

PASC Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2021

Call to order

President Bobbi Manges called the meeting to order at 10:08am on April 7, 2021. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Attendance

Bobbi Manges, Becky Klepadlo, Michael Dunn, Linda Thompson, Tammy Miller, Lisa Paulson, Melissa Weigle, Toni Mathis, Tami Boylan, Susan McIntyre, Pat MacKenzie, Bill Pierce, Vickie Burgess, Michele Haynes, Bridget Dennison, Rose Richardson, Kim Rollinson, Samella Hudson-Brewton, Rose Pennavaria, Anita O'Connor, and Joyce Hardman. Roy Afflerbach and Hank Annoni also attended.

Thanks to Tammy, Bill, And Melissa for participating in the Social Isolation Symposium.

Vacancies

There are two openings in the NE Region; three openings in the NW Region; and one at large vacancy. Judy has a list of people that are interested in joining PASC.

Minutes

Lisa Paulson motioned; Pat MacKenzie seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

NISC Position

Bobbi asked if this position should be a regional position or a separate position from the regional representatives. Bill shared that this person would still support their region, but he is not sure what the NISC position includes with the new format of the NCOA/NISC organization. Based on the written description NISC and NCOA meetings and national conferences require participation. Rose Richardson added that she thought she was the designated assistant for the Bill, NISC representative. Bill could fill the "at large" position and not create another opening in the region.

After a brief discussion it was decided to let the PASC by-laws stand as they are. Bill will move to the at large position which would leave one opening in the SE region. Sue McIntyre has the name of someone that is interested in joining the PASC Board. She will forward the contact information to Bobbi and Joyce.

Treasurer's Report

PNC bank statement just came this week; quarterly reports are not completed. Bank balance for January was \$33,706; February \$32,670 and March was \$31,224. Mike also noted that he received \$1400 in Board Members' dues and \$2,000 was received from the advocacy letter. Invoices paid included D&O insurance, auditor fees, website, and TAG.

Mike and Tammy are working on adding Stripe to the website, but they may have to switch to PayPal. Will present the Treasurer's report for approval when it is complete.

President's Report

PASC Presents- Joyce is doing a program for program resources. Bobbi is working with Andrew Mayer for computer technology classes.

NISC Report

Bill reported NISC meeting was cancelled and he missed the rescheduled meeting.
Kim Rollinson shared that all accreditations will be virtual, not in person.

Advocacy Report

Few notes from Roy's report included:

- COVID continues to overshadow everything in our daily lives as well as in government.
- The \$2 million for senior center grants is secure for the state budget 2021-2022 year.
- Ill funds – recalculating formulas for distribution; larger counties may lose some funding.
- CARS regulations are still unpublished and no indication that they will be published any time soon.

Roy's full report is attached.

Board Discussion

Regional Reports

Central- had a virtual training March 18 offering program resources and center operation information.
44 people participated.

NE- no report

NW- needs more members

SE- pros and cons of zoom. Planning zoom happy hours. Planning a zoom discussion with an attorney to discuss legal considerations during the reopening process.

SW- had a virtual networking meeting with 15 people participating.

Regional report forms attached.

Committee Reports

Legislative- Advocacy letter was mailed. \$2,000 in donations was received so far.

Membership- Judy is doing a great job with tracking memberships. Membership dues reminders will be sent out in September.

Public Relations- Tammy thinks it is important to get info out about what senior centers have been doing. Bill, Rose and Mike, will create a list of the top 10 things that are in progress. Tammy will help to create a survey monkey. Tammy is still struggling with payment on the website. Committee plans to update the sponsorship form to solicit for website and conference sponsors. PASC owns the website but needs to pay for web hosting. PASC Board members need to help drive traffic to the PASC website. It will help to solicit sponsors. Send all information to Tammy to be added to the website. Melissa suggested a calendar on the website with all board Meeting dates and PASC Presents seminar dates.

Highlight some programs and activities that centers are using with the grant funds to include on the website. Tammy is struggling with the PASC newsletter. We need to connect with more PASC members, but not sure who reads the newsletter.

Professional Development- Virtual conference update: 24 people registered and 40 raffle tickets sold. It is on Facebook and the PASC website. It was suggested to record the conference to send to people who have registered.

New Business

Bill asked the PR committee if they could create a #hashtag for PASC.

The April conference is one day from 10am-3pm. It was suggested that the October virtual conference be spread out over several days, so people can pick and choose sessions and not commit to a whole day.

Bobbi shared info about a new website: Getsetup.10 This website has lots of classes for active older adults.

Next PASC Board Meeting

The next PASC Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 28. It will be a virtual meeting. Regions and Committees are encouraged to meet in advance.

Adjournment

Melissa motioned; Sue seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:55am

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Hardman
PASC Secretary



PASC Public Policy Summary

April 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted by The Afflerbach Group, LLC

Although most of the focus in Harrisburg and Washington continues to be on Covid-19 and budgetary issues, there are other items of importance flying under the radar.

But first, comments on COVID-19. As the vaccine supplies become more reliably available, the Governor and the Department of Health (DOH) have begun to relieve the most stringent restrictions. Although PA is continuing to encourage teleworking to the greatest extent possible, the COVID-19 webpage now states businesses may resume normal in person operations at 75% capacity if they follow all CDC guidelines for safety. As you know, there is continuing consideration of using large community senior centers with spacious parking accommodations as public vaccination centers. The Department of Aging (PDA) will advise centers as decisions are made in that regard as well as to what extent centers may return to in-person on site activities. All residents of PA become eligible to make vaccination appointments on April 19th.

With respect to budgetary issues, the House completed its version of departmental hearings and the Senate expects to complete its hearing process on May 6th. Independent Finance Office (IFO) reports indicate the PA economy is steadily improving, though not enough to ease concerns about a looming \$2.5 Billion deficit down the road. Legislative leaders are discussing using a portion of the \$7 Billion anticipated from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the 2021-22 budget and retaining a portion for the 22-23 and 23-24 budgets. Funds in the ARPA are required to be spent by the end of 2023.

The senior center \$2 million line item appears to be safe. However, the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) has refused to approve renewal of the state's aging plan pending revision of the formula to distribute Title III funds among the AAAs. The proposed new formula has not been released although it is due to ACL by April 30th and a public comment period is required. PDA has begun notifying AAAs how much they will lose or gain. ARPA or Lottery funds may be targeted to provide a temporary hold-harmless to AAAs that will lose substantial Title III funds.

SB2, which I reviewed in January, was approved by the Legislature to place three Constitutional Amendment questions on the May 18th Primary election ballot for voter approval.

Two proposed amendments would restrict the Governor from declaring a disaster emergency for more than 21 days without legislative approval. From the 22nd day onward the legislature would determine the length and parameters of an emergency declaration. Having worked in the legislature since 1970, it is difficult for me to imagine how a majority of 203 Representatives and 50 Senators could act with sufficient speed and detail to address an immediate and ever-changing emergency, such as COVID-19. Without proper emergency and disaster declarations, access to federal funds and both federal and state regulatory waivers could not occur. I strongly recommend defeat of these amendments.

The Department of Health and Human Services has extended the COVID public health emergency declaration four times. Presently, it is unclear if a fifth extension will be declared before the current one expires in mid-April. It is likely, however, because of the need to meet guidelines for federal aid.

In the Senate, President Pro Tempore Jake Corman is expected to reintroduce and push passage of his legislation to legalize so-called games of skill at truck stops and LCB licensed establishments, with a nod of some portion of revenue going to the Lottery Fund to offset any shift of players from those games to

getting less & less support



the new "skill" games. The Governor is expected to continue to oppose the Corman proposal and Corman has not to date reintroduced it.

Also in the Senate, Appropriations Chairman Pat Browne and Erie Senator Dan Laughlin are introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$10/hour with inflation steps thereafter. The fact these two Republican senators are introducing the bill is a signal a majority in the Senate Republican Caucus is willing to support the proposal in contrast to the Governor's request for a \$15/hr. minimum wage.

Other important unresolved issues continue to merit our attention. These include the still unpublished regulations to implement the Community Adult Respite Services Act (CARS). Despite continual assurances by both the previous and present Secretaries of Aging there is no indication the regulations will be published soon. As COVID restrictions wane, it may require filing lawsuit to force the publication in accordance with the long ignored statutory requirement.

We await reintroduction of legislation to amend the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA). It remains a high priority of PDA and the AAAs. A second high priority of PDA, updating the Family Caregiver Act (HB464), after a visit to the Appropriations committee will be in position to pass the House and be sent to the Senate later this month.

As Congress and the Biden Administration consider the American Jobs Act economic stimulus package, our work with the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) remains important. We are tracking the inclusion of \$400 Billion in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) funding for the states.

There will be three special elections on May 18th for a Senator in the 48th District (Lebanon), a Senator in the 22nd District (Lackawanna) and a Representative in the 59th District (Westmoreland). Two men, Senator Dave Arnold and Rep. Mike Reese died in office. Senator John Blake resigned to take a staff position with Congressman Matt Cartwright.

At least temporarily, the Capitol is open to visitors, although many legislators continue to attend committees and session remotely. Hank and I have met with 24 of the 32 new legislators. Six of the remaining eight (5 Republicans; 1 Democrat) have been unresponsive despite multiple requests for an introductory meeting. Also, thanks to our friends at Pennsylvania based law firm Buchanan, Ingersoll, and Rooney I have been able to meet several of the new members of Congress from other states.

COVID-19 restrictions notwithstanding, we continue to persist on behalf of the elderly we all serve!

Senator Roy Afflerbach, Ret
PASC Public Policy Adviser
The Afflerbach Group, LLC
2484 Sweet Gum Circle
York, PA 17406-7537
roy@theafflerbachgroup.com
www.theafflerbachgroup.com