

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

California City Senior Center
10221 Heather Ave., California City, CA 93505
and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The flag salute was completed, and a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

*(*Chairperson, **Vice Chairperson, *** Parliamentarian)*

Commission Members Present:

In Person -, Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Sherry Gomez, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Ellen Linder, **Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Jeremy Oliver, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, *** Judy Snyder, and Debra Teofilo

Virtually – Kevin Alvey

Excused Absences: Devora Gonzalez, Jan Lemucchi, William Wright

SECRETARY OLIVER CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS PRESENT IN PERSON.

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Dee Sutherland

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator
Martin Reynoso – Area Planner
Andres Villasenor – Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator

Guests:

Anabel Hernandez, Lourdes Garcia, Leslie Devitt, Jackie Lopez, Cora B. McCrumb, Deena Chacanaca, Janice Gibson, Mary Edmiston, Michael Edmiston, Doris Freeman, and Bob Russell

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter was sent to Christine Peters, Editor for The Bakersfield California, thanking her for publishing information about senior resources and encouraged her to reach out to the Commission prior to future publications for suggestions and updates.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the California City Senior Center for the lovely lunch that was served prior to the meeting.

Vice-Chair Lynch thanked Denise at the California City Senior Center for the monthly newsletter that she sends out.

Commissioner Goodlow thanked the Commission on Aging for the birthday card she received.

Commissioner Brown thanked the Commission on Aging for the birthday card she received.

Vice-Chair Lynch shared information about the Centenarian Recognition program. A press release and letters were created and distributed to facility activities coordinators.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for March 20, 2023, Regular Commission on Aging meeting were approved with revisions to reflect Commissioner L. Oswald and Commissioner R. Oswald were in attendance at the senior center and then later attended virtually.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Grasty/Lynch/Bodnar/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 AREA PLAN UPDATE:** The Area Plan Update for 2023-2024 was reviewed and approved with the following recommendations:
 1. Commission on Aging Bylaws update are now reflected in Area Plan Update.
 2. CTSA was mentioned in the Update and no longer exists.
 3. Bakersfield Senior Center drive through pick up meals language clarified.
 4. San Joaquin Community Hospital changed its name to Adventist Health Bakersfield.
 5. Skilled Nursing Facility Lifehouse Parkview changed its name to Kingston.

6. Commissioners requested that readability of the Area Plan Update could be improved by more frequent use of parenthetical text when an acronym is used more than once.
7. The title of the California Senior Legislator and California Senior Assemblymember did not correspond with the appointed Commissioners.
8. Focal Points List was updated to include Kern County Aging and Adult Services. Though Greenacres, Arvin, and Inyokern senior centers are no longer serving congregate senior nutrition meals, they will remain as Focal Points in 2023-2024 because some senior activity is taking place or planned at the sites.

(M/S/A/O) Grasty/Snyder/None/None - Motion carried.

- **APPROVAL OF SENDING LETTERS:** A motion was made to approve the Commission on Aging send letters to the Kern County Board of Supervisors, State, and Assembly in support of Assembly Bill 817 and State Bill 411.

(M/S/A/O) Grasty/Lynch/Brown/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

CALIFORNIA CITY SENIOR CENTER – Andres Villasenor

Andres Villasenor thanked Mike, his wife, and the volunteers for doing a great job giving our seniors a hot meal. Attendance has dwindled compared to our pre-Covid numbers. The staff have made great efforts to attract clients for congregate meals. The average attendance is roughly 15 seniors/per day. Activities like BINGO, card games, and potlucks help increase attendance, and bowling will be reinstated later this year. BINGO and potlucks tend to be the most popular. BINGO typically has 20 seniors in attendance. This site has the highest volunteer activity of all senior centers in Kern County: volunteer daytime managers that help sign up new clients and volunteer delivery drivers that make all the deliveries in Cal City. There is even a newsletter for the site that keeps seniors up to date with activities at the center.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Elaine Anthony

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported their department is preparing for May is Mental Health Awareness Month. They will have a lot of different events going on throughout the month. She will get the information out to everyone as it becomes available. Last year they held different events throughout the county and they are hoping to get out to Cal City this year. The Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) is growing, and they are getting a high volume of referrals for individuals that have needs and issues with technology and getting linked up

with resources they are not aware of. They are also growing in volunteers. They went from 2 volunteers to 7, so things are going well, and they welcome more referrals.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on their two programs. The Home Access Grant program is for low-income, permanently physically disabled or mobility limitation individuals. They install ramps, remove tubs and replace them with walk-in showers with grab bars, shower seats, and any modifications needed to make the home more accessible. That is a grant and is no cost for the applicant. It is for homeowners, or renters, with the homeowner's permission. They also have the Home Improvement Loan that is for homeowners only to replace or repair anything existing such as paint, roof, electrical, etc. It is a zero interest, deferred payments loan, but a lien is placed on the property and gets repaid when the home is sold, or they no longer reside in the home. To apply for either program, call the office at (661) 862-5024.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Tammy Hartsch

Not in attendance.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Leslie Devitt

Leslie Devitt reported the Victim Witness Program will be participating in the Older Americans Month Resource Fair on May 20th at Aging and Adult Services, and they will also attend the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference on June 15th. Regarding elder crime trends, for the first quarter, there were six stolen vehicles, 34 family violence, four workplace violence, and thankfully, no homicides. She also shared that she can also go out to your organization or other senior centers, to provide educational presentations to your staff.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is finalizing a rule to put people with Medicare first and put strong protections in place so that Medicare Advantage (MA) works for them. This final rule will strengthen Medicare Advantage and hold health insurance companies to higher standards for America's seniors and people with disabilities by cracking down on misleading marketing schemes by Medicare Advantage plans, Part D plans and their downstream entities; removing barriers to care created by complex coverage criteria and utilization management; and expanding access to behavioral health care. The new rule will also

promote health equity and implement a key provision of the Inflation Reduction Act-President Biden's new law to lower prescription drug costs-that will improve access to affordable prescription drug coverage for an estimated 300,000 low-income individuals.

STATE

Continue to watch funding and await updates to the State budget with anticipated revenue shortages at the state level.

We all continue to watch Bills that will make revisions to the Brown Act, regarding teleconferencing rules, also Bills that look at revising definitions for programs, such as Grave Disability which will have impacts for conservatorship, and impacts to IHSS wage negotiations.

Locally

Some of our Senior Centers have had multiple impacts:

Kern River Valley was impacted slightly by the flooding being utilized as a shelter and had some issues with the waste systems but those were able to be restored quickly.

California City has a boil water notice.

Richard Prado Senior Center has been voluntarily closed since March 18, 2023, due to some safety concerns that we have been working diligently with General Services to remedy. We hope to reopen the center for congregate meals within the next two weeks. The Ben Austin Senior Center is being used to prepare all meals normally prepared out of Richard Prado Senior Center.

Shafter Senior Center has received some new furniture and improvements to Wi-Fi access.

The Department hopes to update all the Senior Centers so that they will have Wi-Fi access at all locations and the ability to use teleconferencing at each site. We will also have additional hybrid vehicles for nutrition programs.

The IHSS program continues to address compliance rates and making strides to remain in compliance with State requirements.

California Department of Aging is conducting a fiscal audit of AAA programs.

Colleen Philley was recently hired for the position of Program Director, replacing Jeremy Oliver, over Protective Services Division. She will begin her new position starting in May 2023.

The Department will be submitting its initial budget to the County for review on April 21, 2023. Currently, the Department budget is looking secure but will be submitted with a potential 3% step down plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – L. Oswald, K. Grasty, B. Goodlow

No report.

CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – J. Lemucchi, J. Snyder

CSL Assemblywoman Snyder reported she and Commissioner Lemucchi will be extremely busy for at least the next six weeks. On March 23rd, all CSL members met for a general meeting. Commissioner Lemucchi participates in several committee meetings. They are staying busy with informational meetings with their regions. New CSL members will be having training on writing proposals. May 9-11, she, Commissioner Lemucchi, and Commissioner Wright will be attending the C4A Conference in Glendale, CA.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, K. Grasty

Commissioner Grasty reported there were no new appointments, no reappointments, no resignations, and no expired terms. Commissioner Alvey's term will soon expire on April 24, 2023. Laura sent a letter to Valley Caregiver Resource Center. Laura shared that she just received a letter of reappointment today so he will be good for another two years. There are two vacancies: 1 in District 1, and 1 in District 5. There were no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – K. Grasty, S. Lynch

No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – B. Goodlow, K. Grasty, J. Lemucchi, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Y. Prado, J. Snyder

Chair Prado reported the Exec. Committee on April 5th and they discussed today's agenda, and most of the things that have already been covered, Older Americans Month Resource Fair, which will be held May 20th at Aging and Adult Services. This year they will be doing things a little differently. The COA will have a table at this event so she will need volunteers to assist with that. Set up will begin at 7 a.m. They will hand out jar openers and COA Brochures. The Committee also discussed County Counsel holding an Ethics Training on April 27th via TEAMS. If you are due to take the training, please sign up or take the course online as the State requires all Commissioners to take the training every two years so we need to make sure that is done. They also talked about Orientation being completed for the five new Commissioners. The Committee is working on the COA Decorum and coming up with ideas about how we all should be doing what we are doing to raise the bar. Also discussed the upcoming Senior Rally, and the Older Americans Month proclamation at the Board of Supervisors on May 9th at 9 a.m. in the Board Chambers. If you need a Commissioner name badge, please let Laura know.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – J. Snyder

No report.

LONG TERM CARE – S. Bodnar, D. Duquette, D. Gonzalez, N. Jackson, R. Oswald

No report.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch, S. Morris, J. Snyder

Chair Prado reported the Orientation Committee just completed orientation for all new Commissioners. They ordered more jar openers to give out at the Resource Fair and other upcoming events.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; N. Jackson

Commissioner Brown reported she received nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian. She will have a slate ready for the May meeting. Nominations can still be sent to Commissioner Brown by phone, or to Commissioner Goodlow and Commissioner Jackson by email.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – B. Goodlow

No report.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – Wright, Vacant (Alternate)

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, J. Lemucchi

No report.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown, S. Lynch

Commissioner Brown reported they will be giving out pens to recognize senior nutrition volunteers. that will be giving out as we visit senior centers throughout the year.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- Older Americans Month Resource Fair – Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Aging and Adult Services Department. Volunteers need for the COA table.
- Elder Abuse Prevention Conference – June 15, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Hodel's. Jeremy will check if Dodger tickets will be donated for raffle.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, May 15, 2023 1:00 p.m. Delano Senior Center 436 Jefferson Street, Delano, CA 93215 (COA Ex-Officio Members and the public may attend in person or via Zoom. Please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj