

## POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS

July 1, 2022

### Zoom Online Meeting Minutes

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL:

Present:

Appointed Members: Poki'i Balaz, Colette Brown, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Roberta Murray, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Lisa Spencer (entered the meeting at 11:40 a.m. after the roll was called), Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, Raelene Tenno, Kathy Wyatt, and Barbara Yamashita.

(A quorum was established as thirteen 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; Kathy Ishihara, DHS; Christy Nishita, University of Hawaii at Manoa; and David Rodrigues, DOT.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff Present: Aaron Arakaki, Derrick Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Jomel Duldulao, Horace Farr, Donna Lynn Loo (Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs), Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Lani Sakamoto, Debbie Shimizu, Chris Tu, and Cristina Valenzuela.

Guests: Pamela Cunningham, Kaiser; Kealii Lopez, AARP Hawaii State Director; Savy Makalena, Gimme A Break Hawaii; Hilton Raethel, Healthcare Association of Hawaii President and CEO; Brian O'Hare; and Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the June 3, 2022 Zoom online PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta reminded PABEA members to complete the Office of Information Practices training. She announced that the PABEA strategic planning session will be held on August 4, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Catholic Charities. Peter Adler will facilitate the session. The goal is to develop a road map for EOA and PABEA for the next three years.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara Service reported that the Committee did not meet this week. The Committee will be meeting on August 5, 2022 at the Department of Health.

## PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Roberta reported that the Committee did not meet today.

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Kathy reported that the Committee is planning no further events for this year and will be preparing for next year's Older Americans Month celebrations.

PRESENTATION: Closure of Wahiawa General Nursing Facility and Viability of LTC Facilities, Hilton Raethel, Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH).

Hilton provided background on HAH: HAH represents the continuum of care across the state of Hawaii. HAH's member organizations include the acute care hospitals, public and private skilled nursing facilities, adult residential care homes, Medicare-certified home health agencies, hospices, and assisted living facilities.

Hilton stated that the cost of living in Hawaii has a huge negative impact in terms of healthcare and long-term care facility viability. Acute care facilities have higher margins and, therefore, the ability to pay RNs and aides at a higher rate. The 2021 mean pay and state ranking for RNs, nursing assistants, and home health aides is respectively \$104,830/ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$38,650/ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, and \$29,030/ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. After adjusting for the cost of living, the rankings fall to 51<sup>st</sup> for all three. (Rankings are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.)

Hilton provided background on Wahiawa Nursing & Rehabilitation Center:

- 136 bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation center.
- Delicensing 43 licensed SNF/ICF beds and relicensing them into 45 licensed acute care medical/sub-acute care beds.
- Delicensing 93 SNF/ICF beds which will be closed effective July 22, 2022.
- Physical plant over fifty years old.
- Predominantly Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement.
- Losses of approximately \$1 million annually.
- Inability to generate positive cash flow inhibits ability to invest in capital plan.
- Deteriorating facility exacerbates payor mix issues.
- Go to location for MedQUEST resident placement.
- Unrecoverable downward spiral.

Other LTC facilities also are suffering financially.

Hilton provided a status of the competition between acute care and long-term care facilities:

- Acute care facilities (hospitals) generally have higher margins and pay healthcare workers more. The effect of the difference in pay is devastating to LTC facilities.
- Hospital generally have more opportunity to cost shift.
- Many healthcare workers prefer to work in acute care facilities.
- Acute care facilities generally have more opportunity for career advancement.
- Working with residents who are frail, sicker, and with dementia or Alzheimer's is challenging.
- Working with residents who "don't get better" can be challenging.
- Shortage of healthcare workers in Hawaii increases pressure on hospitals.
  - Nursing residency programs are in place in the hospitals.

- Some of the programs are offering bonuses.
- Hospitals are hiring all new graduates.
  - This year's entire graduating RN class from UH Maui was hired by Maui Memorial.
  - This year's entire graduating RN class from UH Hilo was hired by Hilo Medical Center.
  - This year's entire graduating RN class from Chaminade was hired by Queen's.

Hotels and retail establishments also compete for workforce. The inability to fully staff LTC facilities leads to below capacity resident census. Lack of residents leads to less revenue and an inability to cover costs. Many facilities in Hawaii are at 70 percent occupancy or less, are not covering their costs, and are accessing their reserves to cover their costs. Although the workforce shortage is not new, the acuity and severity of the problem is new.

Hilton provides a description of cost pressures on LTC facilities:

- Some facilities are only private pay. For these facilities, private pay reimbursement is sufficient to invest in infrastructure and workforce.
- Medicare and Medicaid pay at cost or lower.
- A small proportion of private pay residents is insufficient to generate margins for capital investment.
- Lack of investment in infrastructure leads to a downward spiral, e.g. Wahiawa Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- A mechanism is needed to cover capital investment.
- Re-basing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement might not be sufficient.
- Private insurance is not impactful in terms of alleviating cost pressures.

Hilton stated that Hawaii Medicare expenditures are the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation. Hawaii is under-reimbursed at both the federal and state level. Medicare reimbursement formulas place Hawaii at a disadvantage. The issue can be corrected only at a congressional level. This funding inequity must be addressed. Advocacy at the federal (congressional) and state level is critical to directing more federal and state monies into the Hawaii healthcare system, including Hawaii's LTC system.

HAH is cautiously optimistic that the next governor and administration will improve the viability of LTC care and services in Hawaii. HAH is developing with others a mechanism to access capital for LTC facilities.

The nursing schools have significantly more applicants than openings and faculty capacity. HAH is working with Queen's to supplement teaching faculty at the nursing schools. Three HAH employees are dedicated to workforce development. HAH is working with high schools, community colleges, and universities on providing a glide path (career development) to attract, develop, and retain staff. The glide path offers a route for students to become aides, aides to become LPNs and LPNs to become RNs. Tuition can be a barrier. Grants and scholarships for the students are critical. HAH is securing grants and scholarships for students in the glide path program.

Derek commented that the workforce shortage in home and community-based services is also acute.

Hilton will provide PABEA talking points in its advocacy efforts with Hawaii's congressional delegation and state legislators.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING (EOA)

Attached is Caroline's report.

Caroline provided highlights from her report:

- Caroline and John are working with Senator Moriwaki and Representative Hashimoto on the National Interbranch Task Force on Effective and Sustainable Long-Term Care. Caroline sent Senator Moriwaki names of stakeholders, including PABEA members, who can provide information on LTC issues, e.g. what's working; what's not working. The task force is scheduled to meet on July 26, 2022.
- Aging in Hawaii Surveys and Caregiver Surveys – In the first month, EOA has received approximately 1,100 completed aging surveys and approximately 350 completed caregiver surveys. EOA would like HGEA members and DOH and DHS employees to complete the survey. The surveys will remain open another month.
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) - Procurement is open for the long-term care ombudsman contracted positions for FY 2023. Procurement is necessary while the 5 new positions are being established in EOA. EOA successfully awarded contracts for the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Position – DOH is processing the establishment of the position. The position is not a civil service position – the EOA director appoints the employee. Caroline's goal is to appoint the coordinator this year. Marilyn recommends documenting work achieved by the coordinator once the coordinator begins employment to justify the need for the position.

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Alan announced that the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program has participant openings on all the major Hawaiian islands. Participants receive \$50 worth of coupons. USDA grants have been received to fund the Program. 9,000 participants are served statewide.

Christy announced that the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health graduated 108 students. The students have been active in the community and have authored 127 articles, which is a measure of success. The UH Center on Aging (COA) is expanding its portfolio, including its work in Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and strengthening partnerships. Christy will have more to report about COA's work in the future.

David reported that the Governor signed into law SB2679 SD2 HD2 CD1 (Act 159). The law extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy-two years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age.

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Derrick reported that all EAD staff have returned to the office effective today, July 1, 2022. EAD continues to conduct hybrid client assessments. EAD also continues to experience service capacity challenges. Workforce shortages continue to be a challenge. Adult day care enrollments are increasing. EAD is performing community outreach at events and fairs. EAD is working with the mayor's communication team to launch vaccine booster public service announcements.

## HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report. Horace highlighted:

- HCOA's participation in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Survey of Older American Act participants for 2022;
- Horace's meeting on June 15, 2022 with Miranda Adkins, Victim Specialist, U. S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Honolulu Division, as the beginning of quarterly visits to Hawaii County for networking with the aging network on elder abuse crimes;
- HCOA's distribution of emergency home response and disaster preparation kits; and
- The transition of HCOA's Wellsy users to Microsoft Edge. The transition was completed on June 15, 2022.

## KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is the AEA report from Kealoha.

Donna Lynn Loo, County Assistant Executive on Aging, reported on behalf of Kealoha. Donna presented highlights from Kealoha's report:

- RSVP continues weekly food distributions. The events provide AEA an opportunity for outreach
- RSVP volunteers conducted outreach during the Tropic Care Events, distributing survey information
- Job interviews were conducted on June 22 and 23, 2022 for the RSVP Director position and a case manager position.
- The providers' meeting will be held on July 7, 2022.
- AEA is promoting the Aging in Hawaii survey and Hawaii's Caregivers survey via community outreach and radio ads.

## MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena's written report will be emailed to the PABEA members.

Rowena presented highlights from her report:

- MCOA is searching for funding to sustain the Healthy Aging Partnership (HAP) program. MCOA also will be working with legislators to fund HAP.
- MCOA participated in the Maui County Disaster Preparedness Expo. MCOA distributed MREs at the expo.
- MCOA currently is reviewing and revising emergency plans with service providers and agency partners to better prepare for hurricanes, earthquakes, flooding, fires, and other disasters.
- On June 15, 2022, the County of Maui highlighted World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on their social media sites and with media partners. MCOA continues to collaborate with state and county partners in monthly Maui Elder Justice Team meetings facilitated by the Maui County.
- Lana'i Long Term Care Facility – The Lana'i Long Term Care Facility Planning Group released a needs assessment prepared by the University of Hawaii. MCOA will continue to participate in discussions regarding support services for Lana'i community seniors.

## KUPUNA CAUCUS

Caroline announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet today, July 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Caroline will be providing the Kupuna Caucus a presentation on the 2015 Statewide Mobility Management Report recommendations. Caroline will have today's Kupuna Caucus agenda emailed to PABEA members.

## APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Rick announced that Kokua Council is hosting candidate forums. This past Monday's forum featured candidates for State Senate District 11. The next forum will be on July 11, 2022.

Raelene reported that in the aftermath of the Marco Polo fire, the City and County of Honolulu passed an ordinance that requires condominium buildings to provide to the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) a list of vulnerable residents in the building. The list must be updated as often and necessary as occupants change in the building and individual units. The list and any updated list must be given to the nearest fire station in the area to upload into the master HFD database. The list will be used only for the purposes of assisting first responders to identify any occupant that may need assistance evacuating the building. The list must be in typed written form (no manual handwriting).

The list is not intended to violate HIPAA or privacy. HFD is not responsible for any privacy breaches. The list can be used in other disasters or emergencies. Resident participation is voluntary. Resident managers are responsible for completing and updating the list. Raelene will inquire how the information is secured in the HFD database.

## STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No statements were offered, and no testimony was submitted to EOA.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No updates were provided on the status of the Hawaii Crisis Standards of Care Triage Allocation Framework.

At the August PABEA meeting, a presentation on the Manoa Banyan Courts kupuna housing project will be provided.

## NEW BUSINESS

No new business for next month's agenda was brought before the Board.

## PABEA BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Caroline facilitated the virtual orientation and training yesterday, June 30, 2022. Caroline will have the slide deck emailed to PABEA members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- August 5, 2022, 11:30 a.m., PABEA monthly meeting (In-person and via Zoom)
- [Upcoming AARP Hawaii Events](#)

- Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center Community Resources Meeting, August 4, 2022, 12:00 p.m. [Join Zoom meeting](#).
- [YMCA of Honolulu](#): free kupuna meals and wellness activities:
  - Free Kupuna Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention.
  - Free Kupuna Meals & Wellness Activities.
  - Free Kupuna Group Exercise Classes.
- [Senior Medicare Patrol \(SMP\) Hawaii Caregiving Series](#).
- August 11: Long-Term Care – Cost, Consequence, and COVID-19
- September 8: Ten Tips for Getting Help with Your Questions
- October 13: Developing a Network for Our Shared Journey
- [June 15, 2022: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- Elections
  - [August 13, 2022, Hawaii Primary Election](#)
  - *Voters receive their ballots in the mail for the Primary Election by July 26, 2022.*
  - [November 8, 2022, General Election](#)
  - Voters receive their ballots in the mail for the General Election by October 21, 2022.
  - *“The term of a member of the legislature shall begin on the day of the general election at which elected....”*
  - *“The term of office of the governor shall begin at noon on the first Monday in December next following the governor’s election....”*
- October 15 – 19, 2022, [LeadingAge Annual Meeting and Expo](#), Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado.

#### NEW PABEA MEMBER INTRODUCTION

New PABEA Member Lisa Spencer introduced herself to the meeting attendees. Lisa is a faculty member at UH West Oahu in long-term care. She is interested in learning about workforce issues and LTC issues. The PABEA appointed and ex-officio members and EOA staff introduced themselves to Lisa.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.