding COVID-19 health vaccines, treatments, and testing, vaccines will continue to be covered at no cost to the Medicare beneficiary. Again, people with Medicare advantage plans need to check with their plan on benefits. COVID-19 testing will be covered at no cost to the beneficiary if the test is prescribed by a provider. The over-the-counter test demonstration project will end. Those tests will be available, but the tests will be out-of-pocket expenses. Again, those with Medicare advantage need to check with their plans to determine what their plans will be offering after May 11, 2023. The coverage of access to anti-virals will remain the same as it is now during the Public Health Emergency. Regarding Medicaid redeterminations, people who are dually eligible, especially those that are on dual special needs plans, need to be sure to be extra attentive to answering any State mailing. Those who are on dual special needs plans will no longer be eligible to be enrolled in that plan if they lose their Medicaid. In other states, the plans are reaching out on the Medicare side to ensure that dual Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries are answering their mail and completing paperwork as needed. Regarding

Medicare savings programs, the Social Security Administration has seen an increase in workload for persons who have lost access to savings programs.

Caroline thanked the new ex-officio members and their departments for responding to the request from Roberta and Caroline to participate in the PABEA meetings. She also thanked the new ex-officio members for their willingness to serve.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's report.

Caroline reported that EOA conducted presentations statewide to gather feedback on the State Plan on Aging. EOA held seven in-person and virtual meetings as follows:

1. Kauai: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Piikoi Building, 4444 Rice Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766.
2. Zoom: Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
3. Maui: Thursday, April 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani Street, Room 2, Wailuku 96793 and by: <https://bluejeans.com/392866249>
4. Hilo: Monday, May 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Hawaii ADRC .
5. Kona: Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., West Hawaii Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.
6. Zoom: Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
7. City and County of Honolulu: Thursday, May 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Harris United Methodist Church.

Feedback was provided to EOA during the presentations. EOA is modifying the Plan accordingly. EOA continues to accept comments on the Plan.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Derek reported that he and Council Member Andria Tupuola visited the Leeward Coast at her request to see EAD's food security work. They visited the YMCA congregate meal site. EAD has been working with the YMCA to establish a congregate meal site over the last two years. They just started their congregate meal services with approximately ten participants. They are in the process of procuring a canopy tent structure over their basketball court to provide them more capacity to support kupuna programs and recreation activities. They also visited the Kupuna Food Pantry. EAD uses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to work with Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to offer drive-through kupuna food pick-up with meals prepared by students from Waianae High School and Kapolei High School and produce grown and packaged by local farmers. Participation in the adult day care centers is slowly increasing. Similar to other AAAs, EAD is struggling with service provider capacity for in-home services, such as bathing, attendant care, and homemaker services. EAD is working on its four-year area plan on aging. EAD will provide community presentations in the nine council districts for feedback. Derek reported that he had the opportunity to visit Mayor Blangiardi with Stephen Lung, the City and County of Honolulu's OAM honoree.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Horace reported that HCOA is also experiencing difficulties with capacity. After three years of operating under pandemic protocols, HCOA partnered and participated with AARP and Coordinated Services for the Elderly (CSE) in providing in-person, face to face tax preparation

services. The program completed approximately 1,100 tax returns. Many completed returns were for seniors. On Monday, May 8, 2023, Horace might have an interview with a candidate for the data analyst position. HCOA has a vocational rehab placement four days a week on a retraining program. HCOA is working on its area plan on aging. Staff are going out to the community and into the programs. HCOA has completed its area plan hearings. Staff are working towards meeting the May 31, 2023 deadline for the first draft of the area plan. Horace is working on the executive summary. HCOA attended the County Council budget hearings. The hearings provided HCOA an opportunity to educate the County Council members. Horace has completed and submitted the data extract. Horace announced that the County of Hawaii's OAM luncheon is next Friday, May 12, 2023. At Horace's request, Roberta, in her role as PABEA Chair, agreed to provide to the Hawaii County OAM honorees the invitation to the State OAM celebration at 15 Craigsid on June 2, 2023.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha reported that the first Better Choices, Better Health Cancer Thriving & Surviving Workshop was a success. Eight participated. Six participants completed the workshop. Participants shared what they liked best about the workshop: networking with others; useful and doable tools; interaction of participants and workshop leaders; the guidebook; group interaction and sharing; connections; and community and support resources. Kealoha attended a suicide prevention workshop. The featured speaker, Hale Akamine, developed a questionnaire tool to determine whether someone is at imminent risk for suicide. Kealoha suggested inviting Hale Akamine as a guest speaker at a future PABEA meeting.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Attached is Rowena Dagdag-Andaya's report.

MCOA's OAM celebration event is today.

KUPUNA CAUCUS

Caroline announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet virtually at 2:00 p.m. today. Today's agenda includes the status of the Kupuna Caucus package and senior-related legislation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday, June 2, 2023, PABEA Monthly Meeting (in-person and on ZOOM) following the OAM Celebration and Recognition at 15 Craigside Retirement Residence, 15 Craigside Place, Honolulu, HI 96817.
- Caroline announced that Philip Ana, EOA Long Term Care Disability Specialist is retiring after ten years of service with EOA. Philip is highly skilled at listening and at diffusing intense situations. Philip remarked that he enjoyed working with seniors and the EOA staff.
- Wednesday, May 24, 2023, HARA/Kokua Council legislative review, *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, In-person only at State Capitol Building Conference Room 329.
- Thursday, May 25, 2023, Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS) General Membership Meeting featuring guest speakers Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Representative Troy Hashimoto, Caroline Cadirao, and Derek Ariyoshi, who will provide presentations on state and county eldercare strategic legislative plans and updates.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.