

Kern County Commission On Aging

Stephanie Lynch, Chairperson
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**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

September 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Shafter Senior Center
505 Sunset Ave., Shafter, CA 93263
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 – Kevin Alvey, Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Sonia Dhillon, Doris Duquette, Barbara Goodlow, Anabel Hernandez, Norma Jackson, Julia Juarez-Ceja, *Stephanie Lynch, ****Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), and Yolanda Prado

Virtually – Doris Duquette, ***Kris Grasty, Christie Ray, and **Judy Snyder,

Excused Absences: Sherry Gomez and Ellen Linder

SECRETARY OLIVER CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS PRESENT IN PERSON.

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Andres Villasenor, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura M. Juarez – Office Services Coordinator

GUESTS:

In Person: Isabel Morales, Albert Barrera, Rosa Vega, Elodio Lugo, Marta Ely Garza, Frank Martinez, San Martinez, Lucinda Leal, Amalia Cantu, Cecibelle Juarez, Josefina Madrigal, Juanita Perez, Feliciano Sifuentes, Gloria Madrial, Guadalupe Barcehar, Maria Martinez, Adriana Lopez, Belen Ramirez, Araceli Ramirez, Luis Juarez, Maria Juarez, Jesus Ruelas, Rosanna Jimenez, Rebecca Jimenez, Phillip Jimenez, and Jose Lopez

Virtually: Hermandeep Dhaliwal, Sara Swertfager, Monica Fitzgerald, Joseph Anderson, Karina Jimenez, and Heather Iwamuro

Chair Lynch announced that Commissioner Lemucchi will act as Parliamentarian for this meeting since Parliamentarian Grasty is attending virtually today.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

1. Phillip Jimenez, District Manager for Shafter, welcomed the Commission and thanked them for their partnership with the district.
2. Some seniors (Maria Martinez, Cecibelle Juarez, Guadalupe Barcehar, and Frank Martinez) shared their experiences with the senior nutrition meals that are prepared for them at the Shafter Senior Center. They thanked Aging and Adult Services for the program, some made suggestions on how to improve the meals, and how to help make it easier for seniors with dental issues to enjoy their meals. Andres and Jeremy acknowledged and thanked them for their feedback and encouraged any additional concerns be sent to Andres Villasenor.

Commissioner Comments:

1. Commissioner Jackson thanked the nutrition staff for the great meal prepared at the Shafter Senior Center.
2. Commissioner Prado thanked the seniors of the Shafter Senior Center for staying for the Commission meeting. She was happy to see the center filled with seniors.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve the July 15, 2024 Regular Commission on Aging meeting as prepared.
Motion: Brown; **Second:** Jackson; **Abstention:** Prado, Lemucchi, Juarez-Ceja, Alvey;
Objection: 0. **Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF STANDING RULES, REVISED MARCH 6, 2024:** Motion was made to approve the Standing Rules revised March 6, 2024.
Motion: Juarez-Ceja; **Second:** Lemucchi; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0. **Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SHAFTER SENIOR CENTER – Andres Villaseñor

Andres Villaseñor thanked everyone for coming out to the Shafter Senior Center today and gave the following report:

Numbers

The Shafter Senior Center serves all northern Kern and is the second largest serving hub in the county. They serve 217 congregate clients across three senior centers, as well as 147 home bound clients. (Congregate: Shafter 47, Wasco 78, Delano 92) (Home Delivered Meals: Shafter 45, Wasco 36, Delano 28, McFarland 38).

Their numbers have increased significantly within the past year. They added 73 new clients for 2023 compared to 128 new clients for 2024 so far. That's a 57% increase! A big part of that is partnering with Revolution Foods to reach clients they otherwise would not be able to serve due to limitations of staff and vehicles.

Activities

The biggest draw are the activities and exercise classes that take place in the exercise room. This is a unique amenity that is only available to this site. Activities include:

- Zumba Gold – Monday/Wednesdays
- Senior exercise – Everyday
- Nutrition Class – Offered by AASD
- Coffee and social time – Everyday
- Loteria
- Arts and Crafts
- Birthday Potlucks
- Gardening
- Trips - to the beach, The Lavender Garden, and the Cesar Chavez Memorial.
(Transportation provided by Shafter Parks and Recreation)

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Karen McKenzie

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Jose Lopez reported this month marks the first month in more than a year that they are fully staffed. New hires are undergoing training and working hard to help them keep up with the community's needs. They continue to provide assistance to all veterans, spouses, and children of veterans who require any type of assistance. They encourage all to call them to discuss benefits and to please avoid "claim sharks" who are actively in the community trying to take advantage of our veterans and elderly populations in general. County Veteran services are at no cost to the community, and they work diligently to provide services in a timely manner. While the Department does not host many events, they do participate in many, and this year's Kern County Veteran's Stand Down is no exception. They are working with other community partners to make this year's event a success. The event will be on 10/10/2024 from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., donations of nonperishable food and new/gently used clothing are being accepted at their office on 1120 Golden State Avenue.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swerffager, SPHN

Sara Swerffager attended virtually and reported the following:

Know You Numbers Events

- East Bakersfield – August 27th - October 8th - Richard Prado East Bakersfield Senior Center – Fitness and Nutrition Classes: Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- West Bakersfield - September 5th - October 17th - Brookside Senior Apartments, 2605 Brookside Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93311, Fitness and Nutrition Classes: Thursdays 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Lost Hills - September 25th - November 6th - Wonderful College Prep Academy, 14848 Lamberson St, Lost Hills, CA 93249, Fitness and Nutrition Classes: Wednesdays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

2024 Campaign: A Healthier Kern - <https://kernpublichealth.com/healthierkern/> September Focus at Kern County Public Health – Foodborne Illness

Each year, 1 in 6 Americans gets sick by consuming contaminated food. Foodborne illness is a common, yet preventable, public health problem. To help prevent foodborne illness, we encourage everyone to “look for the sticker” and only eat at permitted restaurants and mobile food vendors.

All facilities that sell food to the public must obtain a health permit. Restaurants have a letter grade in their window and mobile food vendors have a sticker affixed to their vehicle or cart. Our Environmental Health inspectors perform health inspections to ensure that food is prepared and handled safely with a goal of preventing foodborne illness. Permitted restaurants are inspected for safe food handling practices, correct hand washing, proper refrigeration and cooking temperatures, and overall cleanliness of the facility. Vendors without a permit or a sticker have not been vetted for food safety. These unpermitted vendors potentially use unsafe food practices and risk making our community sick through foodborne illness.

Safe Diner App - Download Safe Diner FREE Today! Available on Apple Store or Google Play.

Features:

- Restaurant inspection reports, updated daily, including any violations.
- Searching capabilities by both restaurant name or restaurants located near you.
- Ability to sort restaurant results by letter grades.
- Ability to filter restaurants that are Certified Healthy for healthier dining options.
- Report unpermitted food vendors like food truck or food carts.
- Ability to file a complaint and include a picture or video.

Recommended Vaccinations for Winter Respiratory Season

- Seasonal Influenza vaccine – available at Pharmacy, Public Health, Community Clinics, and many doctors' offices
- COVID 19 vaccine – New seasonal formulation for 2024-2025 should be available soon at Pharmacies and Public Health – covered by insurance/Medicare – one dose recommended at this time
- RSV vaccine – One dose in lifetime for adults 75 and older. One dose lifetime for adults 65-74 with underlying medical conditions including: o Cardiovascular disease (e.g., heart failure; coronary artery disease; congenital heart disease, excluding isolated hypertension),

- Lung disease (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], emphysema, asthma, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis),
- End stage renal disease or dependence on hemodialysis or other renal replacement therapy,
- Diabetes mellitus with end-organ damage (e.g., diabetic nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy, or cardiovascular disease),
- Severe obesity (body mass index ≥ 40 kg/m²),
- Liver disorders (e.g., cirrhosis),
- Neurologic or neuromuscular conditions (e.g., neuromuscular conditions causing impaired airway clearance or respiratory muscle weakness, excluding history of stroke without impaired airway clearance),
- Hematologic disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease, thalassemia), and
- Moderate or severe immune compromise (either attributable to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatment)

Mobile Health Clinic –

- Arvin Grow Public Schools - Monday, September 16, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 901 Nectarine Ct., Arvin
- McFarland Mouser Center - Tuesday, September 17, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 100 2nd St., McFarland
- Ridgecrest Library - Wednesday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., 131 E Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest
- Arredondo Multi-Service Center - Thursday, September 19, 9 am - 2:30 p.m., 1505 Owens St., Bakersfield
- Taft Albertsons - Tuesday, October 1 ,9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 1044 Kern St., Taft
- California City Library - Wednesday, October 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 9507 California City Blvd., California City
- Shafter Department of Human Services - Thursday, October 3, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 115 N Central Valley Hwy., Shafter
- Mojave Department of Human Services - Monday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 2340 Highway 58, Mojave
- The Dream Center - Wednesday, October 9, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 1801 19th St., Bakersfield
- Wasco Library - Thursday, October 10, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 1102 7th St., Wasco

