



**Central Texas Regional Aging, Disability & Veterans Resource Center
Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
July 8, 2019**

Members Present:

Sue Farrell
Ray Helmcamp
George Losoya
Tama Shaw
Richard Smith

CTADVRC Staff Present:

Kerry Phillip
Grace Deorsam
Raquel Canava

Kerry Phillip called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

The following items were discussed:

1. Minutes from the April 8, 2019 meeting were deferred to the July 8, 2019 meeting.
2. Discussion regarding changes to the by-laws was deferred to the July 8, 2019 meeting.
3. Kerry provided update on HHSC RFP for CTADVRC. The RFP submission was accepted and CTCOG will be the provider for the next two years. Once the budget is announced, Kerry will provide that information as well.
4. The HHSC required Performance Measure Projections are now on hold. It seems that the state would like to re-examine some procedures to be sure that they are approaching the PMPs efficiently. Kerry will keep the committee posted on the progress.
5. An update regarding the Administration for Community Living's mandate to make Senior Centers more relevant was discussed next. Despite the amount of complaining from directors across the state, ACL is not budging in their mandate. Their goal is to increase the number of seniors eating congregate meals. This is one area in which we really need to dive deep and make significant strides. Kerry has been working closely with Tama Shaw at Hill Country Community Action Association. Kerry and Tama made a joint presentation to the CTCOG Executive Committee at the May 23, 2019 meeting to describe in detail how the funding is determined, how it is distributed, and all the additional requirements that must be met. Additionally, several AACT staff visited San Antonio to visit a few of their centers to get some new ideas. They came away very impressed

with lots of ideas to share. However, to duplicate those ideas, it is going to require some creative partnerships with local municipalities and many other service agencies.

6. Transportation continues to be problematic. Hill Country Transit District made a presentation to the CTCOG Executive Committee at the June 27, 2019 CTCOG Executive Committee meeting. They are doing a little bit better financially, but routes are still reduced. Kerry provided a history of the relationship with AACT and HCTD regarding the limited available funding. AACT budgeted the most money ever allocated for transportation (\$70,000) and yet, only \$4,800 had been used to date. The unmet need is door-to-door pick up in urban areas. The senior citizens cannot make it to a bus stop, nor can they make it to a destination that is within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a bus stop. Individualized service is the true need. Kerry announced that she is working with Baylor Scott and White to use transportation funding to bolster their transportation program which truly is door-to-door service. Further information will be provided as the program details are developed. Additionally, Kerry has met with Driving Hope, an organization that offers free medical rides for rural residents. Discussions are under way to determine the possibility of working together. Hamilton Memorial Hospital also has a transportation program that could be another partner in transportation.
7. HHSC offered special funding to any AAA that wanted to participate in an Opioid Program. AACT agreed to participate. The program is geared toward supporting the national initiative for doctors to curtail their prescriptions for opioids and how people who experience pain can adjust. Most of the money will be for medication reviews, classes for dealing with chronic pain, and some special events. Kerry will inform the committee of the amount funding when that is released.
8. AACT has applied for a \$300,000 grant through the CTCOG Criminal Justice program to develop and implement a program related to Elder Abuse and Neglect. All indications are that the grant will be awarded. The purpose of the project is to educate first responders how to identify elder abuse/neglect as well as to create a cohesive reporting and data tracking system. If the grant is awarded, the estimated start date is October 1, 2019.
9. This year, the state offered Housing Bond funds to any AAA who wanted to use them. AACT accepted the money which was used to assist residents of Rockdale, Texas with fees related to the water system replacement program. The city was ordered by TCEQ to replace their outdated water system and had no option except to spread that cost to all residents. The seniors on fixed incomes were hit hard. Housing Bond funds were used to cover two months of utility payments

to alleviate a portion of that extra burden. Hopefully, these funds will be awarded again in the future.

10. It is time to write the new Area Plan. HHSC is making a big push to standardize the document across all AAAs and standardize the data sources that each AAA can use to support their statements. The Area Plan is one of the tools that HHSC will use to determine funding allocation to the AAAs for FY 2021-2023.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Grace Deorsam, AACT