

Senior Healthcare Policy Forum

Strengthening the Senior Safety net

Overview

Following the first Annual Bay Area Senior Healthcare Policy Forum on November 20, 2009, volunteers from each of the forum workshops met. They were charged with synthesizing and refining the guiding principles and priorities that were developed by participants in the Forum's four afternoon Workshops.

The group reviewed the principles that came out of the Workshops: *Bridging Silos In the Continuum of Care*, *Planning for Growing Need (Alzheimer's and Dementia)*, *Promoting Aging in Place*, *State and Federal Policy Changes*, and a fifth ad hoc workshop on *Building a Bay Area Coalition*. The review group's intent was to ensure that the summary statements are clear and are aligned with the content that informed them, thus accurately reflecting the ideas and consensus of workshop participants.

The group saw common themes across the Workshops. At the same time, they concluded that there is value in maintaining the separate categories (rather than condensing the documents into a single statement of principles), as the different perspectives give depth and human reality. This is why the group chose to retain the details of the content that informed each principle in the body of this document.

The following pages contain the refined guiding principles and priorities.

BRIDGING SILOS

The Principles that will guide us as we work to Bridge Silos in the Continuum of Care are ...

- ▶ Foster servant leadership and a culture of public service in ourselves and others.¹
- ▶ Work together to share and leverage resources.²
- ▶ Everyone has the right to healthy aging in their community.³
- ▶ Do what is right for the CLIENT; address the integrated needs of the person.⁴
- ▶ Focus on communication that is clear, open and accessible.⁵
- ▶ We can do more by working together than by working alone.⁶

Priority Areas of Action to Focus on in the Next Year

Those in bold are the ones that surfaced as the priority areas to focus on in the next 12 months.

- **Expand the Culture Change movement beyond nursing homes.**
- **Build a mobilizable constituency for education and advocacy around how state dysfunction is impacting them and their families and communities.**
- **Hire a public relations firm to articulate the urgency around coming demographic changes.**
- **Suggest to foundations that they host a forum on collaboration among grantees.**
- May 2010 Older Americans Month – plan small events and collaborate into one Bay Area Action.
- Contact Person: Lanay Eastman, (415) 808-7370, leastman@swfadulthood.org
- Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver, stakeholder input over first six months in 2010, contact wendy@seniorservicescoalition.org (she'll send you the link).
- The Power of Relationships! Using social media, build community and a constituency to change public policy.

¹ The content that informed this principle included: Principled/vision leadership.

² Informing content: Mutual accountability; Stewardship of community resources; We can do better! Quality improvement

³ People shouldn't have to improve themselves to get care; Universal entitlement of healthy aging regardless of income level; Engaging people as people (not as a means to end)

⁴ Health Care is more than medical care; Programs should be based on the integrated needs of the person; Client centered service; Patients (residents, clients) come first; Programs + services should respect diversity; Address the whole person

⁵ Open communication as a common language (toward the goal of informed decision-making; Open honest communication; Allow all stake-holders to have their say

⁶ The content that informed this principle included: Strengthen relationships to support collaboration; Cooperation not competition; Whole is greater than the sum of its parts (synergy)

ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA: PLANNING FOR GROWING NEED

The principles that will guide us as we plan for a growing incidence of dementia and Alzheimer's are

- ▶ Ensure that services are as simple as possible to access and use.⁷
- ▶ Provide effective support to all who contribute to care of the individual.⁸
- ▶ Activities (education, prevention, assessment) that support disease progression and evolving care needs.⁹
- ▶ Reality based expectations of the true cost of care (time and financial resources)¹⁰
- ▶ Preserve the dignity of individuals (note: need language about isolation).¹¹

Priority Areas of Action to Focus on Next Year

The actions in **bold** are ones that surfaced as priority areas to focus on in the next 12 months.

- **Speaking up to political representatives**
- **Contact State Alzheimer's committee & get involved in development of the State's plan.**
- **Educate and communicate with neighbors, etc., to increase awareness.**
- Explore how to approach a constitutional convention.
- Strengthen collaborative groups.
- Restructure Prop 13 to include commercial property.
- Explore other sources of funding and resources including collaboration and public/private partnerships.

⁷ The content that informed this principle included: Simplify!! Delivery of services & access to services

⁸ Informing content: Recognize and support caregivers (families); Redefine "community" to support participants & their caregivers; Multiple levels of dementia training for all (caregivers, providers, public).

⁹ Need based care; Services are a basic right for all based on functional status (not on ability to pay); Person/representative centered service delivery; Education, prevention, community, treatment; Provide cost effective care that is appropriate for the participant's disease state.

¹⁰ Being real about \$; Funding should follow the individual rather than the specific disease.

¹¹ Maintain dignity.

PROMOTING AGING IN PLACE

The principles that will guide us as we work towards policies that promote aging in place are...

- ▶ Collaborate to create partnerships for leveraging resources and developing networks. ¹²
- ▶ Educate the public to embrace the value of interdependence in order to create social change. ¹³
- ▶ Develop and implement accessible programs that support the safety and security of seniors. ¹⁴
- ▶ Build and foster an environment that is inclusive of generations and diverse communities. ¹⁵
- ▶ Create an environment of respect and dignity of elders. ¹⁶
- ▶ Develop programs that are sustainable with adequate funding sources. ¹⁷

Priority Areas of Action to Focus on in the Next Year

Actions in **bold** are the group's priority actions.

- **Multi-source funding plan**
- **Create method to share resources, address key needs, such as transportation.**
- **Reach out to educate community to include isolated seniors.**
- Collaborate to improve transportation.
- Ensure that AAA, agencies, other providers, etc., integrate the terminology of "Aging in Place."
- Sharing needs and resources with respect to aging in place – electronic (i.e., fast access) interchange of ideas, for example, existing programs (versus duplication of efforts), resources no longer available / lost (elimination of services, etc.)
- Proliferation of information to the community to reach isolated seniors
- Work on multi-source funding plan.

¹² The elements that informed this principle included: Create Community networks; Partnerships; Collaboration and partnerships leverage resources; Senior transportation as priority for community planning

¹³ The elements that informed this principle included: Advocacy; Education – broaden value and understanding of seniors; Develop community interdependence; Seniors' participation in development of housing models

¹⁴ Informing elements: Access to good quality services; Physical, mental, personal safety; Strengthen neighborhoods – reduce isolation; Establish physical and emotional safety; In-home support and security; Adaptability and flexibility of programs; Single access point for public benefits

¹⁵ Informing elements: Inclusive; Inclusion in the Community; Fostering inclusive intergenerational relationships; Intergeneration interaction and mutual support

¹⁶ Informing elements: Preserve independence, choice and privacy; Respect dignity of the individual; Services that support and do not rob independence

¹⁷ Informing elements: Sustainability – funding; Integration of private needs and public good.

STATE & FEDERAL POLICY CHANGES

The group charged with refining the Workgroup products looked at the Principles that came out of the State & Federal Policy Workshop and decided to recommend this section for further development. Their reasoning is that policy change must be specific in order to be effective... the "ask" has yet to be developed. This needs more work, and we anticipate that the planning committee will be able to take this beginning and move forward.

Priority Areas of Action to Focus on in the Next Year

Actions in **bold** are ones that surfaced as priority areas to focus on in the next 12 months..

- **Organize Seniors for policy changes re: healthcare services and rights.**
- **Organize Seniors for policy changes re: changing 2/3 vote needed to approve budget and increase taxes.**
- Organize a voter registration drive.
- Organize a community education campaign re: the reasoning behind and importance for changing the 2/3 vote needed to increase taxes.
- Design meetings with seniors in mind (e.g., don't start too late, don't have long meetings, etc.).

BUILDING A BAY AREA COALITION

The principles that guide us as we work towards building a Bay Area coalition are:

- ▶ We are all in this together (total safety net).
- ▶ Work from existing coalitions.
- ▶ Business as usual kills people.
- ▶ Untie ourselves from old models.
- ▶ Promote understanding of the social contract between people/community and government.
- ▶ Grow the pie for all – stand with each other.

This workshop developed guidelines for working together:

- Our relation to government is not just \$\$, but also about
 - improving regulations so that they support best practices and protect elders' well-being,
 - reducing unnecessary regulatory burden,
 - reducing regulatory barriers to solutions that make aging in place and bridging silos possible.
- Learn from & partner with new and “unlikely” partners.
 - e.g., disability community, aids community, youth
- Work from and with existing coalitions.
- Work from agreed upon common ground we all stand united around.
- Use open, inclusive, and self-renewing processes throughout planning and implementation.
- Adopt easy & effective communication venues and tools.
- Become more effective by seizing opportunities to work together.

KNOWN NEXT STEPS

- Volunteers from each workshop meet to refine principles.
- San Francisco Forum – next year. (CEI, On Lok, other organizations)
- Senior Healthcare Policy Forum website: information distributor
 - Point of contact
 - Information (data links) sharing
 - Grow the list/reach others
- One follow-up meeting to explore next steps
- Investigate:
 - Advocacy council for seniors and disability community
 - Grow state-wide
 - Random acts of networking/organizing
 - Celebrate Success