

## POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS

November 4, 2022

### Zoom Online Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Present:

Appointed Members: William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Roberta Murray, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

(A quorum was established as nine 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; and Christy Nishita, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff: Wanda Anae-Onishi, Aaron Arakaki, Derrick Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Jomel Duldulao, Horace Farr, Norma Kop, Donna Lynn Loo, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Candace Nakamoto, Lani Sakamoto, Debbie Shimizu, Michiyo Tomioka, Christopher Tu, and Cristina Valenzuela.

Guests: Melodie Aduja, Democratic Party of Hawaii Kupuna Caucus; Kealii Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii; Katy Plant, Canary Health; Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair; Larry Smith; and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy, AARP Hawaii.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the October 7, 2022 Zoom online PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta reminded PABEA members that the second terms for Colette Browne and Kathy Wyatt end on June 30, 2023. She asks that PABEA members forward names of potential applicants to her and Caroline. The first terms of Roberta, Marilyn, and Barbara Service end on June 30, 2023. Caroline will inquire with Boards and Commissions as to the time frame for applying and whether existing board members need to resign when the new Governor takes office.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara reported that the Committee met this morning and spent a lot of time discussing hearing aids. The bill from the last legislative session is dead. Over the counter hearing aids are available. Hearing damage can occur if aids are not adjusted properly. The Committee is examining hearing aid education and outreach, policy and target groups (children, young people, adults, older adults, and/or people with disabilities), and costs and is considering inviting guest speakers, such as CVS, Hearing Center of Hawaii, and Miracle Ear, to provide a

presentation to the Committee. Rick commented that some states have a Medicaid hearing aid benefit. Stephen commented that Medicare has no hearing aid benefits. The Committee is considering surveying PABEA members to determine which hearing aid issues are most important. Kupuna Caucus will continue examining the issue to determine whether a hearing aid insurance coverage bill can and will be introduced.

Barbara reported that Medicaid standardization remains an issue to be discussed further.

#### PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly announced that the Committee will invite a speaker from EOA's programs each month beginning in January with the LTC Ombudsman Program. The Committee will review the state and area plans on aging. At its December meeting, the Committee will review the findings and summary of the results of the caregiver survey. Shelly asks PABEA to consider sending legislators, the Governor, and Lieutenant Governor letters to introduce them to PABEA and to inform them of PABEA's priorities. Marilyn suggests sending letters to county council members, too. She also suggests asking elected officials for their priorities, especially their aging-related priorities. PPRC will draft the letter by November 14, 2022. The draft letter will be presented for discussion, modification, and approval at a PABEA meeting to be scheduled for November 17, 2022. The meeting notice will be posted on November 10, 2022.

#### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

The Committee did not meet today. Its next meeting will be in January 2023.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Alan reported that October 31, 2022 was the final day to redeem coupons for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The program will resume on April 1, 2023. Providers for the next two years beginning April 1, 2023 will be the same providers as this year. The providers operate the program at a loss. Participants receive \$50 of coupons each per year. Approximately 9,000 registrants participate. American Plan Rescue Act (ARPA funds) will be available to serve additional people next year. During the interim period until April 1, 2023, DLIR OCS is working on the state plan and the state emergency food program to help with people's food security.

Christy announced that she served on the search committee for the new dean for Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. Three finalists were announced. One of the finalists accepted a position on the east coast. One of the finalists is from the University of Washington and has experience in native Hawaiian affairs. One finalist is from HPU. The new dean will be announced soon. Hiring is occurring in the three Thompson School units (Social Work, Public Health, and Center on Aging (COA)). COA has hired a new researcher and a new graduate assistant. UH has launched a new online dashboard to track substance abuse and mental health disorders across Hawaii. Treena Becker, a researcher at the Center on Aging, is the Principal Investigator of the project. The dashboard was featured on local television news.

Kathy Ishihara had no updates from DHS.

#### EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's report.

Caroline announced that November is National Family Caregivers Month. ACL is launching a national center to strengthen the direct care workforce. The workforce development working group will continue into 2023. The working group has had two meetings since the October PABEA meeting. The next meeting of the working group will be in January 2023. The full-time Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Coordinator position will be posted next week. Dates have been designated for interviews. The position notice must be posted for five days. Caroline complimented HPGS on its annual HPGS Fundraiser honoring John McDermott. Caroline announced that Lisa Nakao is retiring after thirty years of service in state government. Her last day in the office is November 30, 2022.

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

Derrick reported that the City and County of Honolulu has purchased the former home of Hawaii Tokai International College which is on Kapiolani Boulevard in Moiliili. The dormitory rooms might be converted to affordable housing. Proposals for City and County of Honolulu Grants in Aid (GIA) Program are due by November 23, 2022. Proposals that align with the vision and goals of the Age-Friendly Honolulu initiative are awarded priority scoring. Members of the Honolulu Committee on Aging have been sworn in. Members include Zosimo Arista, Lindsey Ilagan, Merle O'Neill, Rick Tabor, Cristina Vocalan, Terrina Wong, and Kathy Wyatt. EAD is completing its area plan and processing its provider contracts.

#### HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report, including a statistical workforce capacity impact on service delivery.

Horace highlighted items from his report:

- HCOA successfully hosted four basic computer skills workshops - two in East Hawaii and two in West Hawaii - during the months of September and October 2022. A total of 45 attendees - 23 in East Hawaii and 22 in West Hawaii - participated in the three-hour sessions that were space limited to 12 participants per session. HCOA might host the workshops again after the holidays.
- Personnel update: The Data Analyst and Administrative Services Assistant positions remain vacant. The open recruitment announcement for the Administrative Services Assistant position closed on October 18, 2022.
- HCOA has submitted its budget.
- The FBI is interested in working with HCOA. The Special Agent assigned to the Big Island lives on the Big Island. The Special Agent, along with the Honolulu Field Office Unit, will focus on Financial Fraud/Abuse cases that are elevated to the Federal level. The focus will be on preventing financial fraud and abuse. The FBI will provide resources and training opportunities to HCOA staff and providers. HCOA will schedule training sessions for providers.
- Horace examined case management data from 2019 to 2022 to analyze points in time in an attempt to understand what transpired during the pandemic and to forecast what the future might hold. Horace hopes people return to work and providers stabilize.

Shelly suggests that the FBI educate bank and retail cashiers on financial fraud and abuse prevention.

#### KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is Kealoha Takahashi's report.

Donna Lynn Loo provided an oral report for Kealoha:

- AEA is completing its area plan.
- Focus Groups were conducted with various community organizations last week.
- Kealoha has reached out to Paul Greenwood to train the elder abuse multi-disciplinary team on fraud, financial security and literacy, and fraud and abuse prevention.
- Service providers have insufficient capacity due to the continuing staffing shortage. For many services, AEA has only one provider.
- Within AEA's focus groups, the top topics were caregiver support, access to core services, social isolation, elder abuse, and housing.
- The top requests for information and assistance include caregiver support, elder abuse, housing, and mental health issues and support. Underlying topics were mental health issues and the lack of support services for caregivers, seniors, and children.
- Regarding mental health, some of the chore service consumers with cluttered homes are uncomfortable with discarding items.

Roberta asked Christy whether she had any information about free telehealth for mental health at UH. Christy will look into it.

#### MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING

Rowena reported that Maui has a slight decrease in participants served and services authorized for September 2022. For calls to MCOA, the most popular call topics are home delivered meals, adult day care, and homemaker services. MCOA currently has eight vacancies. Three service specialist positions are vacant. MCOA is conducting interviews for these positions. An aging and disability specialist position is vacant. Recruitment for the position is in process and will close in a few weeks. A program specialist position is vacant. The position has been posted on the County website. MCOA is also recruiting for a data administrator. MCOA coordinated the Maui Senior Fair on October 29, 2022 with the Office of Economic Development. Approximately 106,000 attended, and over one hundred vendors participated, including food vendors and service providers. Elected officials attended. Healthy Aging Partnership enhanced fitness instructors and participants visited with the elected officials to educate them on the Healthy Aging Partnership. The Maui County Elder Justice Team currently has three cases under review and investigation. One case involves financial fraud, another one involves an assault that took place, and the third case involves a neglect issue. The members of the Elder Justice Team are working together effectively. The Kaunoa Senior Services Leisure/Wellness Program is experiencing staff shortages and consequently has reduced classes from 5 days a week to 3 days a week. Program attendees are provided with options to attend congregate programs at other locations. MCOA is completing its four-year plan. Some MCOA staff members are attending applied suicide intervention skill training on November 16 and 17, 2022. The Maui AARP caregiver breakfast workshop will be on November 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Maui Beach Hotel. On November 30, 2022, some MCOA staff will be visiting the Molokai public health nurses to brainstorm ideas for serving kupuna and their caregivers. In October, Wellsky consultant Jeff Benjamin visited MCOA to develop a process map from intake to service authorization to resolve technical issues and to eliminate redundant processes. MCOA is preparing its budget.

#### KUPUNA CAUCUS

Caroline announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet at 2:00 p.m. today. The agenda includes an update on the Council of State Governments Long-Term Care Task Force working groups.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

### NEW BUSINESS

Bill provided a summary of the establishment of four successful adult day care programs (ADC) in senior centers and senior housing on Maui. The adult day care program in Hale Mahaolu's senior housing received national recognition. Staffing and pay are challenges.

Horace commented that some of the ADCs in Hawaii County were in different areas from clients' homes. The workforce shortage is a challenge. Other industries have higher pay rates. Workers providing private-pay services sometimes can be paid at a higher rate.

Rick announced that direct care workforce scholarships are awarded by HPGS.

Stephen announced that he will attend the Healthcare Association of Hawaii healthcare workforce initiative meeting on November 18, 2022. He will provide PABEA an oral report of the meeting at the December PABEA meeting.

### PRESENTATION: Better Choices, Better Health

Michiyo Tomioka, Coordinator of the Healthy Aging Partnership, and Katy Plant, Canary Health, provided a presentation on Better Choices, Better Health, a free six-week online workshop to manage pain, reduce anxiety, depression, and isolation. (Slides attached.)

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was submitted or offered.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- November 8, 2022, General Election
- December 2, 2022, PABEA monthly meeting, 11:30 a.m. (in person and Zoom). The meeting will be abbreviated and followed by a potluck.
- AARP Hawaii Caregiver Breakfast Workshops:
  - Kauai, November 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort
  - Hilo, November 5, 2022, 9:45 a.m. at Hawaii Island Adult Care
  - Kona, November 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m. at the Royal Kona Resort
  - Honolulu, November 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m. at the Ala Moana Hotel
  - Maui: November 17, 9 a.m. at the Maui Beach Hotel

Caroline and PABEA recognized Lisa Nakao on her retirement to care for her father after 28 years of service in state government.

### ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

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