

Kern County Commission On Aging

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



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

January 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Bakersfield Senior Center
530 "4th" Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The flag salute was completed, and a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

Commission Members Present:

In Person – Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Jane Decker, Doris Duquette, Anthony Estrada, Sherry Gomez, ***Kris Grasty, Anabel Hernandez, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, *Stephanie Lynch, ****Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Yolanda Prado, **Judy Snyder

Virtually – Sonia Dhillon, Julia Juarez-Ceja, Christy Ray

Excused Absences: Kevin Alvey, Gloria Brown, Barbara Goodlow, Ellen Linder

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: Rene M. Doughton, Lillian Espinoza, Chester Poindexter, Geneva Hawkins, Barbara Smallwood, Anna Gutierrez, Mary Morten, Sandra Y. Hare, Bobby Hall, Mari Harrison, Lilli J. Parker, Catherine Vasquez, Leroy Stowe, Chad Acker, Peggy Langels, Gayla Hughes, Sheila Roth, Miguel Salazar

Virtually: Sara Swertfager, Joseph Anderson, Kayla Pinkston

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank you letters were sent by Chair Lynch on behalf of the Commission to NOR Recreation & Park, and to Solace Healthcare for their help/donations with the 50th Anniversary Celebration.
2. Letters will be sent by Chair Lynch to Supervisor Perez and Arvin Mayor Calderon for attending the 50th Anniversary celebration. Chair Lynch shared that she also sent letters to Senator Grove and Congressman Fong thanking them for sending representatives with certificates to the celebration. A thank you letter was also sent to Congressman Valadao for the certificate of Congressional Record.
3. Jeremy will follow up with Mayor Calderon regarding her interest in senior services and reopening a senior center.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

1. Miguel Salazar, Family Consultant with Valley Caregiver Resource Center, shared information about their homemaker program available to seniors 60+ years. There are no income guidelines, but clients who already receive In-Home Supportive Services will not be eligible as this program is available through the same funding source. Most clients are Medicare clients. Commissioner Bodnar added that Miguel is the best and she values Miguel's work.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner Estrada shared information about senior legal services available through Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. Their Senior Law Center is available for seniors 60+ years and can assist with landlord/tenant issuers, consumer law, consumer law matters, elder abuse and neglect, and assists eligible individuals through the disability benefit application process for social security. There are no income restrictions for eligibility, although priority is given to low-income seniors.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve November 19, 2024, Regular Commission on Aging meeting with one amendment to page 1.
Motion: Grasty; **Second:** Snyder; **Abstention:** Dhillon, Estrada; **Objection:** 0.
Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF REVISED COA MISSION STATEMENT:** Motion made to approve the revised COA Mission Statement to change "seniors" to "older adults" and "disabled" to "adults with disabilities".
Motion: Grasty; **Second:** Lemucchi; **Abstention:** 0; **Objection:** 0. **Motion carried.**

Recess Called: 1:12 pm. – 1:23 p.m.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

BAKERSFIELD SENIOR CENTER – Lilli Parker

Lilli Parker reported Bakersfield Senior Centers (BSC) new multipurpose facility is 53,000 sq ft, with four floors. Each floor will be approximately 13,000 sq ft. Construction will take approximately 18 months to complete. The existing senior center building will be demolished first. This project is in Phase 2 that will be using TCC funding that the City of Bakersfield was awarded.

Floor One - will consist of the multipurpose room (dining area) with stage, kitchen, recreation room (billiard), along with a Housing Community Room for the residents to use mainly after hours, Office Manager and staff offices. The tenants will have their own entrance to the building from the first floor to the third floor and fourth floors.

Floor Two - will accommodate the Cardio, Tai Chi Chair, and a state-of-the-art Computer lab, sewing room, craft room, and in the northeast area the BSC administration offices will be located.

Floors Three & Floor - is where 18 units per floor will be to house our seniors with affordable housing, the floor plan is the same on both floors.

Electric Vehicles and charging stations for the tenants to run errands, dr's appointment or even to beauty salons and barbershops.

The community is excited, and they anticipate the relocation while construction is taking place. BSC does not have a displacement location as of today, but will be meeting with the Assistant City Manager, Rick Anthony and Director of Recreation and Parks, Darin Budak on Monday February 3rd.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Isaac Preston

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swertfager, SPHN

Sara Swertfager attended virtually and reported the following:

Know You Numbers Events:

Tentatively scheduled every Wednesday 2/12/2025 – 3/26/2025 in Bakersfield West
Please check website for exact date, time, and location information in February.

Vaccination Updates:

- Seasonal Flu and COVID vaccines are still recommended if you have not already received them during the 2024-2025 season. Flu positivity has been high in CA. For COVID vaccine, people ages 65 years and older are up to date when you have received 2 doses of any 2024 - 2025 COVID-19 vaccine 6 months apart. Even though the recommendation is 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine doses 6 months apart, the minimum time is 2 months apart, which allows flexibility for COVID surges, life events, travel, etc....
- One dose of Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) for all PCV-naïve adults aged ≥50 years

Norovirus

Viral infection that presents with vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain and less frequently, fever, headaches, and body aches. Symptoms typically present 12- 48 hours after exposure to the virus and resolve within 1-3 days. Most common complication is dehydration. Drink plenty of liquids, avoiding caffeine and alcohol. Anyone is at risk of contracting norovirus; however, risk increases with consumption of raw oysters and shellfish. Prevention includes washing hands well and often, thoroughly cooking shellfish and washing fruits and vegetables, cleaning and disinfecting contaminated surfaces, washing clothes and linens in hot water, and staying home for two days after symptom resolution.

Mobile Health Clinic:

The following services are available on the mobile health clinic:

- Child and adult immunizations
- Tuberculosis testing
- Family planning services, including birth control

- Sexual health services
- Health screenings
- Narcan distribution and training
- Child Health Exams (12 – 18 years of age)

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

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

- **01/22/2025** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Lamont Library, 8304 Segreue Rd, Lamont, California 93241
- **01/23/2025** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Riverview Park, 401 Willow Dr, Bakersfield, California 93308
- **01/27/2025** 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Grow Academy Arvin, 901 Nectarine Ct, Arvin, California 93203
- **01/28/2025** 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Ridgecrest Library, 131 E Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, California 93555
- **01/30/2025** 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, McFarland Mouser Center, 100 2nd St, McFarland, California 93250
- **02/03/2025** 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Wasco Library, 1102 7th St, Wasco, California 93280
- **02/05/2025** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, California City Library, 9507 California City Blvd California City, California 93505
- **02/10/2025** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM, Taft Albertsons, 1044 Kern St, Taft, California 93268
- **02/11/2025** 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM, Boron Library, 26967 Twenty Mule Team Rd, Boron, California 93516
- **02/12/2025** 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM, The Dream Center, 1801 19th St, Bakersfield, California 93301
- **02/13/2025** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Blanton Education Center, 300 E Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, California 93305
- **02/18/2025** 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Shafter Department of Human Services, 115 N Central Valley Hwy, Shafter, California 93263
- **02/19/2025** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM, Grow Academy Shafter, 471 W Los Angeles Ave, Shafter, California 93263
- **02/20/2025** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Rexland Acres Park, 355 E Fairview Rd, Bakersfield, California 93307

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Chad Acker

Chad Acker appeared and shared that at this time there are no major updates other than that they are moving forward with the Care Court program. Due to the holidays, the County is starting to pick up again.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

There is a lot happening at the federal level related to the Medicare Program, including the release of a final rule that went over multiple different aspects of improvements to the Medicare Program. Over the next couple of years, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is going to be working to implement some of the areas that were included in the Final Rule. On October 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 311. The bill requires the (DHCS) to enter into a Medicare Part A buy-in agreement with CMS for qualified Medicare beneficiaries through a state plan amendment no later than January 1, 2025. Most of these changes will not have a significant impact on county operations; however, there are some changes that will require work on the County side. DHCS has been working on:

- How CA will begin the process of buying Medicare Part A premiums. This work will be done at the DHCS level, and no impact on counties is anticipated.
- The requirement for individuals who are on SSI to automatically be enrolled in the QMB program when California becomes a Part A buy-in state. DHCS will move forward with adding the QMB aid code for SSI individuals. Currently, counties approve QMB eligibility for SSI individuals through CalSAWS. Effective January 1, 2025, counties are no longer required to approve, or case manage QMB for SSI individuals only. DHCS will work with counties in the upcoming months to determine the best approach for ending QMB-only records at the county level (CalSAWS).
- Updating some of the MSP NOAs will ensure all updates are complete and implemented by January 1, 2025.

The Draft PM provides information regarding Senate Bill 311 Medicare Part A buy-in and the policy changes included in the 2023 Medicare Final Rule on "Streamlining Medicaid; Medicare Savings Program Eligibility Determination and Enrollment" outreach letter mailed out on 1/5/2023 (See Section IX of PIM 24-07) was mailed to individuals who are SSI/SSP recipients who are not currently enrolled in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program, which includes a total of 2,406 individuals in Kern County who should expect to receive a letter. Additional policy guidance related to other policy changes outlined in the 2023 Medicare Final Rule is forthcoming. Please review and provide any feedback by 1/26/2024.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels attended virtually and reported the following:

They have several new grants, the largest of which is the state Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Grant. This is an \$11 million grant that runs through 3/31/2027 and is to assist laid off oil and gas workers with finding new employment or entering a training program that will hopefully replace their current wage rates. Recycling Lives – Train in machine operations and forklift and gain Warehouse and Logistics skills.

Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative – Job Fair Date:

02/18/2025 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Location: Larry E. Reider Education Center
2000 K Street Bakersfield, California 93301

Orientations for training services are both in person and virtual. In person orientations are held on Tuesday at 9:30am at the SE AJCC and Virtual Orientations are held on Thursday at 9:30am. (Flyer distributed)

Job Squad is held every Thursday at 9am on Facebook Live. They also announce jobs on Kern Radio, Mondays at 8:45am, Telemundo, Tuesday Evening news between 6pm-6:30pm, and KBAK TV, Wednesday mornings at 6:45am and 7:15am.

Operation V.I.P. Veterans Job Club is held every Tuesday at 1400 (2:00pm) at the SE Center. Metrics Learning is still available online for anyone that is interested in learning a new skill or updating your skills.

There are many workshops being held on a weekly basis through the AJCC partners; Mock Interviews, The Expungement Process, Veteran's Job Club Workshop, State Employment Workshops, and CalJOBS Virtual Workshops.

The Employer's Training Resource (ETR) website is located at <https://www.employertrainingresource.com/> and the AJCC Workshop is located at <https://www.americasjobcenterofkern.com/>

SER Jobs in the SE Office are still not taking any applications at this time.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez attended in person and reported the following on two of their grants:

Home Access Grant provides accessible improvements (widen doorways, ramp with handrails, accessible toilet, grab bars, or replace tub with accessible shower) for low income permanently disabled persons. Tenant and owner-occupied property are eligible if the owner of the property agrees to the work. An inspection will be completed to determine specific needs and all work is bid to licensed and insured contractors.

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 attended virtually and reported the following:

Reporting Numbers:

For the month of December 2024, The Independent Living Center of Kern County served 435 ADRC Consumers.

Number of new consumers – 52
Individuals with IHSS – 55
Assisted 28 individuals with Transition services

Challenges:

The Independent Living Center of Kern County has identified a significant challenge in addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those on fixed incomes who are unable to manage their daily activities, such as showering, cooking, and cleaning. Many of these individuals do not qualify for in-home support services because, although they are eligible for Medi-Cal, their high share of cost makes them ineligible for assistance. Furthermore, they are also excluded from other healthcare programs, as they lack the means to access or afford healthcare plans that would help offset this cost. This creates a gap in support for a disabled population that is struggling to meet their basic daily needs.

The Independent Living Center of Kern County has compiled a list of private pay caregivers to assist our ADRC consumers. However, some consumers, due to their fixed income, may not be able to cover the costs directly; therefore, the Independent Living Center of Kern County has been networking with different local agencies to come up with caregiving alternative solutions.

New Business:

The Independent Living Center of Kern County is set to receive a home modification grant. This grant would be used to install ramps, grab bars in the shower or near the toilet, toilet raisers, and other modifications for the benefit of the 62+ population living with disabilities and aging. This program will be starting in the upcoming months.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Kayla Pinkston

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

Management updates: Supervisor for client services is Adriana Cuadras Talamantez.

