

Kern County Commission On Aging

Stephanie Lynch, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1054; (661) 868-1001 FAX



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

June 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Lamont Senior Center
10300 San Diego Street, Lamont, CA 93241
and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00 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, Jane Decker, Sonia Dhillon, Anthony Estrada, Sherry Gomez, Anabel Hernandez, Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, *Stephanie Lynch, ****Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Yolanda Prado, Christie Ray, Miguel Salazar, and **Judy Snyder

Virtually – ***Kris Grasty

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette, Barbara Goodlow, Norma Jackson, Julia Juarez-Ceja

SECRETARY OLIVER CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS PRESENT IN PERSON.

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Angela Domingos – Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator

GUESTS:

In Person: Gayla Hughes, Daisy Neri, Labetta Glenn, Maria Hernandez, Amada Salgado, Maria L. Rosales, Caprice Rhodes, Maria Chavez

Virtually: Joseph Anderson, Sheila Roth, Lourdes Garcia, Catherine Vasquez

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. An email was received from Parliamentarian Grasty confirming her retirement from COA effective her term expiration date of 06/17/2025.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner Decker invited everyone to attend CSUB's 60+ Club free "Share & Care" seminar on June 30th from 1 – 3 p.m. at CSUB. Chair Lynch will be one of the speakers. There will be free parking too. No RSVP needed to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve May 19, 2025, Regular Commission on Aging meeting minutes with amendment to page 2.
Motion: Lemucchi; **Second:** Prado; **Abstention:** Estrada; **Objection:** 0. **Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF COA BYLAWS REVISED 06/16/2025** – Motion made to approve that the COA Bylaws revised 06/16/2025, be sent to County Counsel for review and approval.
Motion: Snyder; **Second:** Grasty; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0.
Motion carried.
 - After a brief discussion, the COA Bylaws were amended to revise page 13, section 4 a. of the COA Bylaws to read, *"The Committee will receive nominations from the community and ensure certificates of recognition are prepared and delivered to the Centenarian."* The motion to amend previously approved COA Bylaws was made by Grasty. Prado seconded the motion. The amendment was approved and then voted on and approved by all.
Motion: Grasty; **Second:** Prado; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0.
Motion carried.
- **VOTE AND APPROVAL OF 2025-2027 COA Officers** – All Nominees accepted their nomination and was seconded by a Commissioner. There were no nominations from the floor. All ran unopposed so no vote necessary. Chair Lynch declared the following winners by acclamation:
 - Chair – Judy Snyder, Accepted, Seconded by Commissioner Lemucchi.
 - Vice-Chair – Jan Lemucchi, Accepted, Seconded by Commissioner Hernandez.
 - Parliamentarian – Susan Bodnar, Accepted, Seconded by Commissioner Grasty.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

LAMONT SENIOR CENTER – Angela Domingos

Angela Domingos reported there are an average of 5-6 seniors who come to the Lamont Senior Center daily for lunch. Meals are delivered from the Richard Prado Senior Center kitchen by the same driver who delivers to the home bound seniors in Lamont and Arvin. The activities they have are Loteria, and exercise classes every other Wednesday from the SNAP-Ed Program Techs. Dignity Health comes every 2nd Wednesday of the month and offers nutrition and health classes too.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Isaac Preston

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance but submitted a report that was read by Chair Lynch:

The Kern County Veterans Service Department continues to strive to meet the county's needs in all four corners of the map. The growing needs of the County require staff to work harder than ever to keep up without a loss in the quality of service we provide. Their department, along with many others in the County, are working to mitigate effects of federal budget cuts, whether directly or indirectly. Doing so has shifted his efforts momentarily from the volunteer program he was piloting but hopes to soon re-start those efforts to spread the word about their services for veterans and their dependents, especially in the most vulnerable communities that so often are taken advantage of. If you or someone you know requires assistance, please call them at: (661) 868-7300 or email: Kervets@kerncounty.com.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swertfager, SPHN

Sara Swertfager attended virtually via Zoom and reported the following:

Know You Numbers Events:

- Wonderful College Prep Academy, 2070 Veneto St, Delano, California 93215, Tuesday, 5-6pm, April 22nd through June 3rd

Vaccination Updates:

- COVID, Flu, and RSV vaccinations are still available and recommended if not up to date for 2024-2025 season

Public Health Education and Awareness Campaign Launch Disease Fighters!

