

February 21, 2014-10:00 AM

SHASTA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Redding Hotel Conference Room

Commissioner Present Were: Mana Davis (pro tem Chair), Marlene Lewis Batterton, Janet Wright & Tom Watson. Also present: Lisa Fisher from Shasta County. Guests: Mary McCorquodale, Amanda McMulty.

No Quorum-No Action Taken

Discussions:

- 1) Mana Davis: Janet Tyrrel would like to discuss a work plan for 2014. Please come to the next meeting with things to present that we may tackle this year and speaker suggestions.
- 2) Tom Watson has concerns regarding the water shortage as it pertains to seniors and how raising cost of water would impact those on fixed incomes. Maybe we could put out an informational flyer in the senior centers to alert seniors to the possibility of raising cost and conservation. Tom is concerned about the seniors getting gouged. They don't usually use as much as others and maybe they can conserve a little bit more but If their water bill jumps even \$10.00 a month it could be detrimental to seniors. Another indirect affect of the water shortage is the cost of food will continue to go up, which is another issue for those on fixed incomes.
- 3) Marlene Lewis Batterton is very concerned regarding patient advocates for seniors who may not have family or friends to help them understand medical situations such as the pros and cons of upcoming surgeries that may be un-necessary, any other medical needs, and un-needed or overabundance of meds being doled out to seniors. We need to get advocates in this area. A retired attorney friend says they have a very good program in the Chico area and they do training for advocates who can go in with people who are going in for serious illnesses who don't have any one to go with them. Sometimes seniors do not understand the medical information being given to them or the drug interactions that relate to being on multiple medications. Tom recommends that patients that are seeing specialists that are recommending surgery also see their primary care doctor to be involved in that decision because they would know the patient and their needs or post operative concerns, better than a specialist who they have just met and does not know them.
- 4) What does the study or survey entail? The agencies that we are responsible for oversight of are the agencies which receive money from the federal and state government through the Area Agency on Aging- Planning Service Area II. There are several here in our county that receives funding: Northern California Legal Services, Shasta Senior Nutrition Program, Golden Umbrella & Ombudsman and HICAP at present. Every 4 years the area agency puts out a very detailed plan

that they are going to do and then sends out RFP's for people to complete that plan, and part of that plan must include an Un-Met Needs Survey. So they send this survey out to all the seniors in the 5 county regions, but we were not happy with it this year so we asked that they change it. We thought about sending our own out but it is too daunting a task. So the Area Agency on Aging has said that we can work cooperatively with them to change their survey and to put what we want in their survey at the time they do it which is not until next year. We had 3 samples to choose from and we need to get what we want put in. We will have to have someone on our committee meet with the area agency when they get theirs ready to show it. In years past they have sent us the yearly report but they no longer do that.

Next meeting – March 21, 2014