

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS

January 6, 2023

Zoom Online Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Appointed Members: Poki'i Balaz (joined the meeting after the roll was called), Colette Brown, Beverly Gotelli, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting after the roll was called), Roberta Murray, Shelly Ogata, Barbara Service, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, Raelene Tenno, 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; and Christy Nishita, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff: Wanda Anae-Onishi, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Aaron Arakaki, Derrick Ariyoshi, Jomel Duldulao, Horace Farr, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Candace Nakamoto, Lani Sakamoto, Debbie Shimizu, Kealoha Takahashi, and Cristina Valenzuela.

Guests: Francine Beppu, Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation; Fides Delgado; Aubrey Hawk; Nathan Leo, Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation; David McEwan, M.D., Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation; Gary Permenter, Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation; Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair; and Larry Smith.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2, 2022 Zoom online PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta commented that she has called the Governor's office several times. His voice mailbox is full. She will continue to attempt to contact the Governor.

Caroline has been reappointed by Governor Green as the EOA Director in the new administration.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara announced that the Committee did not meet this morning in order to provide Committee

members the opportunity to attend this morning's virtual seminar on the 2023 Legislative Session presented by Bob Toyofuku of the Pacific Law Institute. At next month's Committee Meeting, Ron Shimabuku, the Alzheimer's Association Director of Public Policy and Advocacy will provide a presentation on its legislative priorities, including legislation for a public health awareness campaign on Alzheimer's disease. Representative Ryan Yamane, who had been serving as Chairman of the House Health, Human Services and Homelessness Committee, has been appointed by Governor Green to be the Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

Rick commented that he attended the Deaf and Blind Task Force meeting on Wednesday, December 28, 2022. Senator Joy San Buenaventura chaired the meeting. The Task Force is upset that PABEA is not supporting hearing aid legislation. A hearing aid bill will be introduced by the Deaf and Blind Task Force.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the Committee met this morning. Norma Kop provided an informative and insightful presentation on Senior Medicare Patrol. Next month, the Committee will discuss and examine integrating SMP into the State Plan on Aging.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No reports were offered.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Alan announced that he is on the State Plan for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). USDA has awarded a partial grant of approximately \$400,000 for food assistance. Congress might consider the next five-year Farm Bill in 2023. Allocation amounts in the Farm Bill might not increase. SFMNP likely will receive \$498,000, which will allow the program to continue at the same level as before. ARPA funds also might be available.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Kathy wished all Merry Christmas on the 12th night of Christmas and Happy New Year. KAEA has sent its invitations for nominations for OAM awardees. KAEA's celebration will be in the third week of May. HCOA will have its celebration on either the first or second Friday in May. EAD will have its celebration on May 18, 2023. PABEA will have the statewide OAM celebration on Friday, June 2, 2023. This year's theme is *Age Unbound*.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS (continued)

Christy wished everyone a Happy New Year. She reported that the Center on Aging (COA) continues to build its capacity at UH Manoa. Two recent hires include a new researcher that will help to build capacity and will perform research and evaluation and a part-time specialist to help the Center with PR, communications, policy, and tracking of aging issues bills at the legislature. Christy expressed the gratitude of the COA staff for the COA's partnership with EOA on projects related to ADRD and dementia supports and services. COA will be working with EOA on applying for funds to implement parts of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Plan. COA is working with EAD on several projects, including supporting their area plan development.

COA also is working with EOA on workforce development and on COA classes for the certificate program.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's report.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Derrick reported that the majority of EAD's service provider contracts terminated at the end of the calendar year. Most of the service provider contracts have been stood up under EAD's new master agreement contracts. Ending one contract and beginning a new contract could have resulted in breaks in services for participants. EAD has some new services, offers more flexibility in contracts this year, and incentivizes some providers to serve rural areas. Derrick will be meeting with City and County Manager Director in the first week of February. EAD is ready to propose to the Managing Director a reorganization plan developed in consultation with the Department of Human Resources. The reorganization plan converts many frontline positions from customer service level positions to professional series positions (specifically, case managers). EAD is working with Department of Community Services Director and Deputy Director on identifying a new site for EAD. EAD continues to work on filling vacant positions.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report.

Horace wished all a Happy New Year. The Mauna Loa eruption ended in mid-December. The island suffered little damage, except to the access road. The eruption provided HCOA an opportunity to review its continuity of operations plan (COOP) and determine changes needed to the plan. HCOA has hired an Administrative Services Assistant, who will be performing accounting and HR duties and tasks. The hire will begin work on January 17, 2023. She is an Accountant IV, has been with the county for 22 years, and worked in the Office of Aging for two and a half years in the past. For 2023, Horace's first priority is to hire a data analyst. Horace has been performing the job for three and a half years in addition to the Executive position. HCOA participated in two AARP Hawaii presentations - one in Hilo and one in Kona. AARP did an excellent presentation on "2022 Hawai'i State Legislature Advocacy Wins for Kūpuna." HCOA took the opportunity to share with attendees that the Big Island is a great place to live and retire. However, when planning for retirement, there are other factors that need to be considered besides income, such as the availability of healthcare and aging services.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha provided a few highlights:

- The annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition at Kauai Beach Resort will be held on January 12, 2023.
- KAEA's updated Resource Directory is available in ten languages: English, Hawaiian, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Marshallese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Thai.
- Many are using smartphones to access the ADRC website.
- Thank you to those who purchased the firefighter calendars.