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Regina Mason

Not in attendance but provided a report read by Chair Lynch:

September is Suicide Prevention & Recovery Month, and their Department has some events planned for the month (flyer distributed). They continue to do outreach so you will find them at the Kern County Fair on Senior Day, the Tejon Tribe Pow Wow at Bakersfield College, and the Recovery Resource Fair at Mill Creek Park coming up. Please keep them advised of any

other opportunities to get out there. Their Senior Outreach Program is up and running and will continue to conduct outreach and education as they work to serve seniors in need. They have a new flyer as well (flyer distributed); it still is awaiting a revision which they hope to have for distribution at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Not in attendance.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Hermandeep Dhawali

Hermandeep Dhawali attended virtually, and reported the following:

For the month of August 2024, Kern Aging and Disability Recourse Connection (ADRC) received a total of 1,081 calls for ADRC related services.

Fifty-nine of the calls came into ILCKC, and 25 were assigned to a case manager in-house.

- 54% of the calls were Assistive Technology related. These individuals either wanted to donate an item such as a wheelchair/shower bench/canes or wanted to receive one.
- 13% of the calls were affordable housing related.
- 12% were PSPS related. These individuals either wanted a backup battery during August's heat or wanted assistance to lower their PGE or SCE bills.
- 7% of the calls were related to IHSS.
- 5% were related to Transition services from a nursing facility, back into community/independent living.
- 5% of calls were for ASL interpreting services.

Calls received for our ADRC partner, Aging and Adult Services:

- 88% of calls for IHSS
- 67% of calls for APS reports
- 20% of calls for Medicare Counseling
- 2.5% of calls for food and nutrition

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Leslie Devitt

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

We are awaiting a new budget deal to avoid a governmental shutdown. Decision needs to be made prior to the end of this month. Social Security Administration is warning of the need for additional funding or staffing levels will be further cut and likely lead to additional delays when dealing with Social Security if additional funding is not approved.

STATE

The Governor has several Bills pending his approval by the end of this month, some Bills could have impacts to California Department of Aging programs. Additionally, the State minimum wage will increase in January to \$16.50.

The California Department of Aging is exploring many options in the coming years. They are engaging in surveys to look at Public Service Areas (PSA) designations, inclusive of boundaries, criteria for designation- such as minimum populations, social vulnerability, and other factors entities may deem important.

They are also exploring the current Interstate Funding Formula (IFF). The IFF currently uses 7 factors and a couple of hold harmless and baseline factors in determining funding per PSA. Weights are applied to areas based on demographics: 60+ population, 65+ SSI/SSP, 75+, Minority Population, Square miles, numbers that live alone, and non-English speaking.

In addition, they are looking at ensuring core programs and services. These can include Nutrition Services, Enhanced Information and Assistance, Legal Services, Caregiver Services & Supports, Care / Case Management, and Transportation. CDA began its first discussions with PSA directors last week and will send out surveys to each PSA. Eventually surveys should pass to public input inclusive of commissions.

DEPARTMENT

The Department encountered some challenges with last year's budget in which projected revenues were incorrect, being short by about two million dollars. The Department has a new Administrative Services Officer, and we are reviewing all parts of the budget to determine the issues and impacts. This is resulting in delays in filling vacancies in the Department to ensure revenues will match expenditures.

The Digital Divide program funding ends September 30, 2024, and we are scaling back the program as we project not being able to keep it operational after the funding ends. There are some federal grants being pursued to provide the program in the future and we should know by next week if we have any alternative funds available to maintain the program during the gap in knowing if the grant will be obtained. Commissioner Prado expressed sadness that the program is going away and shared how helpful and patient the Digital Divide staff were to so many seniors.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program continues to work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Medi-Cal managed care plans per the state requirements. There are three plans in Kern County, Kern Health Systems, Blue Cross, and Kaiser. The resulting MOU is likely to increase workloads as there are requirements for increased collaboration, data sharing and meetings between the plans.

The Adult Protective Services (APS) program continues to see increases in referrals in part due to the excessive heat, fires, power and water outages in various parts of the county. The Home Safe funding is also becoming low and unsure if the State will continue to provide funding beyond the current allocations.

