

Kern County Commission On Aging

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



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

July 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Wasco Senior Center
1280 Poplar Avenue, Wasco, CA 93280
and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:07 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, Jane Decker, Sonia Dhillon, Anthony Estrada, Sherry Gomez, Barbara Goodlow, Anabel Hernandez, Norma Jackson, Julia Juarez-Ceja, **Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, Stephanie Lynch, ****Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Yolanda Prado, Christie Ray, Miguel Salazar, and *Judy Snyder

Virtually – Anabel Hernandez (beginning of meeting and then appeared in person at 1:25 p.m.).

Excused Absences: Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette

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
Julie Baca – Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator

GUESTS:

In Person: Gamdiel Perez, Catalina Perez, Connie Bernal, Tony Bernal, Sergio Gonzalez, Rachael Gonzalez, Carmen Lara, Beatriz Leyva, Isaac Preston, Catherine Vasquez

Virtually: Joseph Anderson, Sara Swertzfager, Chad Acker, Daisy Neri

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter was sent to the AAA Advisory Council of California (TACC) informing them of the change in representation for PSA #33 – Primary Member is now Sonia Dhillon, and Alternate Member is Sherry Gomez.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:**Public Comments:**

1. Connie Bernal
2. Rachel Gonzalez

A discussion was had with both speakers expressing concerns about the limited activities and services offered at the Wasco Senior Center compared to other local centers. They emphasized the need for expanded programming, improved collaboration with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and increased community engagement.

It was noted that Aging and Adult Services currently provides meals to the senior centers, while most activities are organized by volunteers. In response to the concerns raised, Commissioners expressed their willingness to advocate for centers experiencing low participation or limited programming.

As a result, the Commission on Aging established an ad hoc committee to further explore these issues. Potential solutions discussed included connecting with other centers via video, offering online classes, and partnering with local service organizations to enhance resources and funding.

The speakers also expressed their gratitude to Aging and Adult Services for providing a television for the Wasco Senior Center.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner Lynch shared that last month she had the privilege to represent the Commission on Aging at Cal State's 60+ Club. She was one of the panelists at the event. There were over 40 in attendance. One of the topics was Aging and Planning so they had someone representing the funeral industry there to talk about options there. They also had a representative from Hoffman Hospice providing information about alternatives, and then she was also there to represent Aging & Adult Services informing attendees about the many free services the department provides. Commissioner Decker added that one of the biggest lessons learned from that event was that everyone should go home to look at their paperwork. Do they have a will in place? Do they have a burial plan? Just to have things in order and a plan in place.
2. Commissioner Juarez-Ceja announced Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County (ADAKC) will be hosting their annual free "Caring for the Caregivers" seminar on Saturday, August 9th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hodel's. She will look into seeing if they can livestream the event. She also extended an invitation to the COA and Aging and Adult Services to be a vendor at this event.
3. Commissioner Salazar announced that Valley Caregiver Resource Center will have the following upcoming free Caregiver Resource Series from 12 -2 p.m. at Hyatt Place Bakersfield, 310 Coffee Rd., Bakerfield, CA:
 - 08/19/2025 – Community Resources
 - 09/16/2025 – Dementia Communication
 - 10/21/2025 – Self-Care & Mental HealthTo register or further details, contact Miguel at 661-873-4000.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve June 16, 2025, Regular Commission on Aging meeting minutes with one amendment to page 3.
Motion: Gomez; **Second:** Bodnar; **Abstention:** Juarez-Ceja, Linder, Jackson, Goodlow;
Objection: 0. **Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF HONORARY COMMISSIONER** – Motion made to approve recently retired Commissioner, Kris Grasty, to be an honorary member of the Kern County Commission on Aging.
Motion: Lynch; **Second:** Lemucchi; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0.
Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

WASCO SENIOR CENTER – Angela Domingos

Angela Domingos introduced the new Senior Nutrition Coordinator, Julie Baca, who will assist her with supervising other senior centers and staff. Angela reported there are about 25 seniors who come in for lunch daily at the Wasco Senior Center, with 75 more who take their meals to-go. Lunches are prepared in the production kitchen in Shafter, and delivered daily by Site Coordinator, Alejandra Almanza, who oversees the program here in Wasco. She will

work on ensuring the SNAP-Ed exercise class continues every Tuesday. Wasco seniors who remain active with activities such as Exercise class every Tuesday provided by the SNAP program. Monthly Birthday celebrations and BINGO or Loteria are played here monthly as well. The seniors are also provided transportation by the city of Wasco, and Wasco Recs and Park provide lunches for the annual trip to the Kern County Fair on Senior Day. Additionally, 30 seniors who continue to receive the traditional Meals on Wheels program of daily hot meals, and approximately 55 seniors who receive the Rev Foods weekly delivery of 5 frozen meals and a bag of fresh fruit.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Isaac Preston

