

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS

December 2, 2022

Zoom Online Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Appointed Members: Poki'i Balaz, Colette Brown (joined the meeting after the roll was called), Beverly Gotelli, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting after the roll was called), Roberta Murray, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, Kathy Wyatt, and Barbara Yamashita.

(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 Office of Community Services.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff Present: Philip Ana, Wanda Anae-Onishi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Sasha Dimond, Horace Farr, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Candace Nakamoto, Debbie Shimizu, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela.

Guests: Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy, AARP Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 4, 2022 and the November 17, 2022 Zoom online PABEA meetings were approved as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta announced that the Governor-elect acknowledged receipt of the letter from PABEA.

Roberta also announced that information on free online mental health services offered in partnership with JABSOM is at <https://hawaiiutelehealth.org/>.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara announced that the Committee met this morning with a quorum present. The Committee has opted to not pursue a hearing aid bill and has opted to gather more information and data on hearing aids. The Committee will be enlisting the assistance of Kirby Shaw at DCAB and Kealii Lopez and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa of AARP Hawaii to help with the issue. The Committee will be inquiring with Judy Mohr Peterson as to the standardization of categories and payments for Medicaid services. Funding for the Healthy Aging Partnership (HAP) and the

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) will not be included in the Governor's budget. The Committee will ask Kupuna Caucus to introduce bills for funding for HAP and for SHIP. The funding request of \$977,000 for HAP also included funding for EOA's continued sponsorship of 808 Kupuna Fit, which is televised on KHON2 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Kupuna Caucus will meet via Zoom only at 2:00 p.m.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly announced that the Committee met this morning and had an extensive discussion on the caregiver survey. Caroline reported that respondents were more affluent than caregivers in general. Many were Caucasian or Japanese. A huge proportion of respondents were female caregivers. Many responded that finding information on caregiving and caregiving services and supports is difficult or very difficult. Shelly remarked that caregiving is a natural part of being a member of the family, i. e. many caregivers do not self-identify as caregivers. Colette remarked that the data has been consistent over the last forty years. Marilyn suggests focusing on one, two, or three of the most acute needs. Caroline commented that a two-person household of a caregiver and a care recipient encounters great and stressful difficulties. Roberta suggests that PABEA can be an information broker to caregivers and care recipients and the caregiver network.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kathy Wyatt announced that OAM celebration will be in-person.

EX-OFFICIOS MEMBERS' REPORTS

Attached is Alan's report which he also presented orally at the meeting.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Caroline announced that her term as EOA Director ends on Monday, December 5, 2022. She thanked PABEA members for their support and their voices in support of kupuna. Caroline will be held over as EOA Director beginning Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Governor-elect Green's nominee for the Director of the Department of Health is Kenneth Fink, M.D. Dr. Fink is currently HMSA's Vice President of Medicare and Medicaid programs. Previously, Dr. Fink was employed by Kamehameha Schools and was the Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division at DHS. Caroline is not retiring and has rights to return to her former position.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Sasha provided EAD's report for Derrick, who was meeting with the Department Director. Sasha wished all Happy Holidays. City and County departments and divisions are finalizing their budgets. Proposed budgets are flat. EAD is experiencing an increase in congregate dining participants and adult day care (ADC) participants. A few ADCs can help with personal care services. Some existing personal care providers are experiencing capacity difficulties due to staffing shortages. A Community Services Specialist II was hired. Drastic hiring has occurred at EAD in the last two months. EAD has hired a disability specialist from the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Grants Management is processing and executing contracts for 2023.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report.

Horace wished all Happy Holidays. The Data Analyst and the Administrative Services Assistant positions continue to be vacant. HCOA has received a list from Human Resources of qualified applicants for HCOA to interview for the Administrative Services Assistant position. HCOA is scheduling interviews for December 8, 2022. HCOA hopes to have the Administrative Services Assistant onboard by January 1, 2023. HCOA will continue working with HR on receiving a viable list of applicants for its Data Analyst position. The leading edge of the lava flow from the Mauna Loa eruption is 2.7 miles away from Daniel K. Inouye Highway.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha wished all Merry Christmas. Kealoha reported that Mayor Derek Kawakami's inauguration was yesterday. Mayor Victorino and Lieutenant Governor-elect Sylvia Luke attended. The Kauai Adult Day Health Center capacity maximum is fifty clients. However, the current average is only twenty-two clients a day due to staffing capacity. Recently, the ADRC received a call for assistance with home modification and wiring repair. The caller was dissatisfied that AEA did not provide these services. She did not want to hire a contractor, did not want to pay for it, and expected AEA to pay for it. AEA has lost one community service program assistant who handles information and referral. AEA is in the recruitment process for the vacant position.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Attached is Rowena's report.

