



Kern County Commission On Aging

Stephanie Lynch, Chairperson
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024, 1:30 PM

Aging and Adult Services
5357 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA
Video Meeting via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Executive Members Present: Barbara Goodlow, ***Kris Grasty, Jan Lemucchi, *Stephanie Lynch, Linda Oswald, Yolanda Prado, and **Judy Snyder

Excused Absence: None.

Quorum present: Quorum confirmed by Jeremy Oliver

Commission on Aging Members Present: None.

Honorary Commissioners Present: None.

Aging & Adult Services Staff Present: Laura Juarez

Guests Present: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Elder Abuse Prevention Conference** – Jeremy shared the 25th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 13, 2024, at the DoubleTree. We will be looking at different price structures to compensate for the difference in overall cost. We have a keynote speaker lined up, Merlyna Valentine. Jeremy requested the COA Foundation if they will be willing to sponsor the event and provide assistance by paying for a portion of the speaker's costs.

- **CSUB 60+ Health Fair** – Chair Lynch said she met with Carla, and they have gone over some of the vendors that they're considering. She offered our help to Carla and will check back with her. Carla is very confident the event will take place in May 2024. Jeremy asked Chair Lynch if she can share the exact date of the event because Aging and Adult Services will also be hosting a senior resource health fair in May.
- **ReadyKern DeafLink** – Commissioner Goodlow shared that she will make copies of the flyers and present the information and have the seniors sign up. Commissioner Prado suggested having Digital Divide staff available to assist the older adults with signing up on their own phones. That is something she is working on at the Richard Prado Senior Center. Commissioner Goodlow will continue to share the information to senior centers. She had not been able to get in contact with Cal City Senior Center. Chair Lynch shared information she learned about in the Mable Davis Senior Center Newsletter. There is low participation at the center from the community members in Cal City, and so the City Council may ask the association to close its doors. Parliamentarian Grasty said she would reach out to COA Honorary Commissioner Sutherland to inquire about the severity of this news. Chair Lynch said she will ask that the entire COA Executive Committee is subscribed to receive the Mable Davis Senior Center newsletter.
- **Suggested Quarterly MPA Ad Hoc Update Meetings** – Vice-Chair Snyder shared her thoughts of who she needs to talk to and feels it's important to talk to the people who are being impacted by aging, to know what the real problems are and create an environment where people are not intimidated or feel that they must be defensive. Also brought up the issue of accessibility, people are not mobile or do not have transportation. There is a need to figure out how to make this work, and the time it will take to get it all done. Another challenge is, the Commission only meets with 10 of the 13 senior centers throughout the year during their Regular meetings. Vice-Chair Snyder wants to get a meeting together, but she and Commissioner Lemucchi need a consensus on the way to go about it. Commissioner Lemucchi asked how they will give out information about the needs and concerns of the seniors if there's no one staying for the meetings. Vice-Chair said this is very important and necessary and we need support from our local leaders too. Parliamentarian Grasty suggested having collaborative meetings. Commissioner Oswald shared she's been trying to think of ways to get the word out to seniors and it's very difficult how best to reach seniors. Vice-Chair Snyder acknowledges another barrier is Spanish speaking seniors. Commissioner Lemucchi agreed that the seniors right now, and not so much the stakeholders, because seniors are the ones who are experiencing the issues, and working with the coordinators at the senior centers if it's decided that's the way they'll go. Jeremy shared an informational hearing on the MPA will be held by the California State Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care on Tuesday, March 12, 2024,

at 3 p.m. If anyone would like to view the hearing live, click this link: <https://altc.assembly.ca.gov/hearings>. Please note, public comment is only available to those in the hearing room.

- **Area Plan** – Chair Lynch shared that Martin Reynoso, Area Planner for PSA #33, is gathering individuals for evaluating proposals. She received a call from Martin, who was very excited because at a recent meeting, there were many agencies in attendance listening to the proposals of Aging and Adult Services, and many were interested in providing responses. Stephanie and Martin will be meeting March 20th. Jeremy thanked those on the Executive Committee who are participating in the Department's request for proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Commission Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Approval of February 7, 2024, Executive Committee Minutes** – The minutes were approved as prepared.

Motion: Grasty; Second: Snyder; Abstention: 0; Objection: 0. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of March 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda** - The agenda was approved with amendments.

Motion: Snyder; Second: Lemucchi; Abstention: 0; Objection: 0. Motion carried.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Parliamentarian Grasty and Commissioner Oswald announced that they will not attend the March 25th COA Regular meeting. Chair Lynch asked Vice-Chair Snyder to please act as the Parliamentarian during the Regular meeting in Parliamentarian Grasty's absence.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary