

**Sacramento County
Human Services Coordinating Council**

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2014

Meeting Location

Dept. of Human Assistance
2700 Fulton Ave
Sacramento, CA. 95821
Conference Room 58

Facilitator: Melinda Avey - Chair

Staffed by: Jerri Thompson

Meeting Attendees:

- HSCC Members - Melinda Avey (Chair), Natasha Broadway, Ernie Brown, Addie Ellis, David Mana-ay (Secretary), Gary McDonald (Vice Chair), Robert Meagher, Paul Tanner, Frank L. Topping
- HSCC Ex-officio Members – Gladys Deloney (DHA), Sherri Z. Heller (DHHS)
- Guests – Stephanie Biegler, Steven Orkand, Debra Payne (First 5), Gina Roberson

Absent Members:

- Paul Lake (Ex-officio), Chad Thompson, Reginald Williams, Angelina Woodberry

Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council

Topic	Minutes
Call to Order/Introductions	Chair called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.
Approval of June 12, 2014 Minutes	Approval of June 12, 2014 Minutes: David Mana-ay moved to approve, Frank Topping seconded. Ayes: Unanimous. Minutes Approved.
Chair's Report	<p>Melinda Avey - Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Community seat applicant, Robert Silva Jr. applicant for was interviewed by the Chiefs of Staff on August 7th, appointment date is pending. ➢ Matt Mengelkoch, Community seat member has resigned. • The County is sponsoring three classroom sessions for Ethics training for those who are unable or do not wish to take the online training class. Members interested were asked to see staff for a flyer showing the class schedule.
Special Presentation: Child Abuse Prevention Center "Family Support Collaborative"	<p>Stephanie Biegler Director and Gina Roberson, Associate Director from the Child Abuse Prevention center provided a PowerPoint presentation giving a comprehensive overview of their Birth & Beyond Family Resource Centers.</p> <p>As part of the presentation they also provided a handouts showing all the services offered at the Birth & Beyond Family Resource Centers.</p> <p>Following the presentation Q & A and discussion ensued with the group. Visit the Child Abuse Prevention Center website for more info: http://www.thecapcenter.org/</p>
Heroes of Human Services Awards Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Call for Nominations" announcement went out on Monday, August 4th. • Nominations are due on Monday, August 18th. • Awards Ceremony – Tuesday, October 7th at 9:30am in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street • A reception will be provided following the awards ceremony. • Volunteers to help with set up and clean-up are needed, see staff. • Donations of treats or money donations to buy the treats are needed, see staff.

Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council

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<p>Discussion on Next Steps – Safety Net Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair asked the Departments what the County Budget is doing this year in terms of the Safety Net recommendations. The group shared they would like to have an actual list. Gladys reminded the group that at the June HSCC meeting prior to the June Budget Hearings she did provide a chart of the proposed DHA and DHHS initiatives that would be going before the Board of Supervisor at the Recommended Budget Hearings. Sherri and Gladys shared with the group their Departments funding for the Safety Net Programs with Gladys reading aloud the funding amounts listed on the charts from both DHA and DHHS including funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Homeless Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Shelter Outreach and Navigation Health Education and Screening Homeless System Planning Homeless Provider Cash Flow <li style="display: inline-block; width: 45%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Additional Safety Net Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Abuse Prevention Improving Permanency for Children in Foster Care Financial Abuse Unit in Adult Protective Services Rural County Services • Gladys will send the chart she read from to staff to forward to the group showing DHA and DHHS' Safety Net Program Funding for FY 14-15 including the additional proposed programs for the Final Adopted Budget that were not included in the Recommended Budget. • Chair inquired about the outreach materials that were being developed to inform businesses and residents about the pan handling ordinance and information for the pan handlers about the law and where to get resources. Gladys shared it was her understanding that the work group had finished developing the handout but not sure if it has yet been distributed, she will inquire. • Discussion ensued with the group about the need to thank to the Board of Supervisors for the repairs made to the Safety Net and to encourage continuance.
<p>HSCC 2014 Goals</p>	<p>Addie Ellis led the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safety Net Recommendations and actual funding given to those recommendations ties in exactly to putting to together the year end summary of the HSCC goals. The group will look at the goals themselves, the Activity, the Outcome and the Impact - Goals/Activity/Outcome/Impact. • Suggestion for the HSCC to do a road trip to go back out and visit the groups they spoke with to gather their input for the Safety Net Workshop and provide them with the impact for their input. Sharing the outcome/funding that is being provided in the County Budget for repairing the Safety Net in Sacramento County. • For Goal 2 - Group still needs to develop a list of questions for future presentations brought before the HSCC pertaining to the HS 9 Element.
<p>Department and First 5 Updates</p>	<p>Human Assistance: Gladys Deloney provided a report included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Health and Human Services: Sherri Z. Heller provided report included in the meeting packet. Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Executive will be recommending to the Board of Supervisors at the Final Budget Hearings a few additions to the Safety Net. One being extra Public Health Nursing staff for the Health Care for the Homeless

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Topic	Minutes
	<p>Program to do Public Health Outreach to homeless persons and funding to re-establish the Public Guardian Payee Service for vulnerable adults in Sacramento County that are not institutionalized.</p> <p>First 5 Commission: Toni Moore provided a report included in the meeting packet.</p>
<p>Member Advisory Boards & Community Member's Updates</p>	<p>Adult and Aging Commission: Gary McDonald provided report included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board: Melinda Avey provided report included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Children's Coalition: Ernie Brown provided report included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Disability Advisory Commission: No report.</p> <p>Mental Health Advisory Board: No report.</p> <p>Public Health Advisory Board: No report.</p> <p>Access and Functional Needs – Coordination Advisory Group (AFN-CAG): Frank L. Topping provided a report included in the meeting packet. Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the AFN-CAG meeting Frank attended, Sacramento Steps Forward announced that they would be having a kick-off meeting to move forward with their pilot project intended for Veteran service providers and the project will include those that are chronically homeless. Frank shared that he attended that meeting as well.
<p>Announcements/Public Comments</p>	<p>Chair announced the following special presentations coming before the HSCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September: Saint John's Program for Real Change • October: Sacramento Steps Forward • November: Crisis Intervention Team/Critical Incident Team ❖ December: No special presentations, this month is held for the annual HSCC Potluck.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>

- DHA continues to work through the backlog of pending Medi-Cal applications. Currently, the department has approximately 43,000 cases that need disposition. The department has been working with the Department of Health Care Services to resolve issues around pending verifications so that cases can be processed. Currently, there are 133, 174 Medi-Cal only cases in Sacramento County alone.
- A Veterans Treatment Court has been established in Sacramento County. This is for veterans charged with a criminal offense. Eligible Sacramento County residents will be diverted into treatment programs with more options than our regular criminal justice system. Participants must suffer from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems stemming from service in the United States military and be eligible for VA benefits. DHA will be creating a line item in a non-profit, People and Resources Together (PART) so that donations can be made for the Veterans Treatment Court. A meeting for service providers is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th at the Sierra Health Foundation, 1321 Garden Highway.
- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), authorized by Assembly Bill 82, has accepted contributions by the California Endowment for \$12.5 million and with additional federal funds has released \$23 million in grants for the purposes of implementing Medi-Cal Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) activities statewide. DHA has been awarded \$898,174 to maximize enrollment and retention in the Medi-Cal program through a countywide outreach, enrollment and retention assistance program. DHA plans to distribute \$800,000 of these funds to local CBOs through an RFP process.
 - DHA will fund qualified, local organizations to develop an outreach, enrollment and retention program to increase enrollment and retention in the Medi-Cal program. The focus of this program will be hard to reach individuals in Sacramento County who are eligible to Medi-Cal but not enrolled and those newly eligible under the ACA. The intent of the funding is to supplement, but not supplant, Medi-Cal O&E efforts associated with the implementation of ACA
 - DHA will concentrate the majority of the efforts on five target populations to support stronger outcomes:
 1. Persons with mental health disorder needs
 2. Persons with substance use disorder needs
 3. Persons who are homeless
 4. Persons who are in county jail
 5. Persons who are on probation or under post release community supervision
 - DHA's goal for this program is to target and hopefully enroll approximately 20,000 individuals from the time the grants are awarded through June 30, 2016
 - The RFP was released on July 28, 2014

Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Deadline for submitting the qualification packet is Monday, August 18, 2014, by 3:00 p.m.

