

AIPC Minutes, September 8, 2015

Commission members: Noreen Chohan, Miriam Kelty (chair), Doug Newton, Chuck Kauffman, Isabelle Schoenfeld

Guests: Austin Heyman, Beth Shapiro, Leslie Marks, Harriet Shapiro Block,

Staff: Pazit Aviv

Two new Commission members attended the meeting and introduced themselves. Noreen Chohan, in her work as an interior architect, advocates for design that fosters intergenerational interactions, socialization and use of technology to improve the living environment for older people. Doug Newton retired from the Department of Energy where he worked toward nuclear non-proliferation. He is interested in aging and in contributing to the community.

To orient the new members, there was a brief introduction to AIPC and the areas in which it has work: transportation, including pedestrian safety, housing, and aging in place, particularly villages. The ongoing effort of AIPC to assess what progress has been made as a consequence of its work was described.

AIPC heard a progress report on the upcoming Summit on Aging scheduled for Dec 3 at the Silver Spring Civic Building. A 30-person advisory group (that includes good representation for CoA/AIPC) has been meeting along with 2 contract staffers. The meeting will feature the 8 topics that the first Summit addressed. In addition, technology and diversity will be considered in plenary talks and by every breakout work group. Caregiving will be a major part of the discussion for the Home and Community Support topic. There will be two keynote speakers: Fernandez Torres-Gil and Sandy Markwood. Pam Luckett is organizing focus groups that will meet prior to the Summit to determine knowledge, needs, priorities and gaps in each area. An electronic survey developed by County Stat has already been sent out and responses are being received. AIPC was asked to forward the survey broadly to appropriate groups and individuals.

The CoA conducted two summer studies in 2015: Age Friendly Communities/Livable Communities for a Lifetime and Long-Term Care/Nursing Home Quality. The first summer study on Age Friendly/Livable Communities heard about current projects including strengths and weaknesses of the different models that were presented. A particular interest was to learn about the different models underlying ongoing initiatives, e.g. the WHO Age-Friendly Cities model, and Assoc of Agencies on Aging Liveable Communities model, and the MoCo Senior Agenda. Recommendations to the CoA were shared and discussed. The report has not yet been forwarded to the full Commission.

The Long-Term Care/Nursing Home Report was circulated to the AIPC. Participants in that study reviewed several reports on how to assess quality of care in nursing homes and heard presentations by experts on regulations and licensing requirements, quality measurement and reporting, mental health and long-term

care facilities. Serious issues and problems were discussed. Recommendations were made about the need for education about current and future needs for long-term care of our aging population, advocacy for different long-term care models and their implementation, establishment of a Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Coalition, advocacy for legislation (CARE), for nursing home staff education, and for mental health services in long-term care institutions. AIPC discussion resulted in questions and issues that will be raised during the discussion of the report by CoA.

Pazit Aviv, MoCo Village Coordinator, reported on villages that support aging in place in the community. She has met with many emerging villages that have requested her assistance and with several operating villages. She has facilitated connections among villages. She shared her observation that for village initiatives to succeed, strong leadership and an ability to engage the community are important. She is working hard to foster development of villages in diverse communities, particularly to develop local leadership and collaboration among communities and other parties and organizations that can share their knowledge and resources and work together effectively.

ACTION: AIPC was briefed on the ongoing WAVE project to revise the Village Guide. AIPC was asked to review and comment on draft chapters for clarity, gaps and other content issues. Participants agreed to do this.

ACTION: The discussion of goals for the coming year was deferred. Miriam will review what AIPC did last year at our next meeting. After that review, goals for the coming year will be discussed. Participants suggested some issues they would like AIPC to address: The extent to which CoA has moved to implement recommendations of the 2014 Planning summer study; home modification to facilitate the practicality of older people remaining in their homes; aging in place for people with disabilities; affordable housing.

Harriet Shapiro Block, mobility director of JCA, described the inclusive transportation coordinated partnership program with providers and the save a seat campaign. She reported that the coordinator of the Village Rides program has moved to another job within JCA and her successor is being sought. Two additional villages have joined Village Rides bringing the total to 7 villages.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Miriam Kelty