- Training with Paul Greenwood for APS and AEA staff is scheduled for January 17, 2023.
- US Aging's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative is accepting applications for community vaccination promotion efforts targeted to helping older adults and people with disabilities get vaccinated against COVID-19 and the seasonal flu. US Aging will provide a webinar on January 10, 2023 for those wishing to learn about this new funding opportunity. Josephine will forward to PABEA members information on the grant and the webinar, including webinar registration.

Roberta commented that, on the news this morning in the tech report, tech reporter at the CES show in Las Vegas reported on a new app that translates what you are saying in your language into another language that another person speaks. 151 languages are available in the app.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena wished all Happy New Year and Happy Epiphany Day. MCOA experienced a slight decrease in participants served during the holidays. Participants might be vacationing and not utilizing services. Home delivered meals, homemaker services, and transportation services are the top three calls to MCOA. MCOA has eight position vacancies. MCOA recently interviewed and selected a candidate on Lanai. The candidate has accepted the position and will begin work on January 20, 2023. MCOA has two Aging and Disability Services Specialist I vacancies. The Aging and Disability Services Specialist III for Molokai is now there. Thus, both the Lanai and Molokai positions are filled. MCOA is scheduling interviews for next week for the Aging and Disability Services Specialist II positions. MCOA is seeking comments from current and prospective provider and from the community to help MCOA develop its RFPs for home and community-based services for FYs 2024 and 2025. The RFI was issued today. MCOA anticipates issuing RFPs in mid-February. MCOA participated in the AARP in Action event held on December 14, 2022 at the Technology Park in Kihei. The event had a wide mix of people, including those who recently retired, those who have lived on Maui lifelong, with a wide range of ages. Rowena spoke on the topic of aging well and described the profile of residents on Maui, projections for the future population, services and resources that MCOA provides to residents, and current and future issues for Maui's residents. After Rowena's presentation, attendees had a tabletop session discussion on the most challenging issues for the Maui community. The top issues were caregiving, affordable long-term care, and the cost of living, including the cost of food and medicine, and keeping up with rent or mortgage. Some mentioned that protection from fraud and scams is important. For the month of January, Rowena will be traveling to Lanai to meet with MCOA's new staff member and with service providers there. Rowena will be on Molokai on January 25, 2023 to meet with the public health nurses and discuss their needs for the community and understand the issues confronting them. Maui has a new Mayor, Mayor Bissen, who was a former judge and a former head prosecutor. MCOA is preparing its budget for submission to the County Council at the end of March. The County Council is deliberating leadership. Members are at an impasse with an evenly split vote of 4 to 4.

Roberta commented that she attended the AARP in Action event in Kona. At the table where she sat, approximately 40 percent of them had long term care insurance, but they complained that the insurance does not cover much in relation to what they have been paying in premiums.

KUPUNA CAUCUS

Roberta announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet virtually at 2:00 p.m. today. The agenda includes a presentation of the results of the Kupuna Caucus legislative package survey. The five measures receiving the most votes will compose the Kupuna Caucus legislative package.

NEW BUSINESS: Presentation on Improving End-of-Life Options and Hawaii's Our Care, Our Choice Act by Aubrey Hawk, Compassion & Choices Hawaii.

Aubrey was raised on Oahu and is a graduate of Iolani School. She moved to the Big Island in 2017. Aubrey is the owner & president of Aubrey Hawk Public Relations. Aubrey was hired in 2012 as a consultant by Compassion & Choices to advance medical aid in dying. Attached is Aubrey's presentation.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Dr. David McEwan introduced himself. Dr. McEwan began practicing medicine in Hawaii in family practice in 1977, recently retired, and was the co-founder of the Life Foundation. Dr. McEwan diagnosed Hawaii's first AIDS case. He practiced primary care through the years. The Foundation has been renamed as the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center. The Center performs grassroot medical care beyond AIDS, including other illnesses, and works with homeless people throughout Oahu. John McDermott approached Dr. McEwan a couple of weeks ago and asked Dr. McEwan if he could assist one of the committees on reaching out to the LGBT community and helping to evolve kupuna care into the LGBT community. Dr. McEwan is co-founder of the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation, which represents the gay community. The Legacy Foundation has been wanting to reach out to kupuna in the LGBT community. Dr. McEwan is a member of the Foundation's Advisory Council. He introduced two members of the Foundation Board in the Zoom room: Francine Beppu, Chairperson; and Nathan Leo, their digital master. He commented that Gary Permenter, a board director, was in the Zoom room but had exited. When these three learned of John's invitation, they very much wanted to contact PABEA to learn how they could help PABEA and the Foundation develop an ongoing relationship in the LGBT community.

Francine commented that advocating and creating programs for seniors has always been on the Foundation's list. The Foundation is exploring a subcommittee to see how it can create engagement to create and improve support systems and foster connections for LGBTQ seniors in Hawaii.

Nathan commented that the Foundation can help communicate programs or progress on behalf of LGBT kupuna.

Dr. McEwan noted that the Foundation is quite willing to jump on board in some manner and fashion. Dr. McEwan entered his phone number in the Zoom chat: 808 737 6011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday February 3, 2023 PABEA Monthly Meeting (in person and on ZOOM)
- Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Disabilities and Healthcare Symposium free virtual webinar, 9:00 a.m.
- Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawaii 2023 Web Series: Scam Free in 2023. More information will be forthcoming in next month's PABEA meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.