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has issued a request for counties to submit proposals for Housing Support grant. This was part of the final state budget. There is 20 million available statewide. This will allow for counties to prevent evictions rapidly rehouse participants on the CalWORKs program and those who have exhausted their time limits will still qualify for the program. Sacramento County will be submitting an application for the funding.
- DHA has also implemented the Family Stabilization program: This program provides intensive case management services to customers working through housing instability and/or domestic abuse issues. Housing instability can range from being homeless to being at risk of being evicted. Program highlights include:
 - Collaboration with CalWORKs Family Shelters (Next Move, St. Johns, Volunteers of America) taking a multidisciplinary approach to helping families in the shelters.
 - Assistance with securing stable housing includes financial for those who have exhausted their CalWORKs Homeless Assistance benefits (requires participation in budget management class), and advocacy with landlords for customers who are having difficulty securing stable housing or remaining in their current home.
 - Referrals to appropriate services that are needed to address the root cause of issues
- DHA working on Request for Proposal (RFP)s for Safety Net Services approved by the Board of Supervisors in the proposed budget hearings. This will include \$75,000 for navigation services for homeless populations, \$25,000 for navigation services for the River District downtown, and \$60,000 for social services in Rural south County (Galt).

Perhaps you are interested in the complexities of how the mental health and physical health of our clients interact. We get fascinated by the biology and neuroscience (e.g., brain chemistry of addiction), but our interventions and treatment deal mostly with behavior modification (therapeutic rehab.) So I hope you think this research is as interesting as I do, because it ties together all of those things.

This has to do with *epigenetics*. That's when people's experiences influence their biology by silencing genes or turning them back on, changing the way cells function without changing the person's DNA sequence. There was a 2005 study at McGill University that showed how rat pups raised by abusive mothers experienced changes in a gene that helps animals manage stress. The gene got a few extra methyl groups stuck to it, so they couldn't properly function. A methylated gene is still there, but it's suppressed. Of course, we know that drugs and radiation turn off genes, but that's the first time it was proven that parental behavior could do it.

Now folks at the Child Emotion Lab at the University of Wisconsin have found the same exact thing in humans. When they analyzed blood samples of children who have experienced child abuse, they found that the exact same gene was methylated at the exact same receptor sites. This gene is responsible for receptor sites that sense a hormone called cortisol that people produce in an emergency. It pumps up blood sugar for emergency response and takes energy away from normal processes like growth and immune function. Being on constant alert is probably useful for children who live in threatening situations every day, but I can also see how inability of children's bodies to produce the "calm down" command makes them more aggressive, leads them to see innocent behavior as a threat, and leads to long-term psychological problems as well as physical problems like heart disease and even diabetes – problems that surface long after child abuse.

This is an amazing advance in our understanding of how behavior affects children's health and development. It's not such a mystery why trauma has the effects that it does, if it's directly affecting how the body regulates stress. It's especially important to note that the original research in rats showed that the effects were not permanent. When the abused pups were returned to nurturing caregivers, the extra methylation disappeared, and their bodies responded normally to stress and went back to concentrating on growth and immune function instead of being on danger alert all the time. That's a really hopeful finding. We don't have any research yet to know whether gene methylation is reversible in children who've experienced trauma or what kinds of interventions might cause that effect, but it seems likely that a stable living environment without constant danger might actually get the stress management genes functioning properly again, preventing the physical and mental health long-term effects of abuse.

Here's the link, if you're interested in reading the article that got me so excited:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/next/body/epigenetics-abuse/>

Thanks for your patience with me as I let my inner scientist dictate the content of my Department report this time. I'm sure I'll be back to budgets and programs next time.

Best,

Human Services Coordinating Council Report

August 14, 2014

BUDGET ACTIVITIES

First 5 Budget – The Commission approved the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 on August 4, 2014. The Budget totals \$28.5 million, which is \$2.1 million higher than the Recommended Budget of \$26.4 million. Increases related to \$.3 million carryover for services to reduce African American child deaths, \$.2 million for the Golden State Water Company's fluoridation project and \$1.6 million for repayment of Medi-Cal Administrative Activity funds.

County Budget – The Board of Supervisors will approve the Final Budget of approximately \$3.6 billion in September. Budget hearings will begin on September 9th.

State Budget – The Governor signed the State Budget on June 20th. The Budget included approximately \$264 million for early learning. A combination of general funds and Proposition 98 general funds will be used to support quality efforts, increase child care and state preschool slots and a 5% rate increase for state contracted providers. Additionally, funding will be used to offset costs associated with the repeal of part day state preschool family fees. The trailer bill that implemented the above provisions also makes a long term commitment to providing all low-income four year olds with access to quality pre-kindergarten programs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – August 4, 2014

1. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Final Budget
2. Approval of the 2015 Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2017-18
3. Approval of contract increase for DHHS – Smile Keepers Program (\$16,000)
4. Approval of new contract with Golden State Water Company (\$3.7 million)
5. Approval to terminate and existing contract, and execute a new contract with the California Black Health Network (\$325,000)
6. Appointment of Cid Van Koersel to the Advisory Committee as the representative for children with special needs
7. Cancellation of September Commission meeting

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – October 6, 2014

1. Presentation: Local Child Care Planning Council
2. Public Hearing: Annual Audit and Report
3. Approval of the Evaluation Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2017-18
4. Nominate and approve Vice Chair for 2015

- Will Tift was unable to attend the meeting. Funds (\$72,730.00) issued from RFP earlier this year for peer counseling to two of the three applicants may be adjusted. \$25,000.00 awarded to Transitional Living and Community Support may be transferred to Senior Companion (already received \$47,730.00). Distributed flyer on Every Dollar Counts for limited income seniors to save money on prescription drugs. Also passed out copies of the Senior Resource Directory for 2014-2015 (comprehensive listing of resources for seniors).

DHHS, Senior and Adult Services, Volunteer Services (Janine Brown)

- With the transition of Senior Volunteer Services (SVS) to DHHS, SVS has had twice as many in-home supportive services referrals for the Senior Companion Program. The department's support has allowed better exchange of information as well as reduced costs that will allow additional volunteers to be added to the program for IHSS recipients. With potential additional funds from A4AA for even more volunteers the total number of volunteers for the Senior Volunteer Services program will be up to its highest ever at thirty-seven volunteers. Program needs senior companions (low income seniors) to work 15 or more hours per week working with 3-5 seniors in their homes (take them to appointments, shopping, outings, etc.). There is reimbursement for transportation costs; fund sources may be modified next year. There are still concerns with President's budget which eliminates ¾ of Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP), other than those that are most competitive. It would also put all programs under AmeriCorp and SVS will have to compete for funding, and changes the stipend (from \$2.65 per hour to a stipend cap equivalent to 8 hours a week). Janine also shared an article from the Sacramento County News on the APS Fraud Unit to start up January, 2015. Lastly, Janine mentioned SVS is in need of more host sites for volunteers to meet with seniors.

DHHS, Senior and Adult Services, IHSS and APS (Debra Morrow/Debbi Thomson)

- Debra Morrow was unable to attend the meeting. No report.

Speaker – Pat Beale, Executive Director, Senior Center of Elk Grove

- Center is very active with numerous activities. Located in Elk Grove, open from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is a self-funded 501c organization. The center charges a membership fee (\$25 for individuals, \$40 for couples). An active Board of Directors stay involved in the center as visitors, participants, or volunteers. Focus on adding quality to life and allow people to "learn to be themselves again". They have computer, writing and exercise classes, support groups, and a popular travel program. Annual bazaar every year is a fundraiser, they sell homemade goods. Have 3.5 staff positions and 125 volunteers. There is a current need for volunteers to serve as drivers. Partnership with Lion's Club – club uses the center for three meetings a month and in exchange do a pancake breakfast once a month with proceeds going to the senior center, also puts on two events a year.

Action/Discussion Items:

Appoint committee members and liaisons as needed (Alex Eng)

- Appointments:
 - Oversight Committee, Dr. Kahane appointed – motion to ratify appointment made by Dee Baily, seconded by Gary McDonald, all in favor
 - Office of Emergency Services Emergency Preparedness for People with Access and...

- 34th Annual Mental Health & Aging Conference to be held on October 30th at Red Lion Hotel, Sacramento, CA. Topic is Eat, Sleep, Move, Connect: Pathways to Successful Aging. Fee of \$70 can be covered by a scholarship to one person per organization.
- Community Housing & Services Coalition meeting is next week on July 29, 2014, at the Sacramento Sheriffs South Area Office Community Room, Sacramento, CA, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and will have Dr. Richard Pan, Assembly Member of District 9. Also will have Melissa Brown from the McGeorge School of Law and Sgt. Dean Bowen from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department's Sexual & Elder Abuse Bureau.
- Community Health Status Survey – put out by Sacramento County Dept. of Public Health. Commissioners asked to respond.
- Recruitment of commissioners – need volunteers to serve on the commission, encouraged commissioners to recruit, have a flyer prepared to be distributed once approved.
- Social event for commissioners to be planned. Details TBA.
- October retreat for commissioners – date reserved for October 17th, location TBA. Time will be from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., approximately.
- Meeting on July 24th with the Chiefs of Staffs – agenda distributed and presence of available commissioners requested.

