MINUTES
Planning Committee
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
1:30 – 4:00 pm
6955 Foothill Blvd. Suite 137
Oakland, California

Staff: Tracy Murray, Delbert Walker, Mary Louise Zernicke, Maaza Micheal, Brenda Lorentzen, Jim Cunniff

Committee Members: Donna Murphy, Wendy Petersen, Maricela Narvaez-Foster, Ruben Briones, Lillian Schaechnier, Karen Grimsich, Phil Altman, Geri Tablit, Scott Means, Jaime Almanza, Marlene Petersen, Judy Jackson

Community: Flora Maiki, Kate Rosenbaum, Linda Fong, Grace Liu, Cassandra Chan, Harriet Emerson

I. Call to Order/Welcome
Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

II. Consent Calendar
Motion to accept Minutes
(M) Wendy Peterson
(S) Maricela Narvaez-Foster
Carried

III. Public Comment for Items not on Agenda:
Committee Member Wendy Peterson requested that seniors and homelessness be addressed as a topic in a future meeting. Tracy Murray will follow up to find a speaker and date.

IV. AAA Director's Report
Tracy welcomed all to the Maxwell Park Conference Room and noted that the Big Sur Room will be unavailable next month as well. Jim Cunniff, retired Planner from the SSA PERU unit, was introduced to the committee. He is working part-time for the AAA to help with data analysis previously performed by John Garvey. Focus groups and public forums are in process. Brenda Lorentzen was thanked for her work. Specifics on these efforts will be discussed later in the meeting. The presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Joint Health Care/Social Services Committee on January 25th went well. The Supervisors seem encouraged and excited about the work being done by this group and the overall senior planning efforts. The next presentation to the joint committee will be scheduled for early April.
V. Consumer Survey Update
Jim Cunniff reported on his analysis of the survey data. Highlights of his report include:

- 3,725 valid responses to the survey. (Well done, committee members!);
- 37% or 1376 of responses were from the web, of which 163 were from IHSS clients or caretakers;
- Based on the 2010-14 Census, Berkeley and Fremont were over-represented and Oakland was slightly under-represented;
- Hispanics and first language speakers were not clearly delineated. Hispanics were 9% of the total and were included in the White respondents;
- 43% did not respond to sexual identity question (lots of "none of your business"), which likely skews results;
- Self-reported disabilities seemed low based on the answers to other questions that indicated daily limitation challenges;
- Greatest of "other" limitations was pain;
- "Worries" generally were centered on income and ramifications of low and static income. Jim noted that the range in that rating is from 1-5, and the top four were income issues;
- The number one future concern and perceived gap was housing.

Tracy noted that health data indicates the need to focus on prevention. Karen Grimsich expressed surprise over the low rated concerns, especially the apparent lack of concern about isolation. It was theorized that the population responding to the survey may not have included a representative number of isolated seniors. It was noted that the older you are, the more likely you are to live at alone. Jim was asked to cull out survey data response sources, such as senior centers and other group settings, to look for differences by population sub-group, especially around isolation concerns. It was recommended that the next survey revise the language question to read, "What language do you speak at home?" to better capture the intent of the requested information. A request was made to better capture Latinos responses if possible. Jim will work to work with Alameda County Public Health’s CAPE unit to evaluate and compare their health data on older adults. It was recommended that the group use specific and validated questions about their limitations in the future.
VI. **Update on Focus Groups Committee**
Delbert reported that there was outreach to 36 total groups, agencies, and facilities in addition to the 5 Alameda County Supervisors, resulting in 28 planned community sessions, six focus groups and 22 public forums. Per the first three public forums, affordable housing, personal health and safety, senior activities, affordability of health care and financial assistance are preliminary current concerns.

Brenda reported on the four focus groups that she has facilitated to this point. So far, her assessment is that transportation, housing, and caregiver training and support are the priority concerns. She noted that seniors "want a warm handoff" when learning and practicing new caregiver skills.

VII. **Data Report: Community Supports and Health Services**
Wendy Peterson presented for both she and Angela Ball, who was unable to attend the meeting. Wendy noted that the key message is that an older adult’s ability to access health and supportive services is directly tied to the cost of the services and the options covered by his/her health insurance.

VIII. **Draft Goals & Objectives**
Tracy presented the most recent updates to the draft goals and objectives.

**Vision Statement** was amended to read, “a high quality of life and personal fulfillment.”

**Goal 2:** Tracy informed the committee of her desire to take this goal, especially the 1st and 2nd bullets, to the SSA Executive Team to solicit feedback and support. The bullet, “Embracing Aging” speaks to people’s desire to be educated on aging.

**Goal 3:** There was discussion on possibly adding another objective regarding information access in consideration of Supervisor Chan’s statements during the presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Joint Health Care/Social Services Committee on January 25th.

**Goal 5:** This addresses the creation of safe communities. Comments included the difficulty navigating sidewalks and streets on wheelchairs.

**Goal 6:** This goal addresses issues of housing support and sustainability.

IX. **Next Steps**
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 1:30 PM at 6955 Foothill Blvd., Suite 137 Oakland, CA 94605.