

**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**

**September 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**

Kern River Valley Senior Center  
6401 Lake Isabella Boulevard, Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
and via Zoom

**OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:02 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, Doris Duquette, Sherry Gomez, Barbara Goodlow, \*\*Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, Stephanie Lynch, \*\*\*\*Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Yolanda Prado, Christie Ray, and \*Judy Snyder

**Virtually** – Anthony Estrada, Norma Jackson, Julie Juarez-Ceja, Miguel Salazar

**Excused Absences:** Gloria Brown, Sonia Dhillon, Anabel Hernandez

**SECRETARY OLIVER CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS PRESENT IN PERSON.**

**Honorary Commission Members Present:**

None.

**Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:**

Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator

## **GUESTS:**

**In Person:** Patricia Good, Patricia Alvarado, Catlin Payne, Karen Budnick, Charlene Coleman, April Turner, Diane K. Holcombe, Sharon Goodweler, Tawny Goodweler, Karen Northcutt, Christy Newbern, Johnny Brown

**Virtually:** Joseph Anderson, Chad Acker, Daisy Neri, Catherine Vasquez, Kayla Pinkerton

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

## **COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:**

### **Public Comments:**

1. Tawny Goodweler raised concerns about her mother's inability to access Meals on Wheels due to a waitlist, with the response indicating the program faces funding constraints across the county.
2. Charlene Coleman, co-supervisor of NEFLA Soup Kitchen, reported serving 100 people weekly but had to reduce operations to one day per week due to lack of food supplies, particularly proteins.
3. April Turner, representing River Sage Revival, highlighted challenges faced by rural elders and veterans, including transportation barriers and limited access to services, and proposed solutions such as rotating service days and micro transit options.
4. Christy Newbern, from the Women's Center High Desert, discussed an increase in elderly clients experiencing abuse from adult children, noting a doubling of cases in the last five years, and shared that restraining orders can be effective when properly followed and enforced.
5. Johnny Brown highlighted challenges faced by homeless seniors in the area, including limited affordable housing options and finite resources.
6. Catlin Payne, from the Kern River Valley Caregiver Collaborative, emphasized the need for better support and training for family caregivers, particularly grandparents raising grandchildren.
7. Diane Holcombe, from Senior Citizen Inc., presented their "Adventures in Healthy Living" program, which includes a three-part fall prevention series, funded by a grant from the Sister Phyllis Hughes Endowment. They discussed challenges with Kern Transit's free service announcement and lack of VA representation in the Kern Valley area.
8. Karen Northcutt, from Kern River Valley Senior Citizens, highlighted their referral services and upcoming programs, including fraud awareness presentations and a new "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" initiative.

Commissioner Juarez-Ceja, representative for Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County, expressed interest in attending the Lake Isabella collaborative meetings to offer support and resources. Their meetings occur on the third Tuesday of every month at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Commission on Aging Chair, Judy Snyder, acknowledged the issues and suggested exploring support from local organizations like Rotary and Lions clubs, while Vice Chair Lemucchi noted ongoing efforts through Kern Council of Governments to address transportation challenges across the county.

### **Commissioner Comments :**

1. Commissioner Estrada, Attorney and representative of the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA), located at 615 California Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. shared they provide free civil and public benefit services. GBLA will be hosting the following free seminars:

- October 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Beale Library – Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse.
- November 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Beale Library - Housing Rights and Tenant Protection
- November 14, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Beale Library – Advanced Care Directives

He will check if there will be interpreters there and will also check if they will have the seminars available virtually. Currently, it is not foreseeable to hold the seminars in other cities due to shortage of staffing.

2. Chair Snyder acknowledged Commissioner Stephanie Lynch's 19 years of service and her decision not to seek reappointment. Chair Snyder presented Commissioner Lynch with a personalized gift, and proposed making her an Honorary Commissioner, which Commissioner Lynch accepted.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve the June 16, 2025, Regular Commission on Aging meeting minutes with one amendment to page 1.  
**Motion:** Lemucchi; **Second:** Juarez-Ceja; **Abstention:** Estrada; **Objection:** 0.  
**Motion carried.**
- **Approval of Submitting COA Bylaws Revised 06/16/2025, to the Board of Supervisors for their Approval and Adoption of Resolution to Amend COA Bylaws**  
– Motion made to approve and send revised COA Bylaws to Board of Supervisors for adoption.  
**Motion:** Lynch; **Second:** Prado; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0.  
**Motion carried.**