Focal Point reports

- Cordova Senior Center (Reggie Williams) – center is going through reorganization with board of directors, no report.
- Ethyl Hart Multipurpose Senior Center (Rosemary Jones) – center is now open after construction, no other update to report.
- Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center (Robert Ingols) – funding stringent, but stable, plan to do more fundraisers in order to provide more services.
- Mission Oaks Community Center (Dee Baily) – center is very active, especially with dance activities. Having a Concert in the Park on September 14th. Travel group is going on a trip to Canada soon.
- Asian Community Center (Alex Eng) – have relinquished respite program to Triple “R” who will lease space and extend hours in order to accommodate more people at the center.

Commissioners Comments

- David Feldstein – founded a geriatric mental health outreach organization in New York City four years ago that is now being looked at for replication around the country in next five years.
- Rosemary Jones – homeless program, Sacramento Steps Forward, is looking for commitments from volunteers for their program.
- Dee Bailey – UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center is having a presentation July 24th on Medications in Dementia. Alzheimer's Association has a South Sacramento Caregiver Support Group, meets weekly on Wednesday's. Also hosting a Tee It Up For Alzheimer's golf fundraiser Saturday, September 14th at Empire Ranch in Folsom, CA. Sacramento Walk To End Alzheimer's is September 27th. ARTZ is a group that links artists and cultural institutions to people living with dementia.

The annual celebration of recovery, Recovery Happens, will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at the Capitol. The all-day event attracts about 5000 people each year from all over northern California. Dr. Sherri Heller will be a guest speaker again this year. On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Heller will present a resolution proclaiming September 2014 "Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month" in Sacramento County.

August 2014 Report to the Human Services Coordinating Council

Executive Committee

Updated Bylaws approved by Coalition.

CPS Oversight Committee

Reviewed quarterly CPS update report. Continuing to work with CQI.

Children's Trust Fund Committee

State Trust Fund Bill signed by Governor effective 1/31/2015. Letter to DHHS regarding inconsistencies in data previously provided resulted in new information and a presentation to be made to the Coalition at the September meeting.

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Committee is exploring where to concentrate advocacy.

Other

Providing continuing support and input to the First 5 Advisory Committee and HSCC

Ernie Brown
Member, Sacramento County Children's Coalition

on meetings of the
Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services'
Access and Functional Needs – Coordination Advisory Group
(AFN-CAG)

By:

HSCC Member Frank L. Topping
Reporting as a Core Member of SCOES' AFN-CAG

During the month of July I was added as a Core Team Member -- by Kris Nelson to the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services' (OES) Access and Functional Needs—Coordination Advisory Group (AFN-CAG) with the intent that I would liaise on meetings and functions as a member of the HSCC.

On Wednesday, July 23rd I was privileged to attend a follow-up meeting Kris Nelson held at Sacramento Steps Forward for homeless providers on the rollout of her excellent software intended to overview all aspects of needs, provisions and operation of Cooling and Warming Centers they might provide on a real-time basis intended to give immediate point-in-time information potentially vital to operations for those providers rendering services and SCOES in assisting in answering the needs.

Quoting Kris Nelson in her advanced description:

“We will be reviewing the use of WebEOC for Warming / Cooling Center activities – opening / closing, reporting services, number of people served, etc. I will provide training on how to use the system and the boards (forms) I developed.”

I was very impressed. The WebEOC software she developed was elegant, extremely functional and robust. The training she provided on the use of the WebEOC was well received by the homeless providers and she distributed handouts and links that would help them for later login, review and practice. An absolutely great job by Kris Nelson of the Office of Emergency Services!

To help HSCC Members better understand the scope of the AFN-CAG I'm going to quote a bit of the communication from Kris initiating my involvement on the AFN-CAG Core Group and explaining it to me – again, an excellent job by Kris Nelson – followed by the AFN-CAG “MISSION” and “GOALS AND OBJECTIVES” statements. Excellent work.

Hi Frank –

Glad to hear you are interested in being a part of the Access and Functional Needs Coordination Advisory Group. I would like to share a little about the AFN-CAG. The current core team is a rather small group of representatives: City of Sacramento Office of Civil Rights representative – Neal Albritton, County of Sacramento Disability Compliance Office – Cheryl Bennett, and myself – County of Sacramento Office of Emergency Services. When our group came together in November of 2012, we were picking up the pieces from another committee that discontinued meeting earlier that year. Our team does not 'fix' things --- we only share information, collect information, and bring others together to provide input, advice, assistance and make

strengthening the planning, preparedness, and response for the AFN community in times of disaster/emergency. The group is to be proactive and progressive in suggestions and recommendations. Our Mission Statement and Goals are below. We continue to work on our goals and continue to build our network of resources. We invited a number of community representatives to be a part of our core team, however only one, Mike McCune, continued to take part in our core team conference calls and community partners' meetings.

To answer your questions below, approximately 65 community representatives that provide a variety of services to the community are invited to the community partners meetings (including representatives from the homeless service providers to mental/behavioral health service providers, transportation service providers, and first responder agencies). Unfortunately, less than a third of them attend the meetings. However, everyone receives the invitation, minutes, and any handout materials from the meetings.

Separate from our community partner meetings, we are meeting with the homeless providers – including Sacramento Steps Forward and the individual providers, Salvation Army, Department of Human Assistance, and representatives from the Faith Based Organizations that assist with providing services for the homeless community. We've made significant progress in establishing a network to support the homeless community in the event of emergencies.

Our team has also met with the Communications and Media Officers (CMO) to discuss and develop a path-forward for communicating with local broadcast stations regarding 'inclusive' messaging during an emergency. The City and County CMOs, along with representatives from the State's Office for Access and Functional Needs met with local broadcasters and requested emergency messages be all inclusive and provided examples of such messages. This was a 'first-step' in trying to close the gap that exists in emergency messaging communicated locally to the public.

In our first couple of community partner meetings, we shared emergency plans and asked for input from the service providers; had quest speakers who provided training on emergency messaging, emergency preparedness (PAFN), and new technologies for PAFN. We also have an upcoming training opportunity for transportation providers and first responders regarding PAFN and Emergency Transportation.

Our team has built a network with the various providers over the past 20 months that barely existed prior to then. We've made some headway, however have a ways to go. The goal is to have a 'whole-community' approach toward emergency preparedness, planning and response ---- a resilient community. That doesn't happen overnight and it takes a lot of work --- by everyone.

I will include your e-mail address in my distribution list for the Community Partners meetings, and if you'd like, I will add it to the list of the core AFN-CAG team.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kris Nelson

Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services

AFN-CAG MISSION and GOALS and OBJECTIVES statements:

MISSION: To provide input, advice, assistance and make recommendations to the Office of Emergency Services on emergency preparedness, planning, and response regarding people with access and functional needs (PAFN). These include populations whose members may have additional needs before, during and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and/or medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include: People with all manners of disabilities living independently in the community, those who live in institutionalized settings, older adults, children, those from diverse cultures, those who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking, those who are transportation disadvantaged; and those who are homeless.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The Coordination Advisory Group shall –

- build a strong foundation of support and communication between government and citizens with AFN;
- review and evaluate emergency plan documents;
- advise the Office of Emergency Services (OES) of preparedness and response issues that impact PAFNs;
- seek community input on relevant issues that impact their communities;
- improve public and cultural understanding between PAFN communities, government and county residents;
- address pertinent issues, some of which include:
 - planning, preparedness and emergency response
 - education and awareness within PAFN community
 - accessible alert and notification methods and requirements
 - promote the importance of self-preparedness programs and neighbors helping neighbors
 - participate in community emergency exercises and drills
 - availability of community-based emergency preparedness programs and trainings
 - evacuation and accessible transportation concerns
 - media coordination to ensure emergency information is provided in a manner that is fully accessible and inclusive
 - inclusion of AFN awareness in responder based training

In summary; the AFN-CAG Core Team of Neal Albritton, City of Sacramento Office of Civil Rights; Cheryl Bennett, County of Sacramento, Disability Compliance Office; together under the leadership of Kris Nelson, County of Sacramento, Offices of Emergency Services has done a fine job building the AFN-CAG toward accomplishing the stated MISSION and GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – we're well on the way to the community resiliency envisioned. HSCC members will remember the fine work Cheryl Bennett initiated for the HSCC chairing our committee on Emergency Response for PAFN.

