**WACCRA Board Meeting**

**May 14, 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

*Board*: Nickie Askov, Rick Baugh, Orin Brustad, Carlos Caguiat, Donna Kristaponis, Judy Love, Natalie Siegel

*Officers and Committee Chairs*: Allan Affleck, Task Force Chair, Jim Crim, Treasurer, Susan Dillon, Membership Chair

CCRC Coordinators: Tom Sakata, Barry Witham

*Guests*: Donna Christensen, Elizabeth Fullinwider

President Donna Kristaponis called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

• Minutes: The minutes from the April 9, 2021, meeting were approved by consent.

• Treasurer’s Report for February: The report was approved by consent.

A question was raised about paying bank charges. Jim explained that deposits of the first 200 checks/month are free, but $.35 is charged for each check thereafter. **Jim will try to spread out the deposits across three months to avoid the extra charge.**

OLD BUSINESS:

• Report from the Task Force considering an organizational membership category for WACCRA: Judy Love reported on the deliberations of the task force (other members include Orin Brustad, Monica Clement, Jim Crim, and Susan Dillon). Their report recommended that WACCRA not pursue an organizational membership category at this time. After some discussion the report was accepted.

• Membership Update: Susan Dillon reported that total membership is now at 924 including 58 lifetime members. Susan asked the membership coordinators to follow up on the 62 members from last year who have not paid dues this year. She raised the issue of how we recruit members from CCRCs that have not been involved in WACCRA so far. Carlos suggested that presenting the *Commitment to CCRC Practices* at these CCRCs is a good way to recruit membership in WACCRA. The starting point would be with the new members of the Presidents’ Roundtable. **Donna, Rick, Nickie, and Carlos will call those presidents individually to see if they would like to have a presentation on the *Commitment* at their Resident Council meetings. These calls should be made before June 4 when the Presidents’ Roundtable meets.**

• Website Enhancement: No report.

• Initiating *Commitment to CCRC Practices*: In response to the discussion last month about creating a video about the *Commitment*, Donna contacted Deb Murphy of LeadingAge. Deb was going to discuss the possibility with Kevin McFeely, head of the LA CCRC Cabinet and a member of the LA Mediation Team. She also indicated that none of the CCRCs were open for meetings. Donna suggested that WACCRA move ahead on our own. If the resident council presidents invite a representative from the Board to speak about the *Commitment*, then there should be no objection to WACCRA proceeding on its own. The decision of how to move ahead is presented above.

• Presidents’ Roundtable Update: Rick reported that the next meeting will be held on June 4. **Rick and Nickie will work on developing an agenda for the meeting.**

• 3rd Edition to the Consumer Guide: **The Board authorized $400 for printing copies that will be hand-delivered to legislators.** **Donna and Rick will discuss how other printed copies might be distributed. The digital version will appear on the WACCRA website and has been sent to NaCCRA for their website.**

• An update on issues stemming from the Implementation of the *Commitment to CCRC Practices*: Events related to the implementation of the *Commitment* were reported by Skyline and Emerald Heights. In these discussions it has become apparent that **a timeline for decision-making and action is missing from the document**.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Update on the Past Legislative Session: Part-time lobbyist Donna Christensen reported on the WACCRA-supported legislation that passed during the last session. The registration level for CCRCs will remain at $900/biennium. That covers the costs of the department to maintain the registry of CCRCs and post the information on the DSHS web site (https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/continuing-care-retirement-community-ccrc).

Funding for the Aging & Long-term Care Commission will help keep the department up-to-date in responding to the impacts of COVID. They are providing $1.5M to the agency and to outside organizations for educational sessions statewide as well as for direct services to clients and caretakers as they are hearing more concerns about issues related to dementia and protection services. There may be an opportunity to be involved in an advisory group.

Protection of seniors remains under-funded. Financial abuse and self-neglect need more thorough investigation. More resources and staff are needed as well as a Memo of Understanding with the Attorney General. The department is moving slowly toward providing more adult protective services. Direction is also provided to the department to create an emergency plan for public health as demonstrated by the lack of preparation for continuing services during the COVID pandemic.

Volunteer Services was funded at a maintenance level of $3.7M to continue long-term volunteer efforts in every community to assist aged and disabled clients at no cost to themselves. Fall prevention was also funded at $50K.

HB 1218 passed with $1.5M for the improvement of the quality of life in long-term care facilities including CCRCs. (Note: LeadingAge opposed parts of the bill.) The department is reviewing what happened during the pandemic emergency. Some changes made during COVID may become permanent as about half the staff will continue working remotely in serving clients where they live while also saving driving time. We may have an opportunity to weigh in on these issues as they move forward. More funding is still needed for difficult mental health problems in long-term care facilities as well as in the community. Staffing problems have interfered with effective services.

The Ombuds program for long-term advocacy was funded at $700K for one time only. Residents have felt isolated due to COVID restrictions, and the ombuds have not been able to enter the facility. Advocacy is needed for program continuation.

The Closed Captioning bill passed. The Long-Term Care bill was again passed. The Death with Dignity bill did not pass. Objections were raised about the amount of time allowed for the person to change his/her mind (from ten days to 72 hours proposed). SB 5203 pertaining to generic drugs for higher-cost prescriptions passed.

Commitment to expanding affordable broadband internet was made especially as schools relied on remote instruction. (A federal appropriation has also gone into effect.) Broadband internet may eventually become recognized as an essential utility in the future.

**Donna Christensen offered to write up a legislative summary that can be distributed to members. (The Board agreed that would be helpful.) She also suggested that an advisory group from WACCRA would be helpful in educating/influencing legislators.**

Authorize $300 for Annual Dues for Senior Lobby: Donna spoke of the benefits of being given access to legislators and senior organizations as well as give WACCRA “brand recognition”.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. Next meeting is June 11, 10:00-12:00, by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted: Nickie Askov, Secretary