The Senior Nutrition programs continue to explore opportunities with our partners, Delano Union School District, North of the River (NOR), Bakersfield Senior Center, and Revolution Foods.

Cooling Centers will be ending as of September 20, 2024.

The Department is looking forward to the Kern County Fair and providing information and services to participants.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; K. Grasty

Parliamentarian Grasty reported that the Bylaws will be reviewed again due to errors found. She asked that everyone please review them again carefully and provide feedback to the Bylaws committee. They're hoping to have this completed and reviewed by County Counsel early 2025.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi shared their Annual Session is coming up in October 22-24 which will be virtual this year as they're not able to access the State Capital as it's in its renovation. They will be going up the following week for a General Session on October 28-30. She'll forward information to the Commissioners once their Annual Session takes place. They will have a maximum of 10 State proposals and 4 Federal proposals that they'll be looking at and hoping to have our State Legislators pick those up as Bills, sponsor, or support the CSL proposals. As Jeremy mentioned, with our Governor signing Bills at the end of this month they have only one CSL Bill that went all the way through to the Governor's desk, so we'll see what happens then.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – K. Grasty; S. Gomez:

Parliamentarian Grasty reported the following:

Recently Reappointed:

1. Sherry Gomez – Reappointed by District 3. Her new term expires 06/17/2026.
2. Anabel Hernandez – Reappointed by District 5. Her new term expires 08/18/2026.

New Appointments:

1. Christie Ray – Appointed by District 4. Her term expires 06/17/2026.
2. Jane Decker - Appointed by Around the Clock Care. Her term expires 08/07/2025.

Resignations:

None.

Expired Terms:

1. Gloria Brown – Term expired 06/17/2024, representing District 2. Letter sent to District 2 requesting reappointment.

Appointments Soon to Expire:

None.

Vacancies:

1. District 1 – for term expiring 06/17/2026.
2. District 1 - for term expired 08/06/2024 (replacing Genel Hodges).
3. Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance – for term expiring 11/08/2025 (replacing Devora Martinez). Letter will be sent to GBLA requesting a new appointment.

New Applications Received:

1. Lori Anderson – Application was sent by the Clerk of the Board and sent to Commissioner Appointment Committee on 08/28/2024. She is under 60 years of age and the Commission is at its acceptable limit of having under 60 years Commissioners.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for September 2024.

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

No report.

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

Chair Lynch reported the Exec. Committee met September 4, 2024, and discussed today's agenda and many topics already discussed or will be discussed during Operating Committee Reports. The Chairs of each Operating Committee were charged with writing a description and duties of the committees they chair and send them to Laura by the end of August. Laura is still working on the handbook and will have that available to the Commissioner as soon as possible for review and distribution in the New Year.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Hernandez reported the committee will regroup and meet with the Ombudsman to go over their role and schedule facility visits.

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

Commissioner Prado reported she attended and shared a resource vendor table with Aging and Adult Services at the Caring for the Caregiver conference. A lot of information was shared, and they took a lot of Centenarian Celebration fliers. They are still working on updating the COA brochure and are planning a date for new Commissioner orientation.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the following:

- Bakersfield Senior Center: They scheduled a Casino Night for the first week of September but had to cancel because of California's State Gambling regulations for non-profits. They are waiting for an update and will schedule for another date.
- Delano Senior Center: There was a council meeting in Delano about changing the senior center from the current Jefferson location to Ellington Street. The seniors are against this move and say it's an older building and smaller than the Jefferson building. They also addressed concerns about transportation to the other building.

Commissioner Hernandez reported the following:

- Taft Senior Center: No updates. Encouraged them to reach out to the Commissioner if need.
- Wasco Senior Center: No updates. Encouraged them to reach out to the Commissioner if need.
- Shafter Senior Center: Shoutout to Maria Martinez who keep the seniors active and invites organizations to bring resources to the seniors in Shafter.
- Rasmussen Senior Center: This center has been utilizing Kern Family Services a lot and providing resources for Medi-Cal and a lot of other services.
- Lamont Senior Center: Has grown their numbers of attendance for Zumba so they are doing it 2 days a week, and they have gone from 2-3 members a day to about 12 members.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – **D. Duquette**

Commissioner Duquette reported 1 birthday card was sent in August, and 3 more birthday cards will be going out in September.

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

Commissioner Dhillon reported the following:

She and Commissioner Gomez attended the TACC meeting virtually on August 22, 2024. They first reviewed the C4A conference and overall, the reviews were all positive. Next year's meeting will be in Southern California. They had three presentations during this meeting.

