

Minutes of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Meeting  
Monday, August 25, 2008  
10:00am  
Executive Office on Aging, Conference Room B

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present:

Lori Yancura, Co-chair (UH-CTAHR), Pat Urieff, Co-chair (QLCC), May Fujii Foo (EAD), Lawrence Sousie (CSEA), Carol Morimoto (Partners in Development), Sandy Morishige (DHS), Moya Gray (VLSH), Nalani Fujimori (LASH), Colin Fukunaga (DHS), Diane Stowell (PABEA), Frank Lopez (DPS), Helen Wagner (Grandparent Member), and Wes Lum (UH CARE).

Members Absent:

Daniel Hamada (DOE), Noemi Pendleton (EOA), Robert Brady (Judiciary), Jo Reyes (MCOA), Alan Parker (HCOA), Charlyn Nakamine (KAEA), and Jackie Chong (Na Tu Tu Coalition).

Guests:

Maryann Crowell (grandparent), Valorie Taylor (Child & Family Services), and Anne Chipchase (Ohana Health Plan).

**ESTABLISH COMMITTEE AND REVIEW ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

Lawrence made a motion to formally establish the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force. Wes seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the Task Force was formally established.

Wes made a motion to nominate Helen Wagner as the grandparent member to the Task Force. May seconded the motion. During the discussion period, Helen introduced herself and explained that she is a grandparent who was responsible for raising her granddaughter from age 3 up to current age 15. As a result of accepting this responsibility, she immersed herself in community participation/civic affairs for support in this new role. Helen has been active with the Na Tu Tu Coalition and the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, among other community groups to support GRG, and she has tracked issues and testified at Legislative hearings, at meetings for the Kupuna Caucus, and at the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving. All members voted in favor of the motion and Helen was confirmed as the grandparent member to the Task Force.

**REVIEW SUNSHINE LAW REQUIREMENTS**

It was confirmed that hearing notices/agenda must be posted at least six days prior to the meeting. Also, there are 19 members and therefore 10 members must be present to establish a quorum.

## **REVIEW THE SCOPE OF WORK AS PRESCRIBED BY ACT 220 (SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII, 2008)**

The overall goals of the GRG Task Force are to identify:

1. Services that exist to meet the identified needs.
2. Any service deficiencies.
3. Barriers that prevent grandparents from accessing services.
4. What can be done to facilitate the provision of services to GRG.

The tasks of the GRG Task Force are to:

1. Review the 2007 *Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the State of Hawaii*.
2. Review the most recent *Four Year State Plan on Aging* to the US Administration on Aging by the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).
3. Review the testimony of the various agencies submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving at its hearing on August 16, 2007, regarding issues facing GRG.
4. Review laws relating to issues facing GRG and other kinship caregivers, including:
  - a. Section 302A-482, HRS, regarding the affidavit for caregiver consent.
  - b. Chapters 571, HRS, regarding child custody and support.
  - c. Chapter 587, HRS, regarding child support and custody.
  - d. The memorandum prepared by the DOE to guide school personnel when enrolling students who reside with caregivers.
5. Review the supports and services offered to caregivers by the DOE through its comprehensive student support system.
6. Investigate whether a need arises when a minor residing, formally or informally, with a grandparent requires consent for medical service, including when a student needs consent for programs and services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
7. Investigate the issues that arise when a minor residing, formally or informally, with a grandparent is returned to the custody of a parent.
8. Investigate housing issues that may arise when a grandparent is raising a grandchild, particularly when the GRG resides in senior housing, and identify any state or federal laws that prohibit or prevent a grandchild from residing with a grandparent.
9. Review how each AAA allocates the federal funds it receives under the National Family Caregiver Support Program for grandparent programs.
10. Identify the agencies that collect data relating to GRG and whether the data can be more comprehensive, uniform, and readily available or exchanged.
11. Identify legal needs and whether these needs are being adequately addressed.

The GRG Task Force is required to submit:

1. An interim report which is due no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2009 regular session. The Task Force's goal is to submit the report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (JLCAIP) by December 1, 2008.

2. A final report to the Legislature and the JLCAIP no later than twenty days prior to June 30, 2009. The content of final report will consist of the following:
  - a. A list of the services that exist in each county to meet grandparents' identified needs.
  - b. A discussion of service deficiencies in each county.
  - c. A discussion of identifiable barriers that prevent grandparents from accessing services.
  - d. A synopsis of the Task Force's work and any findings regarding the Task Force's responsibilities as detailed in Section 2(b) of Act 220.
  - e. Recommendations, including possible legislation.

### **SET THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The agenda for the next meeting will consist of 10 minute presentations on the following issues.

1. Review the 2007 *Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the State of Hawaii*. Lori Yancura will give a presentation.
2. Review the most recent *Four Year State Plan on Aging* to the US Administration on Aging by EOA and the AAA. Wes Lum will give a presentation.
3. Review the testimony of the various agencies submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (JLCFC) at its hearing on August 16, 2007, regarding issues facing GRG.
4. Review laws relating to issues facing GRG and other kinship caregivers, including:
  - a. Section 302A-482, HRS, regarding the affidavit for caregiver consent. Nalani Fujimori will give a presentation.
  - b. Chapters 571, HRS, regarding child custody and support. Lawrence Sousie will give a presentation.
  - c. Chapter 587, HRS, the Child Protection Law, including child support and custody. Nalani Fujimori will give a presentation including 2008 revisions to Act 587.

Members were also requested to identify issues that may need to be addressed through legislation. Additionally, it was suggested that subcommittees be formed to review the issues.

In preparation for the next meeting, a set of documents will be e-mailed prior to the meeting, including:

- 2007 Needs Assessment of GRG in the State of Hawaii
- Testimony submitted by various agencies to the JLCFC at its hearing on August 16, 2007.
- EOA's Four Year Plan on Aging
- E-mail links to the Hawaii Revised Statutes that are applicable to the presentations.

### **SCHEDULE MEETING DATES THROUGH 2008**

Pat said that the GRG Task Force does not have a budget for airfare. However, she noted that the AAAs have included in their budget airfare from the neighbor islands to Oahu for the joint meetings of the Kupuna Caucus and the JLCAIP which meets at 2:00pm on

September 5, October 10, and November 7 at the State Capitol, Room 229. Pat suggested that the GRG Task Force meet on those dates to accommodate for the neighbor island participants who must fly to Honolulu.

The upcoming meeting dates for the GRG Task Force are:

- Friday, September 5, 2008 from 11:30am – 1:00pm at the State Capitol, Room 224.
- Friday, October 10, 2008 from 11:30am – 1:00pm at the State Capitol, Room 229.
- Friday, November 7, 2008 from 11:30am – 1:00pm at the State Capitol, Room 229.

Meetings in December will be set in the near future.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wes announced that EOA has prioritized the GRG issue and wants to conduct GRG outreach and education statewide in November 2008. EOA had co-sponsored a GRG workshop on Maui in May 2008, and will be co-sponsoring a GRG workshop on Kauai in November 2008.

EOA has set aside resources to coordinate additional workshops and Wes asked if anyone would be interested in helping to plan these events. Lawrence, May, Nalani, Carol, Moya, Anne, and Valorie indicated an interest in helping. Wes will follow up with these individuals.