

Oklahoma Alliance on Aging  
Strategy Committee Notes, January 23, 2006

Location: Aging Services Division Conference Room in Shepherd Mall

Present: Leo Orsi, John Terneus, James Crowder, Albert Janco, Dorothy Cassel,  
Vivian Smith, Janine McCullough, Esther Houser and Helen Patrick

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by James Crowder, in the absence of the Chairman, Tully McCoy.

Four House bills, one House Concurrent Resolution, one House Resolution were talked about and seven Senate bills were also mentioned.

The House bills and resolutions were as follows:

HB 2459 Income Tax deduction; care for elderly persons  
HB 2842 Medicaid Reform Act by Rep. Kris Steele  
HB 2874 Electric Restructuring Act of 1997 (We were told this was a transportation bill)  
HB 2921 Repealing Estate Tax  
HCR 1053 Senior Alert; early warning system program  
HR 1055 Public safety; Silver Alert

The Senate bills are as follows:

SB 809 Okla. Dept. on Aging-Create by Sen. Connie Johnson  
S8 1349 Nursing Home Facilities-Allow to install surveillance cameras with consent  
SB 1367 Helping Oklahomans Pay for Energy (HOPE) Revolving Fund-Create  
SB 1379 St Architectural Act-Modify Definition (We were told this bill was about cameras)  
SB 1679 OK State Aging Agency-Create  
SB 1793 Elderly persons-Prohibit exploitation-Penalty  
SB 1841 Elderly-Prohibiting abuse and lewd molestation

Also, John Terneus received an E-mail from Midge Sullivan concerning Senate Bill 975, a holdover bill from 2005. My information says this bill is to create Oklahoma Uniform Trust Code. It passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Full Senate and was then referred to the House Judiciary Committee. It did not come out of that committee. It was not killed in that committee, and therefore is still alive. I have already had a call from a member of another organization I belong to. Her lawyer had told her to call her senator and representative and ask them to vote against this bill. I may be mistaken, however I believe I remember this bill from last year. When I went to the Chairman of that committee he told

me he had received a number of calls from fellow Senators saying the same thing. No one however could tell him what was wrong with the bill or tell him how it should be changed. It was also endorsed by the Oklahoma Bar Association. I will check this out. If someone you know or have heard of tells you something like this, ask them what the matter with the bill is and just what should be changed. Sometimes people get things wrong.

The information on the different bills listed above is from very early computer printouts on the bills. It does not have the House and Senate authors and the explanations on the bills are very short which leaves a lot to be desired. More complete information will be available on the bills on the second day of the session and the bills themselves will be available very shortly.

There was a planning meeting last Wednesday, January 18, concerning Senior Day at the Capitol. They will need more people to volunteer for that event. The Alliance will have a major part in this year's event to be held on April 10. It was suggested at that meeting that Dr. Bill Thomas would be a good person to keynote that event.

It was announced that there was to be a public meeting on public transportation on January 23 in Oklahoma City, as well as two meetings on January 24, one in Norman at 11:30 a.m., and the other in Edmond at 5:30 p.m.

We were handed a page showing AARP, Oklahoma Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Oklahoma State Council on Aging, Oklahoma Alliance on Aging, Oklahoma Retired Educators' Association and Adult Day Services Association of Oklahoma asking us to join them in securing adequate funding for the needs of our elderly poor.

Janine McCullough made available to us two E-Mail messages telling us about S. 2010, the Elder Justice Act that is to be considered again in the 10th Congress.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 30, 2006, at the Aging Services Division Conference Room at Shepherd Mall. Please plan to be with us. Much more information will be available and this will be the last chance for us to meet before the start of the next legislative session on February 6. We are very pleased that we have had nine people in attendance at our last two Strategy Committee Meetings. However, we have room for many more in our nice conference room.