- **Approval of COA Bylaws Revised 06/16/2025, Contingent Upon the Board of Supervisor's Approval and Adoption of Resolution to Amend COA Bylaws** – Motion made to approve revised COA Bylaws contingent on Board of Supervisors adoption. **Motion:** Prado; **Second:** Gomez; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0.  
**Motion carried.**

## **SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:**

### **LAKE ISABELLA SENIOR CENTER – Angela Domingos**

Angela Domingos was not in attendance, but a report was sent and read by Jeremy Oliver: The Kern River Valley Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for the seniors to gather, play cards, puzzles, use the iPads, socialize, play the piano, or watch game shows on TV. Lunch is served daily from 11:30 – 12:30 here in the dining room for approximately 40 seniors with an additional 70 meals being home delivered by the Meals on Wheels drivers each day. Starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> this year KRV kitchen started providing an additional 25-30 hot meals for the Ridgecrest Senior Center congregates that are delivered by staff each day too. Currently, there are 38 seniors receiving a weekly delivery of 5 frozen meals through the Revolution Foods program. All of this is being managed by Tracy Chrisman, our most veteran Site Coordinator, who moved operations from Ridgecrest to Lake Isabella where she oversees both sites. The Senior Inc. group office is open Tuesday and Thursday of each week, and activities sponsored by the Senior Inc. Group include: Card club on Monday and Thursdays, Dance Fitness every Wednesday and Friday, Tai Chi every Wednesday, Karaoke every Thursday, Chair Yoga every Friday, and the Crochet group known as the "Happy Hookers" which meets each Friday recently moved to the Lake Isabella Library. This week the new Drum Circle also starts tomorrow, Tuesday evening, which encourages seniors to bring personal percussion instruments. CHP will also be here this Wednesday morning to provide the "Age Well – Drive Smart" program geared toward senior driving education.

### **GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION** – Isaac Preston

Not in attendance. No report.

### **VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez**

Not in attendance. Report was submitted and read by Chair Snyder:

He apologized that he could not attend this meeting as he is preparing for the Kern County College Night where they will be spreading awareness of the CA Tuition Fee Waiver for children of disabled veterans. He shared that the Kern County Veterans Service Department continues to operate uninterrupted from any budgetary issues at the federal level. The benefits they advocate on behalf of our veterans, spouses, and children are administered primarily by the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, there is an indirect effect in the form of delayed processing times for a majority of benefits applied for by our local veterans and their dependents. His current focus is on keeping up with the high numbers of inquiries for Kern County Veterans and spreading the word to underserved communities and senior centers who often fall victim to predatory claim sharks. If you have any questions concerning the above information, or to inquire about benefits,

please contact his office at 661-868-7300.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swerffager, SPHN**

Not in attendance. Report was submitted and read by Chair Snyder:

Vaccination Updates:

- No new vaccine updates. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for everyone aged 6 months and older with special emphasis on infants and toddlers, pregnant persons, and people with underlying medical conditions or who are immunocompromised. The 2025-2026 vaccines have not yet been released.
- Seasonal flu vaccination is also recommended for those 6 months and older and the 2025-2026 should be available at your pharmacy or through your doctor.

Public Health Education and Awareness Campaign - Disease Fighters!

- We highlight **Salmonella** awareness and prevention this month.
- Please see our website for more information, steps for prevention and food safety tips:  
<https://www.kernpublichealth.com/healthy-community/community/disease-fighters>
- Here is a link our Safe Diner App: Safe Diner:  
[https://phweb.kerncounty.com/html5viewer/?viewer=safe\\_diner\\_viewer](https://phweb.kerncounty.com/html5viewer/?viewer=safe_diner_viewer)

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

Chad Acker attended virtually but could not stay for his report. Jeremy read his report.

September is Behavioral Health Awareness Month, National Recovery Month, and Suicide Awareness Month, so they have the following upcoming events:

- September 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., Suicide Awareness in Taft on 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- September 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Pop-up Activities at the Mojave Clinic, 16940 Highway 14
- September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Apple Core Food and Blanket Distribution, at 616 Gray Street, in Bakersfield
- September 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., NAMI Sharing Code
- September 27<sup>th</sup>, Community Family Learning Center (CFLC), at 2001 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Bakersfield
- September 27<sup>th</sup>, Recovery Resource Fair, at Mill Creek Park in Bakersfield

For additional information, check their website: <https://www.kernbhhs.org/home-bhr>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Daisy Neri**

Daisy Neri attended virtually and reported updates that are happening with the Medi-Cal program due to the Big, Beautiful Bill. Some changes that are happening effective September 1<sup>st</sup> have to do with our elder and disabled population. Starting January 1, 2026, Medi-Cal will once again consider assets (what you own) when reviewing eligibility for seniors and people with disabilities as part of the application and renewal process.

### **WHO AFFECTED:**

Medi-Cal members and applicants whose eligibility is based on age (65+), disability (physical, mental, or developmental), or long-term care needs.

### **KEY INFORMATION:**

- The **asset limit** is \$130,000 for one person. Each additional household member adds \$65,000 to the asset limit, up to 10 members per household.
- Assets include bank accounts, cash, and anything over one home and one vehicle.
- **Some assets don't count**, like the home you live in, one vehicle, household items, and certain savings, like retirement accounts.
- If you are already a Medi-Cal member, assets will be reviewed at your annual renewal. **Income rules are not changing.**

A flyer was distributed to all in attendance that provided the following information:

### **Changes for Certain Adult Immigrants**

#### **Medi-Cal Enrollment Freeze for Undocumented Members 19+**

Starting **January 1, 2026**, Medi-Cal will freeze new enrollments for certain adults who are undocumented and do not have a satisfactory immigration status for federal full scope Medi-Cal. This group will no longer be able to newly enroll in full scope Medi-Cal, even if they qualified before under state-funded programs.

### **WHO'S AFFECTED:**

Californians aged 19 and older, who are not pregnant, who are undocumented, and who qualified for full scope Medi-Cal because of the state-funded Adult Expansions.

### **KEY INFORMATION:**

- **If you are already enrolled** in full scope Medi-Cal, you will stay covered no matter your immigration status as long as you **complete your annual renewal**. Make sure to renew and use your benefits!
- If you are part of this group and **lose your coverage**, you **won't be able to sign up again**—except for emergency and pregnancy care.
- If your coverage stops because of a **late renewal or missing paperwork**, you will have **90 days to fix it** and stay enrolled.
- Income-eligible **children (0-18) and pregnant people** can enroll in full scope Medi-Cal, no matter what their immigration status. Coverage is for the entire pregnancy and one year after the pregnancy ends.

## Dental Coverage

Starting **July 1, 2026**, dental benefits will no longer be provided to adult Medi-Cal members who do not have satisfactory immigration status.

### WHO'S AFFECTED:

Californians aged 19 and older who do not have satisfactory immigration status, including, but not limited to:

- Green card holders not exempt from the five-year waiting period, who have had their permanent resident status for less than five years.
- PRUCOL (e.g., with temporary protected status or refugee status).
- People with no immigration status, but who currently qualify under past Medi-Cal expansions.
- People enrolled through a trafficking or crime victim assistance program.
- Lawfully present immigrants who are older than age 20 and not pregnant.

### KEY INFORMATION:

- **Emergency dental care** (such as treatment for severe pain or infection and tooth extractions) **will still be covered for everyone**, no matter their immigration status.
- **If you are pregnant** and do not have satisfactory immigration status, you will continue to receive full dental benefits during pregnancy and up to one year after the pregnancy ends.

## EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels appeared virtually and reported the following:

If someone lives in the Kern River Valley and wants to utilize their services in person, their office is located at 5540 Lake Isabella Blvd., Ste. E-3. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Resource Room computers are available at that office for job search as well. The staff is aware of most local employers that are hiring. Job opportunities and recruitments can be found on their website and on their Facebook page. They also hold their weekly Job Hub in person at the Recruitment Center, 1215 Olive Dr., Suite C in Bakersfield. This is where their Job Developers announce new jobs and upcoming recruitments for the week, as well as having employers present. The Veteran's Job Club is held online and in person every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at Southeast America's Job Center of Kern County (AJCC). If you know someone that is interested in training, they have in person orientations on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Southeast AJCC, and Virtual Orientations on Thursday's at 9:30 a.m. Free workshops are available on their AJCC website including Resume and Interviewing training, Computer Basics, and Social Media basics at [www.AmericasJobCenterofKern.com](http://www.AmericasJobCenterofKern.com). Expungement Workshops are held virtually on the first Friday of the month from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez appeared virtually and reported the following:

Home Access Grant provides home access improvements (widen doorways, ramp with handrails, accessible toilet, grab bars, or replace tub with walk-in shower) for low-income

disabled persons. Owner-occupied and rental property are eligible if the property owner agrees to the work. An inspection will be completed to determine specific needs, and all work is bid out to licensed and insured contractors.

Home Improvement Loan provides repairs to 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 due and 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 Snyder:

The Valley Center for the Blind (VCB) has been added as a resource on the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) website. ILCKC has actively participated in outreach events and engaged with local agencies while distributing ADRC materials. This effort has resulted in fluctuations in calls for ADRC services, indicating a growing awareness of these services within the community. ILCKC has been collaborating with local partners to provide services for their consumers. ILCKC is currently seeking used or new power scooters, as well as manual and electric wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility aids. They have been awarded a grant from The Friends of Mercy Foundation, which will be utilized to repair some of their durable medical equipment (DME), including manual and electric wheelchairs, walkers, power scooters, and more. This grant will last for one year.

### **VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Kayla Pinkston**

Kayla Pinkston attended virtually and provided the following report about their Kern County Victim Services Unit (VSU) & Family Justice Centers:

Victim Services Unit located at 1300 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

## **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

### **AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-**

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver**

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

#### **FEDERAL**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill includes small increases for Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B (Supportive Services) and Title VI (Native American Programs), but no funding for Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

The House Appropriations Committee marked up the bill, which provides Health and Human Services (HHS) with \$108 billion, \$7 billion below the FY 2025 level.

Some programs recommended for elimination by the President were funded by the House, including LIHEAP, CSBG, and Americorps senior volunteer programs.

#### **Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs With Funding Level Changes**

- **OAA Title III-B Supportive Services** \$414 million, a \$4 million increase
- **OAA Title VI Native American Aging Programs** \$40 million (Part A, Grants to Indians), a \$2 million increase; \$14 million (Part C, Native American Caregivers), a \$2 million increase
- **OAA Title VII Ombudsman/Elder Abuse** \$26.8 million, a \$227,000 increase; **Elder Rights Support and Adult Protective Services (APS)** \$34 million, a \$131,000 increase
- **OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (CSEP)** no funding provided, a \$405 million cut

#### **Programs Eliminated in FY 2026 President's Budget but Funded by the House**

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** \$4.03 billion, a \$20 million increase

- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** \$775 million, a cut of \$29 million
- The **Corporation for National and Community Service** \$146 million, a \$90 million cut

The new federal fiscal year begins on October 1, and it's virtually impossible at this point for Congress to pass all 12 bills through both chambers. The question is not *if* there will be a Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend current funding into the new fiscal year, but how long that CR will be. Party differences of opinion make it difficult to predict what will happen in the coming weeks, including the likelihood of a government shutdown if Congress cannot agree on a CR.

## STATE

Awaiting full assessment of federal impacts.

## DEPARTMENT

The department continues to monitor all changes at federal and state levels. The budget was passed and the Board of Supervisors provided additional funding to the department. Some of this funding will cover costs from negotiated pay increases, penalties incurred from state shift of IHSS Community First Choice Option (CFCO) cases, and general increases to costs of nutrition program.

Adult Protective Services is anticipating the continuation of the Home Safe program as the State has indicated additional funding but still has not informed of the allocation.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is struggling to keep up with incoming referrals and to complete all annual assessments on CFCO cases. The State shared the first penalty costs related to the month of July, 1,548 CFCO cases were overdue in the Month of July out of (18,000 IHSS cases total), penalty is \$134,557.92 (reminder this is only 50% of the cost of the penalty for this year). IHSS staff have been working diligently to reduce the total averaging of about 400+ CFCO cases/month being caught up while maintaining existing cases. They anticipate delays in new intakes and reduced response times due to the shift in workloads. Please note they need to make this shift so they do not incur additional costs that could result in loss of staff, which will only cause further delays in responding to the needs of their clients.

Fay Gordon has been appointed as California's new State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Fay brings over 15 years of leadership in long-term care policy, elder rights, and equity. Gordon served as Region IX Regional Administrator at the Administration for Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2020 to 2025. She was Program Director at the National Center on Law and Elder Rights from 2016 to 2020. Gordon also worked as a Health Care Attorney at Justice in Aging from 2012 to 2016. She earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and World Arts and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles.

## **OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE** – S. Bodnar; J. Decker

No report.

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

No report.

### **COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT** – S. Gomez

Commissioner Gomez reported the following:

#### Recently Reappointed:

1. Susan Bodnar – reappointed by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. Her new term will expire 08/01/2027.

New Appointments: None.

#### Resignations/Retiring:

1. Commissioner Stephanie Lynch – submitted a letter stating she will be retiring from serving on the COA as of her term expiration date of 09/22/2025.

#### Expired Terms:

1. Jane Decker –term expired 08/07/2025.
2. Yolanda Prado – term expired 09/08/2025.

#### Appointments Soon to Expire:

1. Sonia Dhillon – for term expiring 09/15/2025.
2. Stephanie Lynch – for term expiring 09/22/2025.
3. Doris Duquette – for term expiring 09/29/2025.

Laura sent an email to Commissioners whose terms are expired or expiring soon to inquire about their interest in continuing their service on the COA. She sent letters requesting reappointment for those who have already responded and will send letters for others who wish to continue to serve for another two-year term as she hears back from them.

#### 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: None.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for September 2025.

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

Chair Snyder congratulated the committee on the exceptional job they did. Commissioner Lynch reported they celebrated Aging and Adult Services staff on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with cookies and punch. They have a total of 210 employees, with 165 staff at the 5357 Truxtun office, and 45 at different senior center sites throughout the county. Chair Snyder added that there were eight Commissioners present. Jeremy added that staff were appreciative and thought it was nice to be acknowledged.

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

Chair Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met September 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed items that were already discussed or on the agenda and will be discussed. They also talked about the development of an ad hoc committee to explore communication disconnections. She shared information about the Master Plan for Aging committee and the unique and common needs/challenges heard at each of the 14 different stops throughout the county. The ad hoc committee will be a standing item on the Regular meeting agenda. If you have anything you'd like to add, please reach out to the Commissioners. The committee also discussed the upcoming C4A conference coming up in November. Parliamentarian Bodnar will be representing the COA this year. Commissioner Dhillon will also be attending the conference, representing TACC.

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

No report. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025.

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

No report.

**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 held new Commissioner orientation for Commissioner Salazar on July 22, 2025. As for Marketing, the COA was represented at Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County's *Caring for the Caregiver* event that was held at Hodel's. There is a senior health expo coming up hosted by Bakersfield Family Medical Group on November 1<sup>st</sup> that they plan to attend and represent the COA.

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

No report.

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

The Committee provided reports on the following senior centers:

Commissioner Goodlow:

- Shafter Senior Center – She talked with Stephanie at the center, and she said they are doing very well, and the meals and participation are good. They are hoping for even more participation as the weather is cooler. The refrigerator stopped working but the

Supervisor will get someone out there to repair it. They are looking forward to Senior Day at the Kern County Fair. Commissioner Goodlow said the Commissioners would be out there ready to greet them as they entered the fair gates.

- Taft Senior Center – She talked with Casey at the center and was told more people are coming to the center for meals and returning. They thanked the Commission for the cookies they received for Employee Appreciation. They also shared that they have a problem with the steam table. The Supervisor will have it repaired. They previously had a service provider fixing the steam table, but he closed shop, and they have not been able to find another on call service provider. She asked about Taft seniors attending the fair and was told they likely wouldn't be attending since most don't drive to Bakersfield.
- Tehachapi Senior Center – She talked with Luis and he said all is going well and the seniors are active. He didn't know about Senior Day at the Fair but said he would tell the other seniors about it.
- Bakersfield Senior Center – Their Monte Carlo Night event was held September 13<sup>th</sup> with good attendance and representatives from local officials. The Hard Rock Casino made a huge donation. They also plan to get a bus to transport seniors to their casino.

Parliamentarian Bodnar:

- Veterans Stand Down – The Veterans Stand Down will take place October 9, 2025, at Stramler Park.
- Ridgecrest Senior Center – After community protest, the senior center's hours were restored, and the City of Ridgecrest is in the process of hiring a 16-hour position to keep the place open outside of meal serving hours.

Commissioner Christie:

- Ben Austin Senior Center – The center appreciates the fast response from Isaac Preston, Ex-Officio Member of Kern County General Services, who helped expedite the repair of their air conditioning. She talked with Connie, and they are still trying to work out the monthly bill for the landline at the center. She is requesting assistance from Supervisor Parlier's office about this matter but has yet to receive a response.
- Delano Senior Center – The seniors are doing great and thanked her for asking about them.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette apologized for missing one birthday in August, she will continue to send birthday and get-well cards as needed. Laura will provide her with a current list.

**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

No report.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** – G. Brown; E. Linder

Commissioner Linder reported they recognized two senior nutrition volunteers 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. There will be a lot of vendors there specifically geared to seniors. There are still some openings available to meet seniors at the gates. The Bakersfield Senior Center dancers will be performing.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

| <b>EXECUTIVE MEETING</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>REGULAR MEETING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday, October 1, 2025</b><br><b>1:30 pm Via Zoom</b><br><b>If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.</b> | <b>Monday, October 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.</b><br><b>Richard Prado Senior Center</b><br><b>2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA 93305</b><br><b>(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)</b> |

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver  
Secretary

JO/lj