Rowena wished all Happy Holidays. Rowena's report shows a slight increase in participants served and service units authorized. Home delivered meals, adult day care, and homemaker services continue to be the most popular call topics received by MCOA. Like the other AAAs, MCOA has issues with capacity, especially for personal care, attendant care, and homemaker services. Service providers are reporting that some community workers are resigning, creating wait lists. MCOA staff are discussing ways to manage the wait list. Rowena has contacted Caroline to discuss any possible legislation that could be drafted to support community and home-based services, such as increasing the minimum wage or providing incentives or tax breaks to employers. MCOA is in recruitment for a few service specialist positions. (MCOA has had three resignations in the past two months.) The resigned employees are looking for employment that offers telework and advancement in the field. MCOA is interviewing candidates for service specialists. This afternoon, MCOA has a virtual interview with a candidate on Lanai. MCOA also is interviewing for a data administrator. For the month of November, MCOA staff assisted in an applied suicide intervention skills training that was held on November 16 and 17, 2023. About twenty attendees from various state and county agencies, including the Maui Fire Department, Child Protective Services, and Hawaii District Court Probation Branch, participated. The Maui Police Department and the Maui Fire Department each experienced a suicide among their staff. MCOA has staff trained in suicide intervention skills. They are sharing that information with counterparts and colleagues in other departments. MCOA participated in the AARP Caregiver Breakfast on November 17, 2022. Approximately 170 participants attended. Numerous non-profit organizations distributed

information. A caregiver panel shared experiences. Attendees participated in roundtable discussions. Rowena was involved in a collaboration with the Fil-Am Voice, a local newspaper whose primary audience is the Filipino community, in which many are caregivers. The editor and Rowena wrote an article together about their experiences and the experiences of their friends as caregivers. The article is at <https://filamvoicemaui.com/family-caregivers-assisting-with-love/>

Rowena is applying for a local ARPA fund grant to support MCOA's personal care program. Rowena is also applying for another ARPA fund grant for food distribution or home delivered meals. The appointment of the Director of Housing and Human Concerns is pending.

KUPUNA CAUCUS

Caroline announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet at 2:00 p.m. today by Zoom only. The agenda includes presentations on proposed Kupuna Caucus legislation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was submitted or offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kealoha announced that AEA is selling the 2023 Kauai Fire Department calendar. Proceeds benefit AEA's falls prevention program. Please contact Kealoha if you would like to purchase a calendar for \$20 each. She will bring them to the next PABEA meeting.

Bill announced that he donated his 160th pint of blood this past Tuesday.

Rick announced that the link to the video of the 6th Annual HPGS Fundraiser honoring John McDermott is posted on the HPGS website. Rick thanked all for their contributions to the event.

Stephen announced that he attended the Healthcare Association of Hawaii healthcare workforce initiative workgroup meeting that was held on November 18, 2022. He reported that HAH presented its 2022 report. Excluding physicians, 3,873 healthcare positions are vacant statewide for a vacancy rate of 17 percent. Hospitals account for almost half of the vacancies. Various factors causing the shortage were discussed. Strategies in progress to address the shortage were discussed. The strategies fall into three categories:

- entry level certificate programs making it easier for persons to qualify at an entry level to provide services;
- glide paths enabling persons such as CNAs and LPNs to be able to upgrade over time to higher levels; and,
- expanding the number of open slots in the local nurse residency programs. (Recruiting faculty is a bottleneck.)

Kathy remarked that existing workers are working overtime and extra shifts. Some are burning out and resigning from their positions.

Rick inquired whether the CNA requirement to provide personal care in nursing facilities could be waived to allow NAs to provide personal care in nursing facilities during this period of shortage of CNAs.

Roberta shared that she went paddling yesterday morning to see the Mauna. The crew paddled out about a mile and a half and turned left. It was 6:30ish. They saw the horizon of the mountain. There were one, two, three little candlelight flickers of light signifying where the fissures were. They sat there on the water and watched the little flickers of light. Then, within twenty seconds, the light morphed into an orange-red ball of fire – the sun coming over the horizon. You could see the trail of orange leading from the water to our canoe. It was magical. *Sometimes, distance gives one a different perspective and view of what's going on, no matter how chaotic or crisis oriented we are. Sometimes, the path will just show itself if we just wait and see.*

Roberta announced that the next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.