They highlight Measles awareness and prevention this month. Measles is an extremely contagious viral illness. The MMR vaccine provides the best protection against disease and illness. Please ensure you and your family are up to date on all vaccines prior to traveling abroad.

Mobile Health Clinic:

The following services are available on the mobile health clinic:

- Child and adult immunizations
- Tuberculosis testing
- Family planning services, including birth control
- Sexual health services
- Health screenings
- Narcan distribution and training
- Child Health Exams (12 – 18 years of age)

Appointments preferred, walk ins welcome. Call 661-321-3000 for appointments or questions.

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

- Shafter Department of Human Services, 05/20/2025 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 115 N Central Valley Hwy, Shafter, California 93263
- Grow Academy Shafter, 05/21/2025 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 471 W Los Angeles Ave Shafter, California 93263
- Riverview Park, 05/22/2025 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 401 Willow Dr, Bakersfield, California 93308
- Ridgecrest Library, 05/27/2025 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM, 131 E Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, California 93555
- Lamont Library, 05/28/2025 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM 8304 Segreue Rd, Lamont, California 93241
- California City Library, 06/04/2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, 9507 California City Blvd, California City, California 93505
- Boron Library, 06/10/2025 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM, 26967 Twenty Mule Team Rd, Boron, California 93516
- The Dream Center, 06/11/2025 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 1801 19th St Bakersfield, California 93301
- Blanton Education Center, 06/12/2025 9:00AM – 3:00 PM, 300 E Truxton Ave, Bakersfield, California 93305
- Mojave Department of Human Services, 06/16/2025, 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM 2340 Highway 58, Mojave, California 93501
- Shafter Department of Human Services, 06/17/2025 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 115 N Central Valley Hwy, Shafter, California 93263
- Grow Academy Shafter, 06/18/2025 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 471 W Los Angeles Ave Shafter, California 93263
- Rexland Acres Park, 06/19/2025, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 355 E Fairview Rd, Bakersfield, California 93307

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia attended virtually and reported Kern BHRS is still pending various department wide changes with regards to programs, however, they continue to provide services to the

community as usual. Kern BHRS continues to encourage those in need or those who know someone in need of support and mental health treatment to seek an evaluation at their Mary K. Shell building. They also encourage the use of 9-8-8 for mental health crisis emergencies, which is available 24-7.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Daisy Neri

Daisy Neri reported that one of the things that is changing within the department is how they are processing their Medi-Cal renewals. During COVID, the State developed waivers for the clients to continue their Medi-Cal benefits without having to complete their renewal packets. Part of those waivers were if you didn't submit your Medi-Cal renewal packet, but staff were able to obtain income verification, they were able to process that Medi-Cal renewal. If you had stable income, they would be able to use their resources to verify that stable income to continue, such as Social Security income, pension, retirement income, etc., now those waivers are ending as of June 30, 2025. They are letting clients know that as of July 1, 2025, if you have a Medi-Cal renewal packet that was sent, be sure to submit that, along with income verifications to continue receiving your Medi-Cal benefits. DHS received a letter from the State announcing the changes that are coming based on the Governor's perspective budget. It is a list of the waivers that are going away. It's very important to tell your clients, family, and friends that if they receive a renewal packet, they must complete and return it to DHS so that their Medi-Cal benefit isn't stopped. If they didn't receive a packet or have questions, they can call the DHS Call Center at 1-877-410-8812. Any of the Call Center agents can take care of that action right then so that the client isn't being bounced around.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez attended virtually and reported the following report:

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.

As of May 19, 2025, all the Home Access funds have been allocated and there are no additional funds for new applications. We expect to receive our fiscal year 2025-2026 funds around September 2025 and will start accepting new applications at that time.

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) – Jessica Carrillo

Jessica Carrillo was not in attendance but submitted a report that was read by Chair Lynch:

Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC) participated in the East Bakersfield Festival last month, distributing 400 Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) brochures to the community. Currently, ILCKC is experiencing fluctuating calls for ADRC services. Additionally, ILCKC is engaging in various outreach efforts and presentations aimed at the aging and disability population.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Kayla Pinkston

Kayla Pinkston was not in attendance but submitted a report that was read by Chair Lynch:

Kayla provided information about their Kern County Victim Services Unit (VSU) & Family Justice Centers:

- Victim Services Unit located at 1300 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 - Phone number 661-868-5960 or online
 - District Attorney Advocates can assist all victims of crime through the criminal justice process
 - Court accompaniment
 - Case Updates
 - California Victims of Crime Compensation application assistance
 - Prosecution & Law Enforcement Accompaniment
 - Victim Impact Statements and Restitution
- Family Justice Center also located at 1300 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 - Phone number: 661-868-5950 or online
 - Walk ins– 8am to 4pm
 - Assists Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
 - Partners include:
 - Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA)
 - Open Door Network
 - Kern County Department of Human Services
 - Kern County Child Support (kiosk)
 - Kern County Behavioral Health

- South Family Justice Center - 12022 Main St, Lamont CA 93241
 - Phone number: Lamont- 661-868-5820 or online

Both programs have access to language lines and bilingual staff

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

We are closely monitoring the new budget being proposed at the federal level. There are talks about changing the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) requirements and state matching requirements. These will have direct impacts on the Aging & Adult programs. Some of the recent provisions include: imposing work requirements on adults 19 to 64 years of age (with exemptions for those with disabilities), verify eligibility twice a year, stops state taxes on health providers that pay to the states who use these funds to add additional Medi-Cal services (seen as boosting the federal match rates), and penalize states that use Medi-Cal for undocumented persons.

STATE

The State Legislature has made proposals to counter the Governor's May revision to resolve the \$12 Billion dollar shortfall. Highlights include:

- The Legislature's Two-Party Agreement has been updated from the May Revise proposal regarding Medi-Cal premiums. Instead of the proposed \$100 premium for individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status, the new premium will be set at \$30 per month. This premium will apply only to individuals aged 19 to 59. We note there are conflicting reports regarding whether implementation is maintained until January 1, 2027, or it is proposed to be delayed to July 1, 2027, and will follow-up once we receive confirmation.
- The Legislature's Two-Party Agreement retains the Enrollment Freeze for individuals 19 years of age and older with unsatisfactory immigration status, effective January 1, 2026. However, there will be a six-month grace period for re-enrollment for those who lose their coverage. This amended proposal results in estimated savings of \$35 million General Fund in FY 2025- 26, \$850 million in FY 2026-27, \$2 billion in FY 2027-28, and \$3.3 billion ongoing.
- They will reinstate the Medi-Cal Asset Limit, setting it at \$130,000 for individuals and \$195,000 for couples, rather than the previously proposed \$2,000 per individual and \$3,000 per couple from the May Revise. This proposal will result in savings of \$45 million General Fund in FY 2025-26, \$343 million in FY 2026-27, and \$510 million ongoing.

- The Legislature's Two-Party Agreement delays the elimination of dental benefits for individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status until July 1, 2027, with expected savings of \$336 million General Fund starting in FY 2027-28 and ongoing. Additionally, the proposal to eliminate long-term care and IHSS for this population has been rejected.
- The May Revision proposed a reduction of \$81 million General Fund in FY 2025-26 to reflect costs for counties to cover the IHSS Community First Choice Option (CFCO) reassessment late penalties which are currently covered by the state. Counties are required to perform CFCO reassessments every 12 months; when the state does not meet 100% compliance with timely reassessments, the federal government does not provide the enhanced federal funding match that normally accompanies these cases. The May Revision proposed to have counties cover that missing federal match. The Legislature modifies and delays the May Revision proposal, with counties and the State splitting penalty costs 50/50 in FY 2025-26 and fully passing the penalty to counties beginning in 2026-27.
- The May Revision proposed to eliminate IHSS benefits for undocumented adults aged 19 or older, including a reduction of \$158.7 million General Fund (\$4.3 million General Fund in administrative funding) in FY 2025-26 and ongoing. The Legislature rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate IHSS benefits for undocumented adults 19 and older.
- The May Revision proposed a cap on IHSS provider overtime at 50 hours per week, beginning in FY 2025-26, and including a reduction of \$70.5 million General Fund in FY 2025-26 and ongoing. The May Revision also included the removal of exemptions to provide overtime rules. The Legislature rejects the Administration's proposal to institute a 50-hour cap on IHSS provider overtime.
- The May Revision proposed to conform IHSS Residual program coverage with the timing of Medi-Cal coverage, resulting in automatic termination of IHSS recipients when their Medi-Cal is discontinued due to failure to complete the annual Medi-Cal redetermination. The Legislature delays and modifies the May Revision proposal to instead allow individuals to stay in the IHSS Residual program for 6 months before being removed from the program, beginning July 1, 2026.

DEPARTMENT

The Department and the County are closely watching both state and federal budgets as we move into our next fiscal year.

Adult Protective Services successfully completed the Annual Elder abuse conference on June 12, 2025, at the Women's Club of Bakersfield.

The IHSS Program has fallen below the state's threshold for compliance and is anticipating a corrective action plan.

The Department continues to update policies and procedures to be in compliance with recent CDA audit.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; **K. Grasty**; J. Decker

Parliamentarian Grasty reported that the committee is done with the Bylaws. They are looking for more Commissioners to join this committee.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi shared they have over 13 proposals that they'll be looking at in October at their annual session, though, that depends on the State budget and whether the State holds back on travel expenses, so we may not be going up to the Capitol in October. Twelve of the 13 are new proposals. One of the twelve is a State proposal, "Food Disclosure and Labeling" that is going up to the federal level, of which she is a co-author. They are concerned that when you're looking at a package of an item to purchase to eat, whether it's cereal box, or a piece of fruit, they want to know where it's produced and where's it's packaged. What are we eating, where is it coming from, and how safe is it. Vice Chair Snyder added that they don't have the dates for the October annual meeting yet, and it's possible that it may overlap with a Commission meeting if they are traveling, but they'll keep you posted.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – K. Grasty; **S. Gomez**:

Commissioner Gomez reported the following:

Recently Reappointed:

None.

New Appointments:

None.

Resignations:

None.

Expired Terms:

None.

Appointments Soon to Expire:

1. Kris Grasty – for term expiring 06/17/2025.

Vacancies:

1. District 1 – for term expiring 06/17/2026.
2. District 1 - for term expired 05/04/2025 (replacing Genel Hodges).

New Applications Received:

None.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for June 2025.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – S. Lynch; E. Linder

Chair Lynch reported that they are working towards doing something in person for the AASD employees sometime in the summer.

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

Chair Lynch reported the Exec. Committee met June 4th and had a lengthy discussion on attendance. As you know, the Commission meets ten times a year on the third Monday of the month unless it falls on a holiday then it will be on the fourth Monday of the month. She's noticed a lot of attendance via Zoom. The AB2449 Rules are rules that the State has given us for right now, at least. There is a bill to try and extend these rules regarding some of these exceptions. Chair Lynch asked Secretary Oliver to expand on this rule. Jeremy shared definitions regarding compliance and encouraged adherence to the rules for virtual meetings. There are definitions that justify not being able to show and when they can be utilized. The definitions state you cannot virtually attend more than two meetings per calendar year. There are emergency circumstances exceptions. They must be specifically approved by the legislative body. There are essentially three annual caps that a Commissioner cannot participate remotely for more than 3 consecutive months. Because we only have 10 meetings per calendar year, that 20% rule would apply, so we'd be at 2 meetings per calendar year. It doesn't count when you're participating remotely towards quorum, so we need a majority of Commissioners to be present at the site, but it does count for your ability to still vote if you are participating remotely. This is why it gets a little tricky but it's very important to have Commissioners attend in person because it establishes a quorum. These rules could expire December 31st, but we are anticipating that the legislator is going to push forward the bill that extends this permanently. We will keep everyone updated if it changes, but, the key in all this is to Communicate with your Chair, secretary, and Laura, so they can make sure they have everyone accounted for in the right categories, being tracked the right way, and that we meet the requirements of the law.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – A. Hernandez

No report.

LONG TERM CARE – S. Dhillon; D. Duquette; A. Hernandez; N. Jackson; C. Ray

Commissioner Hernandez reported she went by Arvin Post Acute to let them know they'll be rescheduling their meeting. She stated Commissioner Ray will be taking over as chair of the committee. She is requesting a new COA letterhead with the new Chair listed.

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

Commissioner Prado reported she and Vice Chair Snyder will get an Orientation date scheduled for new Commissioner Salazar in July 2025. As for Marketing, she asked if everyone let her know of any events taking place in the county that the COA might want to attend as a resource vendor. The committee will look into being a vendor at Bakersfield Senior Center's car show on July 26th.

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

Commissioner Brown announced the Officer nominations were completed today. Nothing new to report at this time.

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

Commissioner Ray reported that last month she shared that the Ben Austin Senior Center seniors requested CPR and AED training. She reached out to Red Cross, but they were asking \$1,291 to do their training for a minimum of 8 people. Thanks to suggestions from Commissioners, she reached out to Sara Swertfager, of Public Health, who put her in contact with Anthony Dominguez. He will be working out the training date with one of the seniors at the center, Marcia, who is a retired RN. The site manager, Connie, was off for some time but has returned to work at the center. During her visit to the senior center, Commissioner Ray noticed that their refrigerator was being fixed. She and Commissioner Decker planned to visit the Delano Senior Center, but she talked with Rosa at the Delano Senior Center and was told that everything is going well and there is no need for them to drive up there.

Chair Lynch shared that the Bakersfield Senior Center lost \$90,000 in grant funding so they have reduced their hours 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. They have a Wise and Well Fundraising campaign going on now and they're highlighting some of their programs on Facebook. They've kept their programs that are scheduled between 9 and 11.30 a.m. so they will still have all their wellness programs going on; however, they will not have any activities after lunch that they enjoy doing, such as playing games, puzzles, or hanging out staying cool in this heat. They were able to move their sewing class to an earlier hour so they will be able to continue with that program. They are planning a car show fundraiser on July 26th.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Chair Lynch thanked Commissioner Duquette for her birthday card, and for sending a "get-well" card to Commissioner Jackson.

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

Commissioner Brown reported there were no senior nutrition volunteers for the Lamont Senior Center. They will continue to recognize seniors as they visit the centers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- **Centenarian Recognition Program Parliamentarian** – Commissioner Ray reported she is following up on three Centenarians from Orchard Skilled Nursing, and one in August. There is also another pending from Orchard Skilled Nursing. Parliamentarian Grasty noticed a typo on the Bylaws under Centenarian Ad Hoc Committee. It should read, "The Committee will receive nominations from the Community and Commissioners..."
- **Cooling Centers** – Copies of the Cooling Center flyer was available for all.
- **Operating Committees** – Chair Lynch asked Commissioners to submit the three Operating Committees and Ad Hoc committees to her that they'd like to serve on.
- **Words of Thanks** – Vice Chair Snyder gave words of thanks and expressed appreciation to the COA outgoing Chair, Stephanie Lynch. A gift will be presented to her at the July meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 2, 2025 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, July 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Wasco Senior Center 1280 Poplar Ave., Wasco, CA 93280 (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 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj