

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Services for Seniors Working Group

Tuesday, July 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes

By Grace Farwell

In Attendance: Shaunna Donahue, City of El Segundo; Dylan Doukakis, City of El Segundo; Brenda Williams, City of Hawthorne; W.J. Bill Meyers, City of Hawthorne Senior Citizens Commission; Kristy Morris, City of Hermosa Beach; Michelle Jordan, City of Inglewood; Jan Buike, City of Manhattan Beach; Sandy Marchese, City of Palos Verdes Estates; Officer Marcelle McCullough, City of Palos Verdes Estates/PVE-CARES; Britt Huff, City of Rolling Hills Estates Council Member, H.E.L.P.; Cindy Snodgrass, City of Torrance; Bea Virobik, City of Torrance Commission on Aging; Ghislaine (Ges) Davis, City of Torrance Commission on Aging; Sean La Guardia, County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services; Isabel Rodriguez, City of Hermosa Beach Resident; Stan Myles, AQMD; Kathy Macareg, TLC Senior Ride; Rhonda Ozanian, Bluedot; Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG; Grace Farwell, SBCCOG; Aaron Baum, SBCCOG; Guest Speakers: Letty Marzano, KEEP-SAFE Coalition; Laurie Glover, Silverado Senior Living; Steve Ewart, RideScheduler; Gus Meza, West Basin Municipal Water District

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
2. Grace Farwell briefly recapped highlights from previous meeting
3. Keep-Safe Coalition/Know Your Neighbor Program
 - Letty Marzano provided an overview of the Keep-Safe Coalition, of which many of those in attendance were familiar and participants. Keep-Safe Coalition is a volunteer organization with one paid staff member; it started in Redondo Beach to bring together police department, DA's office, FBI, Adult Protective Services (APS) to combat financial elder abuse. Keep-Safe Coalition provides free educational presentation and public service announcements. The Coalition is funded through donations. Some statistics shared: California leads nation in Elder Abuse; victims are generally alone, disabled, dependent, suffer from confusion, forgetfulness, depression, and are despondent. If a victim is physically abuse, they are often financially abused. Abusers can be family members, neighbors, family of friends, clergy, police, healthcare workers. According to APS, 70% of the perpetrators are related to the victim. Since 2000, Keep-Safe Coalition has reached out to thousands of people in the South Bay. If you feel an elderly person may be a victim, call the police, as they will provide a welfare check; a referral to APS can take 7-10 days before a welfare check is made on the person. In 2016, all homecare workers will be fingerprinted.
 - Laurie Glover gave an overview of the Keep-Safe Coalition Know Your Neighbor Program. The program was going to start in Palos Verdes Estates; once there are more volunteers in place, the program will go back to PVE. Redondo Beach will be the first city to implement the program, starting with

neighborhood watch. The goal of the program is to get to know your neighbors; make a grid and get to know 5 of your neighbors; know who comes and goes; number of cars at the house; who is providing care; offer to help (invite to dinner occasionally). Register with the police department: name, address, number of those under the age of 18 in the household; number of those over the age of 65 in the household; anyone with special needs? Have a drawing every few months to entice people to participate in the program. CERT in Redondo Beach will be helping to get the word out about the program. Research has shown that neighborhoods are more protected and thrive better when neighbors know one another. There was a discussion regarding the comfort level of sharing information. Will this make people more vulnerable?

4. Overview of RideScheduler: Managed Transportation Made Simple

- Steve Ewart provided an overview of the RideScheduler software program. Some of the features of the program include:
 - Accessible from any web browser 24/7
 - Streamline client requests and scheduling
 - Add client information quickly
 - Add new rides easily
 - No expensive software to buy and maintain
 - No complicated programs to learn
 - Drivers can access and manage their rides
 - Usage and historical reports
 - Manage driver's availability
 - Manage driver's license and insurance
 - Automated phone and email reminders
 - Generate reports
- Cost is \$95 per month plus nominal fee for service. Steve said they will be “fair forever”.

5. Update on the Drought and its Impact on our Seniors

- Gus Meza provided an overview of West Basin Municipal Water District and an update on California’s drought. In April, Governor Brown ordered mandatory water use reductions for the first time in California’s history, saying the state’s four-year drought had reached near-crisis proportions after a winter of record-low snowfalls. He also directed the State Water Resources Control Board to impose a 25 percent reduction on the state’s 400 local water supply agencies, which serve 90 percent of California residents, over the coming year. Locally, cities in the South Bay are faced with water reduction cuts of 12% to 36%. Everyone is asked to do their part to save water.
- Gus also described the conservation programs offered through West Basin: California Friendly Landscape Training, Rain Barrel giveaway, Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Exchanges, Landscape and Irrigation Efficiency Program (LIEP), and Rebates (through www.socalwatersmart.com). Gus also invited attendees to visit the Edward C Little Water Recycling Facility for either a Water 101 class or tour.

6. Next meeting – **Tuesday, September 22, 2015 @ 9:30 am – CHANGED TO OCTOBER 27**