Claris Healthcare, a Digital Equity Competitive Group Grant Program. They addressed barriers to digital equity for covered populations, including low-income households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, those with language barriers, racial or ethnic minorities, and rural residents. They support digital

inclusion activities (like access to devices), broadband adoption, educational and employment opportunities, training programs, and workforce development. The Grant Range: \$5,000,000 to \$12,000,000 per award (this is only the recommended range and there is no minimum or maximum). The application Deadline is September 23, 2024. The duration to spend the grant is 4 years.

Village Movement California by Carolyn Ross. They are a community-based organization that supports older adults and provide them with community, programming and to sustain independence. The village model has evolved educational programs, social connection, volunteerism, resources and referrals. There is a membership fee "sliding scale" for this program. These Villages are included in Master Plan for Aging (MPA). They said Kern River Valley is in the process for the development.

Eldera AI, by Dana Griffin: Eldera is a global virtual village where generations come together to connect, learn from each other, have fun, and create a better future. It's a safe space to build meaningful intergenerational connections where everyone feels valued, supported and inspired. They match each young person with a mentor who can help them develop soft skills, explore the world, and pick up wisdom and perspective through weekly conversations. It's safe and mentors go through free background checks and all conversations are recorded and archived. There is small cost of \$10 - \$20 each month. For additional information, you can visit their website at: www.eldera.ai.

TRANSPORTATION – J. Juarez-Ceja; J. Lemucchi

Commissioner Lemucchi shared she has not attended a meeting since September 2023 and has not received an invitation to attend any local meetings. She's not sure if they are still having them. She couldn't attend the State Transportation Committee meeting last week but she did receive a recap. They discussed the California Council Transit Resolution is at the State level right now. That sub-committee of members expressed support for this Equitable Paratransit Resolution, in particular, many people who are supportive of moving forward with this action. That would advance reciprocal eligibility and eliminate recertification with permanent medical conditions. It seems they are still in the limbo area of having to change all the fleet vehicles from gas to electric. Federally, the grant kind of diminished because the manufactures of the electric vehicles wouldn't be able to keep up with the demand of the Federal Government of changing from gas to electric.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; E. Linder

Commissioner Brown reported they will continue to recognize senior nutrition volunteers as they visit each senior center.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- **Senior Day at the Kern County Fair** – Scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2024, doors open at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. Commissioner Jackson worked on getting Commissioners to volunteer to greet the seniors and distribute fair agendas/map at the front gate. There will be two shifts, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. (Duquette, Hernandez, Jackson, Lynch, Snyder, and Ray), and 10 a.m. – 12 noon (Brown, Goodlow, Jackson, Lemucchi, Decker, Dhillon, and Prado). Speakers include Supervisor Couch, Mayor Goh, COA Chair Lynch, and AASD Director Oliver.

- **Centenarian Recognition Program** Parliamentarian Grasty reported they've had a busy month celebrating some repeat 100+ birthdays. Keep getting the word out and let us know if you hear of anyone turning 100 years or older. Chair Lynch shared about the celebration for a senior who turned 103 years old.
- **MPA Focus Group Update** – Commissioner Lemucchi reported they held a focus group before this meeting at the Shafter Senior Center with about 35 seniors in attendance. The number one issue on the list was transportation. They had concerns within the county, as well as for appointments. Another issue was ADA compliance, such as curve cuts on the street to the sidewalk. Technology is another issue that we heard a lot about especially calling the Dr's office and you get menus. One senior shared that by the time she got someone to answer the phone, she forgot what she was calling about. Another issue is the lack of housing locally as well as throughout the county. Some of the housing is limited to field workers so that has been an issue or waiting a long time for housing to become available. One senior shared waiting over 10 years. One highlight was wanting to keep the recreation active with activities at the senior center and having safe walking areas for exercise. Vice-Chair Snyder added that they have more focus groups scheduled in October & November:
 - 10/04 – Elders Focus Group at Bakersfield American Indian Health Project
 - 10/10 – Kern River Valley Senior Center
 - 10/21 – Tehachapi Senior Center before the Regular Commission meeting
 - 11/18 – Ridgecrest Senior Center before the Regular Commission meeting

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 (Dark in August) 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, October 21, 2024 1:00 p.m. (Dark in August) Tehachapi Senior Center 500 E. F Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561 (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 2:40 p.m. in memory of Commissioner Genel Hodges.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj