

Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

FY 2011- 2012
Annual Report



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Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

The Commission would like to acknowledge the support the Board of Supervisors has given to LACCOA in their ongoing support in advocating for issues that are confronting the older adult population in Los Angeles County. The older population in Los Angeles County is rising at a fast rate. With these new additions to the older population, it not only comes with newer obstacles, but it also comes with new opportunities to enhance the lives of all older adults in Los Angeles County. With the continued support from the Board of Supervisors, LACCOA is ready to take the lead in the efforts to enhance to lives of every older adult in Los Angeles County.



Gloria Molina
Supervisor, First District



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, Second District



Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor, Third District

Board Deputies

Megan Moret, First District
Brenda Robinson, Second District
Flora Gil Krisiloff, Third District
Nick Ippolito, Fourth District
Helen Berberian, Fifth District



Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District
Chairman



Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District



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Message from the President



It is with honor to have been reelected as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA). As president of LACCOA, it is an honor to lead our Commissioners in its continued efforts of its mission of advocating, advising and recommending to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors the unmet needs of older adults. I would like to commend our Commissioners for their ongoing visits their local senior and community centers. Older adults in Los Angeles County can be rest assured that their voices will be heard.

The bulk of LACCOA's work is done at the Committees level. All Committee chairpersons have done an excellent job of ensuring that their respective committees have moved forward with their goals and objectives. The Executive Board should also be commended for their leadership role as LACCOA entered into its second year of existence. This was highlighted as LACCOA advocated to Governor Jerry Brown and 300 other elected officials indicating our displeasure of State's decision to stop funding of Adult Day Health Care Centers. As the baby boomers generation grows older, there will be the need for newer and more innovative ideas to meet their needs. LACCOA is ready and willing to be the voice of older adults in Los Angeles County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernard Weintraub".

Bernard Weintraub, President
Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults



As Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS), I would like to congratulate the hard work and merger of two bodies, The Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council and the accomplishments of Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) in its first year of existence. Their mission to enhance the quality of life of our aging population in Los Angeles County is important as ever, with a daily increase in the older adult population. I commend the actions of these hard working and dedicated Commissioners who volunteer their time and energy to the overall well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County.

LACCOA continues to fulfill its purpose to advocate older adult services in Los Angeles County. LACCOA advocated against the closure of Adult Day Health Care Centers. LACCOA contacted over 300 elected officials to fight against these closures. LACCOA also assisted CSS in their efforts in coordinating the Needs Assessment Focus Group for the 2012-2016 Area Plan. LACCOA also should be commended in its coordination of the annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) celebration. LACCOA, the Board of Supervisors, CSS, 88 cities and senior citizens' organizations worked to recognize the many accomplishments of our honorees that volunteer in so many ways and are 'Never Too Old to Play'.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LACCOA on its accomplishments during the 2011-2012 fiscal year and thank each Commissioner for sharing their expertise, time and energy to serve the older adults of Los Angeles County.

Cynthia D. Banks

Cynthia D. Banks, Director
Community and Senior Services

LACCOA Mission and Goals

MISSION

The mission of LACCOA is to advocate, advise and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County seniors, age 60 and older, to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and departments of County government and other entities that provide services to seniors regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

To accomplish this mission, LACCOA:

- Assists the County in preparing for the significant increase expected in the senior population.
- Network and collaborate with other partners who are interested in and concerned about issues affecting seniors.
- Develop methods of communications which enhance and provide outreach and education to seniors in Los Angeles County.
- Advocates for the needs and well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County.

GOALS

Advise Board of Supervisors regarding needs of older population in Los Angeles County. Recognize outstanding voluntary efforts and community service by seniors living in Los Angeles County. Enhance distribution of LACCOA information and findings to the community at large and to appropriate Los Angeles County Departments. Maintain efforts to assist older population with information regarding transportation.

COMPOSITION

The Commission shall include individuals and representatives of community organizations. The Commission shall be made up of:

- more than 50 percent older individuals, including minority individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in Area Agency on Aging programs;
- representatives of older persons;
- representatives of health care provider organizations;
- representatives of supportive services provider organizations;
- persons with leadership experience in the private and voluntary sectors;
- local elected officials; and

- the general public

Ethnic distribution should be representative of the population served, and LACCOA members must be residents of Los Angeles County.

The Commission is comprised of 50 members: 25 appointed directly by the Board of Supervisors and 25 selected by LACCOA. Each vacancy will be filled accordingly.

The LACCOA general meetings are every first Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., unless there is a holiday; then the meeting is rescheduled to meet on Tuesday. The Executive Board meetings are every third Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The new Commission structure includes an Executive Committee and six standing committees; Area Plan, which includes Veterans Affairs, Employment, and Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-term Care; Housing Transportation, Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership.

The elected Officers in 2011-2012 were:

Bernard Weintraub	President
Cindy Skovgard	1 st Vice President
Peter J. McGrath	2 nd Vice President
Oleeta Igar	Secretary
Barbara Sinclair	Fiscal Officer

Commissioners elected as Lead Commissioners for 2011-2012 were:

1 st District	Gloria Duran
2 nd District	Lavada Theus
3 rd District	Barbara Meltzer
4 th District	Irene Griffith
5 th District	Barbara Sinclair

LACCOA Commissioners

Supervisorial District I



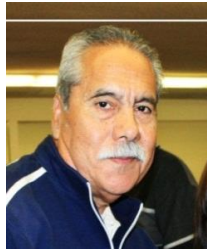
Mary Helen Cruz



Gloria Duran



William Givens



Robert Jimenez



Samuel Park



David Siegrist

Supervisorial District II



Frank Calderon



Mattye Fegan-Perry



Zelda Hutcherson



William Jackson



Lonnie McNamee



Nate Riddick



Theresa Rotter



Lavada Theus



Aida M. Villalobos

Supervisorial District III



Krishan Bhalla



Sol Fingold



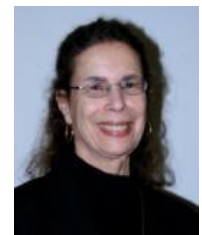
Marilyn Fried



Peter Getzoff



Oleeta Igar



Barbara Meltzer



Maurice Weiner



Bernard Weintraub

Supervisory District IV



Aziz Amiri



Ralph Flores



Irene Griffith



William Ha



Raymond Hall



Hedy Harrison



Jung Kim



James Polk



Cindy Skovgard



Elizabeth Wilson

Supervisory District V



Natalie Ambrose



Nneenah Frazier



Bianca Langley



Peter McGrath



Arlene Okamoto



Marvin Schachter



Barbara Sinclair



Elizabeth Wong



Vicente Zapata



LACCOA Strategic Plan July 2010 – 2013

LACCOA developed the following Strategic Plan for the period July 2010-June 2013 to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission.

STRATEGY 1: Create committees to address immediate and long-term issues affecting older adults in Los Angeles County and to facilitate the operation of LACCOA.

Objective 1:

By July 2012, identify standing committees, which will meet regularly to address issues pertaining to older and functionally disabled adults.

The Commission established six standing committees (Area Plan; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care; Housing and Transportation; Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership).

Objective 2:

Formed an Ad Hoc Needs Assessment committee to advise AAA staff on gathering, analyzing and reporting relevant data pertaining to the needs of Los Angeles County's older adult population.

The Ad Hoc Needs Assessment committee assisted the department to determine the needs of seniors.

Objective 3:

Form additional committees, as needed, to meet immediate and long-term needs.

The commission formed Older Americans Recognition Day Event committee to meet the short-term needs of the commission and to host the annual event.

STRATEGY 2: Advise Area Agency on Aging staff on all matters relating to the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County Seniors age 60+ including the planning process for Public Hearings on the update of the 2012-2016 Area Plan.

Objective 1:

By July 1, 2012, form an Area Plan Committee to advise AAA staff on Public Hearings for the update of the 2012-2016 Area Plan.

The committee worked closely with AAA staff to determine the location and scheduling of the public hearings. Commissioners also served as hearing officers at these hearings.

Objective 2:

By January 2013, participate in Public Hearings for the Area Plan by encouraging attendance and community participation in the hearings, ensuring that translators are available for non-English speaking attendees; attending and observing the hearings; and serving as Hearing Officers.

Commissioners attended the eight Public Hearings county-wide as hearing officers and also provided input on the issues of concern to the seniors.

Objective 3:

Review the Area Plan Update to ensure that it reflects public comments from the Public Hearings.

The Commission worked closely with AAA staff to ensure the Area Plan shows the issues that are affecting the senior community.

Objective 4:

Advise AAA staff on development and implementation of needs assessment of L.A. County seniors and disabled adults.

The needs assessment was completed at the end of 2011. The Commission worked with AAA staff.

Objective 5:

Advise AAA staff on the development and implementation of the 2012-2016 Area Plan Update.

The commission worked with the department on the Area Plan Update.

STRATEGY 3: Increase advocacy and awareness in the community regarding aging needs, programs and services.

Objective 1:

Increase awareness of older and functionally impaired about AAA programs and activities of LACCOA. By activities such as attending community meetings, developing and distributing newsletters and brochures and pursuing other avenues for disseminating information.

Commissioners routinely visit their respective senior centers and speak with seniors about concerns they may have.

Objective 2:

By July 2013, increase advocacy efforts for senior programs and explore other issues relevant to older adults including health disparities, housing, transportation and other key issues.

The Commission has continuously written correspondence to elected officials on behalf of seniors on issues that affect them.

Objective 3:

Communicate with cities, their commissions and departments within Los Angeles County that deal with aging issues.

The Commission has continued to develop a network that will assist in communicating with other local agencies regarding senior issues.

Objective 4:

By July 2013, implement an educational/training program for LACCOA members to prepare them to effectively speak on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission is on track to train commissioners on how to attend public events and senior centers to speak on behalf of the Commission on hot-button issues that deal with seniors.

Objective 5:

Inform the Board of Supervisors of issues that are impacting the older adult population and provide recommendations and possible solutions.

LACCOA Committees in Action

Area Plan Committee

Chaired by Commissioner William Givens, this committee also included elder abuse and fraud prevention, veteran affairs, and senior employment.

Over the past year, the committee's primary focus was on the 2012-2016 Area Plan. Hearings were held throughout LA County, several jointly with Los Angeles City Department of Aging. LACCOA Commissioners served as Hearing Officers. The committee also assisted CSS in the Needs Assessment Focus Group.

Following the hearings, committee members reviewed the 2012-2016 Area Plan Update to assure that the public comment section from each district accurately reflected the public's input.

In addition to Commissioner Givens, Area Plan Committee Members included Natalie Ambrose, Frank Calderon, Ralph Flores, William Jackson, Arlene Okamoto, and Theresa Rotter.

Communications Committee

The Committee, chaired by Commissioner Barbara Meltzer, continued developing a plan to create a LACCOA Speakers Bureau, which will include the creation of a video, a PowerPoint presentation and marketing materials.

Commissioner Meltzer collaborated with the Area Plan Committee to assist in publicizing the Area Plan Public Hearings that were held throughout the county.

In addition to Commissioner Meltzer, committee members included Aziz Amiri, Oleeta Igar, Bianca Langley, Cindy Skovgard, and Barbara Sinclair.

Health, Nutrition and Long-Term Care Committee

Chaired by Commissioner Irene Griffith, this committee is continuing to support the national public health campaign to reduce sodium (salt) in our diets. The initiative, which helps to control blood pressure, heart function and stroke, was presented to the committee by Dr. Tony Kuo, Director of the LA County Office of Senior Health in 2010. The committee has continued to work with Dr. Kuo on an ongoing basis to help ensure that LA County older adults receive information that will enable them to make smart decisions about their diets.

In addition to Commissioner Griffith, members of the committee included Gloria Duran, Peter Getzoff, Samuel Park, and Vicente Zapata.

Housing and Transportation Committee

Chaired by Commissioner Aida M. Villalobos, the committee also had oversight of "Seniors on the Move."

Members continued to hold presentations at several senior centers throughout the year to address housing needs.

“Seniors on the Move” is collaboration between LACCOA and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro). This program educates older adults on bus and rail routes throughout Los Angeles County. The program also gives helpful safety tips and suggestions on how to navigate through public transportation.

In addition to Commissioner Villalobos, members of the committee included; Krishan Bhalla, Mary Helen Cruz, Mattye Fegan-Perry, William Ha, Raymond Hall, Jung Kim, and Lavada Theus.

Legislative and Advocacy Committee

Chaired by Commissioner Sol Fingold, this committee took the lead in advocating to over 300 elected officials indicating our displeasure of State’s decision to stop funding of Adult Day Health Care Centers.

In addition to Commissioner Fingold, members are Zelda Hutcherson, James Polk, Nathaniel Riddick, Marvin Schachter, David Siegrist, Maurice Weiner, and Elizabeth Wilson.

Membership Committee

Chaired by Commissioner Marilyn Fried, this committee is in charge with oversight of receiving and screening applications for non-appointed members of LACCOA. The committee recommended the Mr. Robert Jimenez for membership and was voted in as Commissioner at the January 2012 meeting. At the March 2012 meeting, the Committee held its Member Orientation for all Commissioners.

In addition to Commissioner Fried, members of this committee included Nneenah Frazier, Hedy Harrison, Peter McGrath and Lonnie McNamee.



47th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

The Administration on Aging recognizes every May as Older Americans Month. The theme for 2012 was “Never Too Old to Play”. LACCOA and the Board of Supervisors hosted two events in May to acknowledge the valuable contributions of older adults in their communities. These contributions to Los Angeles County are an important asset that only older adults can provide. The luncheons were held at the Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Balcony.



2nd District Board Deputy **Sylvia Drew Ivie**,
Honoree **Zoila Sanchez**, and CSS Director
Cynthia D. Banks



3rd District Board Deputy **Flora Gil Krisiloff**,
Honoree **Michael Kmet**, and CSS Director
Cynthia D. Banks



1st District Board Deputy **Ignacio Gonzalez**,
Honoree **Jacqueline Williams**, CSS Director
Cynthia D. Banks



Honoree **Hope Witkowsky** and
Supervisor **Don Knabe**



Honoree **Amador Espinosa** and
Supervisor **Don Knabe**



Commissioner **William Ha**, Commissioner **Raymond Hall**, Commissioner **Hedy Harrison**, Supervisor **Don Knabe**, CSS Director **Cynthia D. Banks**, Commissioner **Cindy Skovgard**, and Commissioner **Gloria Duran** proclaiming May 30, 2012 as Older Adults Day in Los Angeles County.



President **Bernard Weintraub**; Board Deputy **Flora Gil Krisiloff**, and Mistress of Ceremonies **Barbara Sinclair** declaring May 2012 Older Americans Month.

Annual LACCOA Luncheon

LACCOA held its annual luncheon celebrating the accomplishments for the year, discussing plans for the future, and swearing in a new slate of officers. The 2012 luncheon was held at San Pedro Service Center.

Officers for 2012-2013 were sworn in by Board Deputy Nick Ippolito, 4th District. They are **Marilyn Fried**, President; **Cindy Skovgard**, First Vice President; **Nneenah Frazier**, Second Vice President; **Barbara Sinclair**, Secretary; **Krishan Bhalla**, Fiscal Officer; and **Bernard Weintraub**, Past President.



2012-2013 Officers: Nneenah Frazier, Second Vice President; Barbara Sinclair, Secretary; Marilyn Fried, President; Cindy Skovgard, First Vice President; Krishan Bhalla, Fiscal Officer; Bernard Weintraub, Past President

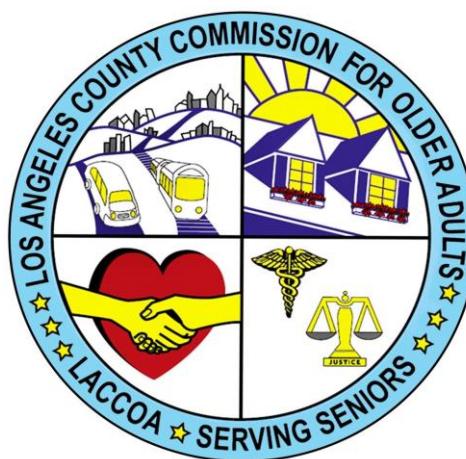


President Bernard Weintraub receiving special plaque for being the President of the new LACCOA for the first two years.

Credits

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(OARD, Annual Luncheon, and Official LACCOA Photos)



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