Isaac Preston reported the following:

PARK PROJECTS

➤ **Delano Memorial Park – \$1,200,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Proposed improvements include baseball field renovations with a new backstop, score board, clay infield, bases, and infield chain link fence, and a new play structure with safety surface and shade structure. Anticipated Construction Completion – April 2025

➤ **Derby Acres Park – \$120,000 General Fund**

Demolish 5-acre community park that was established in 1950 including BBQs, picnic tables, drinking fountains, baseball field, basketball court, play equipment, and all other park infrastructure. Anticipated Construction Completion – May 2025

➤ **La Colonia Park – \$1,142,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Proposed improvements include a basketball court, accessible walkways, 12x12 picnic shelter, masonry wall, fencing, trees, irrigation, solar lights, play equipment, safety surfacing, air monitor enclosure. Anticipated Construction Completion – July 2025

➤ **Fuller Acres Park – \$836,713 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and \$250,000 Measure K**

Proposed improvements include toddler play area, youth play area, picnic shelter and bench, accessible walkways, exercise equipment stations, drought tolerant landscape, solar lights, fencing, and shade canopies. Anticipated Construction Completion – July 2025

➤ **Lamont Park – \$6,515,000 Statewide Park Grant Program (SPP) & \$3,041,000 General Fund**

Proposed improvements include a soccer field, inclusive splash pad, outdoor pavilion, skate park, recreation center, shaded inclusive exercise equipment, shaded tot lot play structure, multipurpose court, tennis/pickle ball court, resurfaced

basketball court, new restrooms, sunken garden, shaded family picnic tables, barbeques, concrete walkways, and benches. Anticipated Construction Completion – December 2026

LIBRARY PROJECTS

➤ **Arvin Library – \$205,052 Building Forward Grant Program (BF)**

Proposed improvements include replacement of flooring and circulation desk and security upgrades. Anticipated Construction Completion – September 2025

➤ **Wasco Library – \$438,549 Building Forward Grant Program (BF)**

Proposed improvements include security upgrades and replacement of glass doors and windows, lighting, flooring, and circulation desk. Anticipated Construction Completion – November 2025

➤ **Delano Library – \$483,839 Building Forward Grant Program (BF)**

Proposed improvements include security upgrades, replacement of fire alarm and sprinkler system, flooring, circulation desk, acoustic ceiling tiles, and lighting and book drop modifications. Anticipated Construction Completion – November 2025

OTHER FACILITY PROJECTS

➤ **M Street Navigation Center Facility Improvements – \$1,077,702 Community Development/Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**

Proposed improvements include demolition and construction of shower and laundry facilities including ADA accessible paths of travel. Anticipated Construction Completion: November 2025

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance. Report was submitted but there were issues retrieving the document.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swertfager, SPHN

Sara Swertfager attended virtually via Zoom and reported the following:

Know Your Numbers Events:

- The Know Your Numbers program has ended due to budget constraints.

Vaccination Updates:

- No new vaccine updates. COVID 2024-2025 seasonal vaccine still available, no updates to vaccine strains at this time.

Public Health Education and Awareness Campaign - Disease Fighters!

- They will highlight **Rabies** awareness and prevention this month.

- Please see their website for more information and prevention materials.
<https://www.kernpublichealth.com/healthy-community/community/disease-fighters>

Mobile Health Clinic:

- Public Health will be holding a Beilenson Public Hearing on July 29 – Proposal to close Shafter Public Health Department, elimination of the mobile health clinic, and reduction of appointments in our Mount Vernon Health Office's Clinic.

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

- Ridgecrest Library, 7/22/2025, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 131 E Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, California 93555
- Lamont Library, 7/23/2025 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 8304 Segreue Rd., Lamont, California 93241
- Riverview Park, 7/24/2025 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 401 Willow Dr., Bakersfield, California 93308
- Grow Academy Arvin, 7/28/2025 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 901 Nectarine Ct., Arvin, CA 93203

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) – Chad Acker

Chad Acker attended virtually and reported Kern BHRS is continuing to analyze the impacts of recent budget changes and will see how they will affect their department. They're also advancing major initiatives, including:

Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) – LPS Reform we will be implementing this starting January 2026

Key Changes:

- Expands the definition of "gravely disabled" to include individuals who:
 - Cannot provide for their own medical care (not just food, clothing, shelter)
 - Are unable to care for their physical health or safety, even if they don't meet the older standard
- Recognizes co-occurring substance use and mental illness when assessing grave disability
- Aims to modernize involuntary treatment criteria to reflect today's behavioral health realities

Impact on Kern Behavioral Health:

- Will likely increase referrals for conservatorship evaluations or inpatient care
- Requires updated training for staff, revision of documentation, and stronger cross-collaboration with hospitals, courts, and public guardians
- Emphasizes early intervention and discharge planning to avoid long-term institutionalization

Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT)

The Behavioral Health Transformation initiative is California's long-term strategy to redesign and integrate behavioral health systems across counties.

Major Goals:

- Increase accountability, equity, and access
- Integrate mental health and substance use treatment more fully into whole-person care
- Create a more client-centered system aligned with the needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries

Key Components:

- Expanding peer support roles and workforce development
- Redesigning billing and data systems for easier navigation
- Increasing community-based alternatives to crisis services
- Improving care coordination across criminal justice, homelessness, and healthcare systems

Impact in Kern:

- Strong push toward outreach, mobile crisis, and stabilization units
- More demand for outcome tracking, client feedback, and data-informed practices
- Potential funding for infrastructure, technology, and innovation pilots

CalAIM – California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal

CalAIM is a statewide overhaul of Medi-Cal, launched in 2022, with phased reforms continuing through 2027.

Core Features:

- Provides Enhanced Care Management (ECM) for high-need clients (e.g., those experiencing homelessness, severe mental illness, frequent hospitalizations)
- Offers Community Supports (formerly “In Lieu of Services”) like housing navigation, medically tailored meals, and sobering centers
- Focuses on population health over siloed treatment

Relevance to Behavioral Health:

- County behavioral health must collaborate with managed care plans (MCPs) to serve shared clients
- Emphasis on whole-person care—mental, physical, and social needs together
- More focus on health equity, client choice, and reducing disparities

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Daisy Neri

Daisy Neri attended virtually and reported on the sunset of flexibilities for determining Medi-Cal eligibility, emphasizing the importance of timely submission of medical renewal packets

by elderly and disabled clients. She reminded everyone to please tell their clients, family, and friends that if they receive a renewal packet, they must complete it 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.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez 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. Owner-occupied and rental 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 will be bid on to licensed and insured contractors.

At this time all Home Access funds have been spent and there are no additional funds for new applications until approximately September 2025; after which we will start processing new applications.

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 Jeremy:

The Valley Center for the Blind (VCB) reached out to Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC) to request to be added as resource on the ADRC website. ILCKC is currently collaborating with Aging & Adult Services to obtain the necessary approval.

ILCKC has received a grant from The Friends of Mercy Foundation, which will be used to repair some of our durable medical equipment (DME), including manual and electric wheelchairs, walkers, power scooters, and more. The duration of this grant is one year. ILCKC is set to host our 35th annual ADA Conference this Thursday, July 24, 2025, during which ILCKC will promote ADRC services.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Kayla Pinkston

Kayla Pinkston was this month's guest speaker. She provided safety tips and crime prevention strategies, like being aware of your surroundings and belongings, particularly when shopping or using ATMs, and ladies wearing crossbody bags or fanny packs for added security.

She also discussed the following services offered by Victim's 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

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law by President Trump. This law has major implications for Medicaid and SNAP, with close to \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts projected over the next decade. The effects of the law will not be seen immediately; most health provisions have varying effective and compliance dates ranging from 2026 to 2028. Some of the changes include:

- Work Requirements- 19–64-year-olds to show that they are working or doing community service at least 80 hours each month. Exceptions for people with disabilities and parents with children under 14 in home.

- Eligibility Redeterminations- more frequent ranging from 6 to 12 months based on category of beneficiary.
- Coverage- Starting January 1, 2027, reduces the retroactive coverage period from 90 days prior to application date to one month for Medicaid expansion enrollees, and two months for traditional enrollees.
- Rural Health Funding- Establishes a rural health program through grants to states for rural health care from 2026 to 2030.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP)- 2028 states must cover 5% of SNAP allotments and if they have error rates above 6% then they will have a higher cost sharing rate. Additionally, shifts the State's administrative costs from 50% to 75%. Eliminates the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as a qualifier for SNAP benefits.
- Medicare- Restricts coverage to U.S. Citizens, green card holders, certain immigrants from Cuba, Haiti and people residing under the Compacts of Free Association. Terminates benefits for those outside these groups no later than 18 months from enactment. Triggers \$500 billion in Medicare cuts between 2026 and 2034. Blocks the implementation of easier access to Medicare Savings Programs until 2035.

STATE

The Governor signed the final agreement on the 2025-2026 State budget. Budget addresses a \$12 billion budget shortfall with the following impacts:

- Reinstating the Medi-Cal asset test for older adults and people with disabilities back to \$130,000 for an individual (\$195,000 for a couple). Beginning January 1, 2026.
- Freezing enrollment into Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants ages 19+, with a 90-day re-enrollment grace period. Beginning January 1, 2026.
- Implementing \$30 per month monthly premiums in Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants and other individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS) ages 19-59. Beginning July 1, 2027.
- Eliminating dental coverage in Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants and other individuals with UIS. Beginning July 1, 2026.
- Extending one-time additional funding for Home Safe and Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP).
- Implemented a 50% cost sharing for Community First Choice Option (CFCO) penalties and next year the full cost of the penalty will shift to the counties.

Additional changes are expected as the Federal changes to Medicaid are assessed.

DEPARTMENT

The Department continues to monitor all changes at federal and state levels. Budget hearings to begin in the coming weeks but not anticipating additional funding due to County projections for revenue being low. The department is absorbing costs from negotiated pay increases and continuing to make adjustments in service categories to match existing funding.

Adult Protective Services is anticipating the continuation of the Home Safe program as the State has indicated additional funding. The County has implemented a 30-day hold for those who meet the criteria of Grave Disability and are already in designated holding facilities. The implementation of this hold in Kern County is likely to result in less referrals for Conservatorship investigation as it allows those who are challenged by their mental illness more time to recover.

In-Home Supportive Services is struggling to keep up with incoming referrals and to complete all annual assessments on CFCO cases. We anticipate delays in new intakes and reduced response times due to the shift in workloads.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program has new brochures and flyers that are being distributed at the sites and at today's meeting. They are in both English and Spanish.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; J. Decker

No report.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi shared the California Senior Legislature will be having its annual session in October from the 20th through the 22nd. It will be held this year online again, with the possibility of having a total of 10 proposals, both state and federal, that they'll be working on. They are meeting again online due to our State Capitol being renovated. They will be going to Sacramento the following week, from the 27th through the 29th for their general session meeting. The week before, at the annual session they will be selecting their proposals that will be then going to our state legislators and asking them to pick up as state bills. The general session typically discusses the Master Plan for Aging, where are we at, and where we're going. Other things happening in the state are budget cuts that are coming federally into the state. We'll have speakers on that.

Chair Snyder added that there is an overlap in the dates between CSL's General Session, their Annual Session, and the Commission on Aging meeting, but it is not going to be a problem as they meet collectively, the Senate and the Assembly in the morning. The Senate meets only in the afternoon, on Monday afternoon, so she will be chairing the Commission meeting and Commissioner Lemucchi will have an excused absence that day.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Gomez

Commissioner Gomez reported the following:

Recently Reappointed: None.

New Appointments: None.

Resignations: None.

Expired Terms: None.

Appointments Soon to Expire:

1. Susan Bodnar – for term expiring 08/01/2025.
2. Jane Decker – for term expiring 08/07/2025.
3. Yolanda Prado – for term expiring 09/08/2025.
4. Sonia Dhillon – for term expiring 09/15/2025.
5. Stephanie Lynch – for term expiring 09/22/2025.
6. Doris Duquette – for term expiring 09/29/2025.

Laura will be emailing Commissioners whose terms are expiring soon to inquire about their interest in continuing their service. A timely response to her email would be greatly appreciated to facilitate the necessary administrative processes.

Vacancies:

1. District 1 – for term expiring 06/17/2026.
2. District 1 - for term expiring 05/04/2027
3. District 5 – for term expiring 06/17/2027

New Applications Received:

1. Samandeep B. Behl – after phone conversation about duties and expectations of a Commissioner, applicant states she can't commit at this time due to full-time work schedule.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for July 2025.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Estrada; E. Linder; S. Lynch

Commissioner Lynch reported a date has been set for Tuesday, September 9th to serve cookies and punch or lemonade to employees of Aging and Adult Services. Jeremy has a room reserved. All Commissioners are invited to join the committee to meet and greet the staff.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; S. Gomez; J. Lemucchi; S. Lynch; Y. Prado; C. Ray; J. Snyder

Chair Snyder reported the Exec. Committee met July 2nd and welcomed new Executive committee members, Commissioner Sherry Gomez, and Commissioner Christie Ray. Commissioner Barbara Goodlow opted to step down from the Executive Committee. She was acknowledged and thanked for her years serving on the Executive Committee. Chair Snyder reminded Commissioners to let her know if you no longer want to serve on a specific committee.

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

No report.

LONG TERM CARE – S. Dhillon; D. Duquette; 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 – A. Estrada; D. Duquette; J. Juarez-Ceja; S. Lynch; M. Salazar; 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 –G. Brown; B. Goodlow; N. Jackson

No report.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – S. Bodnar; J. Decker; B. Goodlow; A. Hernandez; C. Ray

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center had their "Jazz Under the Stars" event on July 3, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. They had raffles and a dance. Their guest was Nicole Parra, of California Resources Corp. Nicole sponsored the meal, which consisted of chicken, spaghetti, a green salad, and a roll. Ms. Parra stayed until the end. It was a fun evening. They will have BINGO with Corny on July 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. On August 8th and 19th, Mr. Prince, of The Living Waters Mortuary, will have a class on floral arrangements, and will host free BINGO, as well as providing all the prizes. Monte Carlo Night will be held September 13, 2025, at the BSC. Details to follow. The Dignified Health instructor has been ill. The classes are now on video until the instructor returns. She contacted the Tehachapi Senior Center, Shafter Senior Center, and Kern Valley Senior Center, and was informed that they are doing great and have nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Ray reported on Thursday, July 17th, she met with Connie Pitkin, Voluntary Manager for the Ben Austin Senior Center at 12 noon. The center was having lunch and approximately 20 people were in attendance. As the lunch hour passed, many more came in to play BINGO. Thursdays is their biggest day for attendance. There was also a class before lunch. While there, she noticed the center was very warm and was informed by Connie that the air conditioner was not working. Connie told her she had contacted the County Parks and Recreation but had not heard back from them. When she finally contacted Bruno, he confirmed receipt of her request, but she was not sure what action had been done or will be done. After a short while, people began to leave the center because it was getting too hot. She then alerted Jeremy of the situation, and he submitted a support order to Parks and Recreation. Isaac Preston, Senior Manager for General Services, who was also in attendance at this meeting, contacted his team and informed Commissioner Ray that a crew was onsite at the Ben Austin Senior Center to take care of this matter.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Chair Snyder thanked the Commission for the birthday she received.

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

No report. The next meeting in in November 2025.

TRANSPORTATION – J. Lemucchi; M. Salazar

Commissioner Salazar reported the Kern Council of Governments, Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee met. First on the agenda was a gentleman named Nelson Nygaard, who discussed the transportation development plans. He shared that they began these plans earlier this year, 2025, which is updating the transit need plans that started in 2018, so they're working on that and will give them continual updates monthly. The Unmet Transit Needs staff reported that they found no recommendations for transportation unmet needs. It was a very brief meeting. The next meeting will be virtual on October 15th.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; E. Linder

Commissioner Linder reported they recognized one volunteer before today's meeting and will continue to recognize senior nutrition volunteers as they visit different centers throughout the county.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- **Centenarian Recognition Program Parliamentarian** – Commissioner Ray reported there are currently three Centenarians scheduled or in process and one that came in just today. Laura updated the application form with her information and created a new flyer. She asked for your help identifying and celebrating Centenarians.
- **Senior Day at the Kern County Fair** – Friday, September 19, 2025, gates open at 9 a.m. with free admission and parking (up to 4 p.m.) for seniors 62+ years. Commissioner Lynch and Commissioner Jackson will Co-Chair this ad hoc committee.

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, September 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Kern River Valley Senior Center 6401 Lake Isabella Boulevard Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (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 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj