

Kern County Commission On Aging

Stephanie Lynch, Chairperson

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Commission On Aging

"Making a difference in the lives of senior citizens."

REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

MINUTES

April 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Rasmussen Senior Center

115 E. Roberts Lane, Bakersfield, CA 93308

and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:22 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, ****Secretary)*

Commission Members Present:

In Person – Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Sonia Dhillon, Sherry Gomez, Barbara Goodlow, ***Kris Grasty, Anabel Hernandez, Genel Hodges, Norma Jackson, Julie Juarez-Ceja, Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, *Stephanie Lynch ****Jeremy Oliver, Linda Oswald, Yolanda Prado, and **Judy Snyder

Virtually – Kevin Alvey and Devora Martinez

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette

SECRETARY OLIVER CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS PRESENT IN PERSON.

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Martin Reynoso – AAA Planner / Healthy Living Supervisor

Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator

GUESTS:

In Person – Phillip C. O'Dell, Lourdes Garcia, Gayla Hughes, Marvin L. Brown, Catherine Vasquez, Nora Rodriguez, Nancy Hurtado, Daniel Escobedo, Marty Barnes, Esther Stephens, David Chilton, Tina Hernandez, Ed Lynch,

Virtually - Monica Fitzgerald, Leslie Devitt, Joseph Anderson, Sally Westlake, and Hermandeep Dhaliwal

CORRESPONDENCE:

Jeremy Oliver reported two letters were sent on behalf of the Commission on Aging:

1. A letter was sent to Bear Valley Police Department thanking them for issuing a press release asking for the public's help in combating elder abuse.
2. A letter of opposition was sent to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding AT&T's "Relief of Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) Obligation" application.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner Brown thanked the Commission for her birthday card.
2. Commissioner Lemucchi thanked everyone in attendance at the morning meeting at Rasmussen Senior Center and for their participation in finding out what the needs are as older adults living in Bakersfield.
3. Vice-Chair Snyder also thanked those who met with her and Commissioner Lemucchi in the morning to learn what the issues for the seniors are in real time and they are scheduled to look at Bakersfield first, then west Kern, north Kern, and east Kern. They are scheduled to meet at the Richard Prado Senior Center next, and then the Bakersfield Senior Center. Every area in Kern County is different geographically so they want to know exactly what the issues are in those areas, in addition to what's already been shared about transportation, personal safety, and communication.
4. Commissioner Linder read a list of the concerns shared from seniors at the morning meeting at Rasmussen Senior Center.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for March 25, 2024, Regular Commission on Aging meeting was approved as amended to correct typos on pages 3 & 8.
Motion: Lemucchi; **Second:** Prado; **Abstained:** Alvey, Martinez; **Opposed:** None.
Motion Carried.

- **APPROVAL OF 2024-2028 AREA AGENCY ON AGING AREA PLAN** – The area plan was approved as prepared today and if there's any omissions that they be considered, but at this time they accept the report as printed.

RASMUSSEN SENIOR CENTER – Desiree Ingalls

Desiree Ingalls thanked the kitchen staff for the delicious lunch. She reported that from January through March 22,761 meals were prepared and served in their kitchen. They had 6,824 congregate meals, and 2,845 meals delivered by Revolution Foods, which is 5 frozen meals in a box delivered once/week. Everyone seems to be happy with their frozen meals. She invited everyone to their senior health fair coming up April 24th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon there at Rasmussen Senior Center. They are doing business as usual.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Karen McKenzie

Not in attendance and no report submitted.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swerffager

Sara Swerffager could not attend but submitted her report, read by Chair Lynch.

The seasonal recommendation for receiving RSV vaccination is ending soon. For adults 60 years and older, CDC encourages health care providers to maximize the benefit of RSV vaccination by offering in the later summer or early fall, before RSV usually starts to spread in the community. Discuss the risks and benefits to RSV vaccination with your doctor.

Flu activity has been declining, however, significant flu activity can continue into the spring. CDPH recommends that you continue vaccinating until the last flu dose expires! This season's flu vaccines have been shown to protect against flu-related medical visits and hospitalizations across all age groups.

We have seen nationally an increase in measles cases and outbreaks throughout the US. Most have been international travel related among unvaccinated people. People who are born during or after 1957 who do not have evidence of immunity against measles should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine.

CDC recommends adults ages 65+ get an additional dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine (if it's been 4 months since their last dose) to help protect them against severe disease. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about getting this additional dose.

Upcoming Know Your Numbers Events:

Bakersfield

April 18th - May 30th

Greenfield Family Resource Center

5400 Monitor St, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Fitness and Nutrition Classes:
Thursdays 3 pm - 4 pm

Frazier Park

May 15th - June 26th

Kern County Frazier Park Branch Library

3732 Park Dr, Frazier Park, CA 93225

Fitness and Nutrition Classes:

Wednesdays 12 pm - 1 pm

California City

June 11th - July 23rd

California City Parks and Recreation

10400 Heather Ave, California City, CA 93505

Fitness and Nutrition Classes:

Tuesdays 10 am - 11 am

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported Kern Behavioral Health is opening new Psychiatric Health Facilities which will provide adult and youth inpatient psychiatric care for Kern County Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The youth and adults will be separate. The adult's facility is located off Oswell and Freeway 58 by the Tyner Ranch Homes. Public tours will be available on May 15th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lourdes will send a flyer to Laura to share with the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes shared two letters from the California Department of Health Care Services. The first states starting January 1, 2024, the CA law will no longer count your assets to qualify for Medi-Cal; however, income from property such as rental property, interest from payments from trusts, and dividends from stocks are still counted. The law also applies to Medicare Savings Programs. If you previously applied and were denied because of your assets between June 1 and November 30, 2023, you can reapply. If you were denied due to your assets in December 2023, the County will decide if you qualify for Medi-Cal in 2024 under the new law. The second letter she shared was about getting help paying for Medicare. There is a program that will help cover some of your Medicare costs. The program is for people who pay for Medicare Part A and is also for those who are eligible for Medicare Part A but have not signed up because of the cost. The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program may pay for your Medicare Part A premium, your Medicare Part B Premium, and your Medicare deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. You can apply online through Benefits Cal at <https://benefitscal.com/>.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on their two available grant programs. The Home Access Grant provides accessible improvements (widen doorways, ramp with handrails, accessible toilet, grab bars, or replace tub with accessible shower) for low income permanently disabled

persons. Tenant and owner-occupied property are eligible if the owner of the property agrees to the work. An inspection will be completed to determine specific needs and all work is bid to licensed and insured contractors. The Home Improvement Loan provides repairs to the air conditioner, heater, roof, electrical, plumbing, flooring, windows, insulation, and painting. Available to low-income owner-occupied single-family residence. There must be sufficient equity to secure a first or second mortgage. The loan is a zero interest, deferred payment loan payable in full when the owner no longer occupies the property. For more information or an application, call Kandi Mosqueda (661) 862-5024.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Hermandeep Dhawali

No report.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Leslie Devitt

No report.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

We continue to monitor changes related to the Older Americans Act Final Rule Update. Some changes need to occur at the state level as well and as a reminder we have until October 1, 2025, to comply with the new regulations. Currently the department does not foresee significant impacts to existing programs.

STATE

We are closely monitoring any information coming in regarding the budget. The Governor's May Revise is expected to reveal any potential program cuts or impacts. Current information does not reflect direct impacts to older adult programs, but there is a significant deficit that will need to be addressed.

Additionally watching any bills that will impact senior programs. The Legislative cycle will continue until June of this year and there are many bills that are still making their way through the process.

DEPARTMENT

The Department is in budget planning to be able to submit to the County. Some challenges in planning are awaiting information from the State on status of programs based on previously indicated state deficit challenges.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program continues to seek additional staff to keep up with the rising caseloads and referral growth and negotiations continue with the United Domestic Workers regarding IHSS provider wages.

The Adult Protective Services (APS) program continues to see growth in referrals and this

year's elder abuse conference will be on June 13th, at Doubletree. Conservatorship programs continue to see additional complex cases.

Nutrition programs have had some disruptions at the congregate sites due to building issues. Richard Prado Senior Center saw closure due to water issues and is now open. Hummel Hall in Rosamond saw closure due to a fire extinguisher discharging, requiring extensive cleaning which is now open as well.

May is Older Americans Month, and we will have a health fair on May 18, 2024, at Aging & Adult Services. We anticipate having new building space in May and have discussed acquiring additional building space in the same building complex as our existing services.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; K. Grasty

No report.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reminded everyone that Senior Rally Day will be held virtually on May 8, 2024, at 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Gomez; K. Grasty; L. Oswald

Chair Lynch shared the following report:

- Recently Reappointed:
None.
- New Appointments:
None.
- Resignations:
None.
- Expired Terms:
None.
- Appointments Soon to Expire:
 1. Gloria Brown – Term expires 06/17/2024, representing District 2.
 2. Sherry Gomez – Term expires 06/17/2024, representing District 3.
 3. Linda Oswald – Term expires 06/17/2024, representing District 4.
- Vacancies:
 1. District 1 – for term expiring 06/17/2024 (replacing Debra Teofilo).
 2. Around the Clock Care, for term expiring 08/07/2025 (replacing Sandy Morris).
- New Applications Received:
None.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for April 2024.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – G. Hodges; S. Lynch; E. Linder

No report.

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

Chair Lynch reported the Exec. Committee met April 3, 2024, and the results of that meeting are on this agenda. One thing they discussed is that the COA Executive Committee serves as the Advisory Council for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and so they will keep the COA apprised of what's going on. The next meeting is scheduled for May.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – Anabel Hernandez

No report.

LONG-TERM CARE – A. Hernandez; S. Bodnar; D. Duquette; D. Martinez; N. Jackson

Commissioner Martinez thanked Commissioner Goodlow for inviting their program to speak at the retired employees of Kern County group meeting. She reported that she, Commissioner Hernandez, and Commissioner Jackson visited Kern Valley Transitional Care. Commissioner Jackson shared that it is a huge facility with several different owners. The last documented issue was in 2018. The rooms are very nice. They have 2 bedrooms and several 1 person bedrooms. Each person had their own tv and closet. One menu was posted in the facility, but the last food posted was from the previous Saturday. Commissioner Hernandez added that they are a bit behind on their charting and surveys. They are facing the same issues as a lot of other facilities, which is staffing. Overall, it is esthetically one of the nicest buildings. Commissioner Martinez shared that they had a "Miss Universe" pageant going on while they were there, and they met one of the contestants. They are down to 6 contestants now.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado; D. Duquette; G. Hodges; S. Lynch; J. Snyder

Commissioner Prado reported the committee met and had a lot of discussion about concerns at the senior centers. There's not a lot of participation. They tossed around a lot of ideas. It is their hope that as Commissioners, they can step up to attend events and get the word out about the Commission on Aging. During this conversation, Commissioner Hodges came up with the idea of creating an annual event calendar. Once completed, Commissioner Hodges will share the information with the rest of the Commission. Commissioner Hodges represented the COA during the Lake Isabella health fair on April 5th. The attendance was medium, but she was able to provide information to the vendors and guests in attendance. Let her know if you know of any community events going on throughout the year and they will update the calendar of events.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – K. Alvey; G. Brown; B. Goodlow; N. Jackson

No report.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – B. Goodlow; A. Hernandez; G. Hodges

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Centers continues to be active and planning several activities. They are starting to plan for the Car Show in June, dance, gatherings, and several other activities throughout the remainder of the year.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – S. Gomez; S. Dhillon

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – J. Juarez-Ceja; J. Lemucchi

No report.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; E. Linder; L. Oswald

Commissioner Brown shared that they would continue to recognize the senior nutrition volunteers as they visit each senior center throughout the year.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- **Centenarian Recognition Program** – they have some Centenarian birthdays coming up in May and June. Flyers were left at Rasmussen Senior Center and given to Commissioners to pass out.
- **Senior Resource Fair** – May 18, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Aging and Adult Services in the front parking lot. Commissioner Prado asked for volunteers to work the two shifts, and Commissioner Prado, Parliamentarian Grasty, Commissioner Lemucchi, Chair Lynch, and Commissioner Linder volunteered to help.
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Conference** – June 13, 2024, at DoubleTree – Early registration is \$55/person through 05/21, \$65 from 5/21 through deadline of 06/03. Laura provided an update on the vendors.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, May 20, 2024 1:00 p.m. Richard Prado Senior Center 2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93305 (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 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj