

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives
On Behalf of the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager; File

SUBJECT: Staff Briefing on the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs

DATE: May 6, 2004

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Mayor and City Council with an update on the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs, including the status of its work on the priority issues identified for seniors in San Antonio and Bexar County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs was formed in June of 2002 and has as its charge to:

- Serve in an advisory capacity on issues related to seniors
- Advocate for seniors in the community
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information on elderly issues, programs and services

The Commission sought community input to determine the issues of highest priority to seniors in San Antonio and Bexar County. The feedback received was presented in a report to City Council and Commissioners Court in May of 2003. A total of 678 seniors were surveyed and others in the community participated in public information-gathering sessions. The report included policy and program recommendations to address the priority issues that emerged.

The Commission subsequently formed subcommittees focused on those priority areas identified in the report.

POLICY ANALYSIS

A chart is included as an attachment that lists the recommendations made by the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs, and which indicates the status of each recommendation.

The Commission will elaborate on the status of each of these recommendations at the requested briefing before City Council.

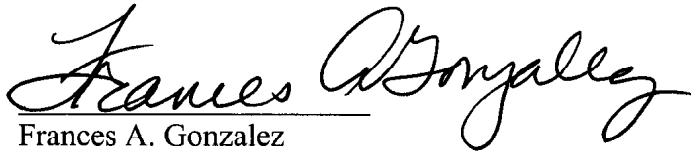
COORDINATION

Coordination has occurred with the Department of Community Initiatives.

- Attachment A - City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs - Priority Issues Recommendations



Dennis J. Campa, Director
Department of Community Initiatives



Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs

Recommendations for Priority Issues

Recommendation	Completed	In Progress	Needs Action
Creation of a City/County Office on Elderly Affairs	✓		
Prescription Drugs/Medicare/Medicaid			
Negotiation of prescription drug benefits to all Medicare-eligible seniors in Bexar County		X	
Incorporation of senior-specific programming components in local programs		X	
Increased awareness efforts to educate seniors of available benefits		X	
Expanded responsibility to advocate for the financial integrity and continued viability of Medicare and Medicaid			X
Increased funding for Medicare			X
Nutrition			
Increased budgetary prioritization and funding to expand congregate and home delivered meals for seniors throughout Bexar County		X	
Additional funding from community partners in the private sector through grants or sponsorship		X	
Increased program income through fundraising and other activities		X	
Continued and expanded partnerships with the San Antonio Food Bank	✓		
Establishment of additional senior congregate meal sites within the City of San Antonio and Bexar County	✓		
Exploring senior nutritional partnerships with local school districts			X
Transportation			
City and County advocacy with VIA and MPO for increased senior access to transportation services		X	
Local medical community to reinvest in elderly transportation for essential medical appointments		X	
Appointment of a mobility manager to assist in the coordination of transportation for the elderly within San Antonio and Bexar County		X	
Increased dissemination of community transportation resource information for area seniors		X	
Senior One Stop Access			
Establishment of Senior One Stop Access Centers in each of Bexar County's four quadrants	✓		

Increased collaboration between the City, County, United Way and Bexar Area Agency on Aging to ensure the development of a streamlined, information access system for seniors		X	
Housing/Long-Term Care/Independent Living			
City and County collaboration with the Texas Department of Human Services, Long Term Care Regulatory, to provide adequate oversight of licensed and certified assisted living facilities and to identify unlicensed facilities, which may pose a risk to the elderly	✓		
Increased awareness of grants, maintenance programs and assisted living programs for seniors		X	
Increased affordable housing for area seniors		X	
Increased funding for independent living services		X	
City and County oversight to ensure that all new and pre-existing senior housing units have central heating and air conditioning systems		X	
Crime and Safety			
Increased penalties for crimes against the elderly	✓		
Collaboration with cell phone companies to provide emergency cell phone access for seniors	✓		
Placement of adequate signage adjacent to senior communities to slow vehicular traffic in pedestrian crossing areas			X
Identification and reporting of incidents of crimes perpetrated against the elderly by local law enforcement agencies in order to assist in prevention	✓		
Increased funding and resources for programming, which provides vital information to seniors on how to protect themselves and their property		X	
Tax Relief/Legal Assistance			
Approval of a tax exemption for seniors comparable to that provided by the City of San Antonio Bexar County Commissioners Court			X
Increased promotion and publicity of tax relief options available to area seniors, such as working off school taxes			X
Exemption of citizens, aged 65 and over, from special taxing zones, such as the Downtown Improvement Zone			X
City and County collaboration with the Bexar Area Agency on Aging to improve access to legal assistance services in the area		X	
Increased promotion and marketing of "pro bono" and other available low-cost legal assistance services		X	