- Metro VSU is located at 1300 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 - District Attorney Advocates can assist victims of crime through the criminal justice process
 - Court Support
 - Case Updates
 - California Victims of Crime Compensation application assistance
 - Prosecution & Law Enforcement Accompaniment
 - Victim Impact Statements
- Family Justice Center also located at 1300 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 - Walk ins– 8am to 4pm
 - Assists Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
 - Partners on site include:
 - Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA)

- Open Door Network
- Kern County Department of Human Services
- Kern County Child Support (kiosk)
- Partners off-site include
 - BHRS
 - Women's Center High Desert
- South Family Justice Center located at the Lamont Courthouse on Main Street
- VSU Advocates in outlying areas
 - Ridgecrest located at the Courthouse (part-time)
 - Mojave is located at the Courthouse (part-time)
 - Delano located at a Kern County Sheriff Substation
 - Lamont is located at the Courthouse

Available stats:

- Oct-Dec 2024
 - VSU assisted 56 clients 60+
 - 11 Elder abuse
 - FJC assisted 11 clients 60+
 - 8 Elder abuse

Both programs have access to language lines and intakes can be taken over the phone for those who are not able to come into our facilities for initial services.

Kayla provided handouts of their services and locations in English and Spanish. If anyone has questions, they can call the Program Coordinator Adriana Cuadras Talamantez 661-868-5956 or Program Supervisor Kayla Pinkston 661-868-5955.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver thanked the Commission and COA Foundation for the cards and donations. He reported the following:

FEDERAL

The Federal budget was extended by another continuing resolution until March of 2025. Although the resolution picked up many critical needs it did overlook the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which funds many of the department programs involving meals on wheels, nutrition, information and assistance. This places some questions about what federal funding allocations will be after March and potential impacts a new federal budget and administration will bring.

Efforts to revise the Medicaid program will want to be watched closely as it can impact many of our low-income older adults and families. Changes to Medicaid have direct impacts to funding sources of In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services, Nutrition programs and other programs that provide coverage to dually enrolled Medi-Cal

and Medicare beneficiaries.

STATE

The Governor's update to the budget was shared though there appears to be some increase to the revenues at the state level individual programs impacts are:

- There are no proposed reductions for the IHSS program.
 - The average monthly caseload is expected to grow by 7.5 percent in FY 2024-25 and by 7.5 percent for FY 2025-26, resulting in 771,650 cases in FY 2025-26. Average weighted hours per case are also projected to grow to 123.7 in FY 2025-26.
- The Governor's Budget for Public Authority administration is proposed to increase to \$67.6 million (\$34.4 million GF) in FY 2025-26 to reflect higher projected caseload.
- Adult Protective Services should not see any changes in the budget at this time.

The recent impacts related to the Los Angeles fires are expected to cause additional budget concerns at the state level and we are all waiting to see if the federal aid will be available to help offset the state budget impacts due to the disaster. The Department has reached out to our Los Angeles counterparts to offer assistance and currently Los Angeles has declined any additional support from our office at this time.

There was a recent published report regarding the state becoming the negotiator of provider wages which can be found at <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/ihss-statewide-bargaining/>. The report is approximately 133 pages and will be the source material for the state legislators to bring forward a bill. The report reflects concerns around provider turnover and highlights wages as a potential source to curb high turnover rates along with benefits. The costs of a \$1 raise at the state level also would have a \$590 million increase in costs to the state budget. This also leads to multiple concerns about county budgets as the current Maintenance of Effort (MOE) continues to grow faster than the tax revenues used to fund the program. As this continues to develop more information will be shared with this board.

DEPARTMENT

The Department completed a recent program monitoring of California Department of Aging programs with some findings to revise policies and procedures. The accounting audit had some findings regarding the previous year's expenditure which we are in the process of reviewing.

We have completed our mid-year review of departmental expenditures and adjusting based on the projections of revenues and expenditures. As a result, we have stopped adding new clients to the Meals on Wheels program and expect waitlists to rise as we try to compensate for over projections in the food area of our budget. We are working closely with the County Administrative Office to ensure services continue to as many clients as possible. Additionally, the county staff are out of contract and the union is exploring strike options. This can lead to service delivery impacts to all clients throughout the county.

The Adult Protective Services (APS) saw a slight drop in referrals for the month and planning for the Annual Elder Abuse Conference has begun. Typically, we try to hold our event in the month of June, the week closest to the 15th. We may have Paul Greenwood as a speaker for this year's event.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program continues to maintain requirements per state mandates though overall seeing a decline in ability to keep up with the increases in referrals.

Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman has hired a Program Technician covering our intake, and our program will start a social worker on January 27, 2025. The Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently published new webpages to recruit more certified nurse aides (CNAs) for nursing homes. One webpage is for [CNA recruitment](#) and career pathways while another [describes the campaign](#) to increase the number of nurses in nursing homes and state survey agencies, ultimately improving the quality of care that nursing home residents receive.

The Department continues to monitor our budget to retain staffing needed to keep up with an increase in referrals. We continue to explore an MOU with Managed Care Plans as required by the state. No current deadline established for this requirement.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; K. Grasty

Parliamentarian Grasty reported that she and Commissioner Decker worked on revising the Bylaws not only to add or change where we have seniors and disabled adults, but to also make a few other changes and reduce the number of pages we have by adding some more information to the procedural manual. They don't have procedures in the Bylaws, and they hope to have a draft for you by the next meeting.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi said they have nothing to report other than the Senior Rally Day, which will be held virtually again this year on May 6th.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – K. Grasty; S. Gomez:

Commissioner Gomez reported the following:

Recently Reappointed:

None.

New Appointments:

None.

Resignations:

None.

Expired Terms:

1. Gloria Brown – Term expires 06/17/2024, representing District 2. Reappointment is on the January 28th Board of Supervisors agenda.

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).

New Applications Received:

None.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for January 2025.

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

Chair Lynch reported that in December, she, Commissioner Gomez, Commissioner Linder, Commissioner Lemucchi, and Commissioner Jackson assembled flashlights and candy canes and distributed them to all 221 AASD employees. The COA Foundation purchased the flashlights, and Parliamentarian Grasty donated the candy canes. Chair Lynch created some for each Commissioner to thank them for their volunteerism. As they distributed the gifts to staff, Commissioners found that most of the newer AASD staff didn't know who they were or what they do. Pre-COVID, the Commission used to have a gathering where we would meet the employees and greet them with either ice cream, cookies, or vegetables and fruit. They came out and got to know the members of the Commission on Aging. So, the Committee is rethinking employee recognition and now that the pandemic is over, we should do some face-to-face recognition with the employees so that they understand the Commission is there for them, and there for the seniors.

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

Chair Lynch reported the Exec. Committee met January 8, 2025, and the results of that meeting are on this meeting's agenda. They also discussed that they're still working on the COA brochure and the Commissioner handbook. Parliamentarian Grasty added more acronyms to the existing list, and there will be additional information added to the handbook.

Vice-Chair Snyder shared that the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Committee has been very busy during 2024 and has set a very busy agenda for 2025, starting with a meeting last Friday to get that established. They will be meeting in Delano prior to the Commission meeting in Delano on February 24th at 10.30 a.m. Then they will be meeting in Taft on March 17th at 10.15 a.m. Then she will be reaching out and contacting the Mayor of Delano and Mayor of Taft to ask them to join us. They were approached by the Arvin Mayor at the celebration in

December and Mayor Calderon came up to all of us individually. She is very interested in supporting her seniors in Arvin. Once those focus groups are done, the Subcommittee is going to get together and compile all their information and notes collected. They had 13 different sessions in 2024, and will have an additional three more, which is a lot. They have managed to get a pretty broad spectrum of information from all over Kern County. When they have that report ready, they will present it to the Commission and then contact each Board of Supervisor individually first and then hope to develop a plan of action of some sort. They also recommend that it be presented to the Board of Supervisors during one of their Board meetings. They will continue to report after focus group meetings to keep the Commission apprised of what's going on.

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

Commissioner Hernandez reported that the IHSS Advisory Committee met on January 16, 2025. Michelle wasn't there to give us an overview, but the cases that they're working on are up to 15,953 now. They are keeping within their metrics and reporting, and with opening new cases within 30 days. They are meeting their numbers. They are doing their reevaluations within the state prescribed time limit.

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

Commissioner Hernandez reported she met with Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman, Devora Martinez, and decided they will change the process a little bit because a couple of the Commissioners that are on the LTC Committee, their private work crosses over a bit. So, they want to put in a process where they're letting the facilities know when they're going there ahead of time and will be sending them a letter with a detailed explanation of their visit and what they are going to be asking so that way they know what to expect. After their visit, they will follow up with a thank you letter from the Commission on Aging, detailing very clearly what our purposes are for the visit.

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

Commissioner Prado reported there is nothing new for Marketing, but they are working on scheduling New Commissioner Training for Commissioner Estrada.

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

Parliamentarian Grasty reported the Commission will be electing new Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian) in June. A slate will be read at the April 2025 COA Regular meeting. Nominations for Officers can be sent via text to Commissioner Brown.

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

No report.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported that she received a new Commissioner contact list and will continue to send birthday cards.

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

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – J. Juarez-Ceja; **J. Lemucchi**

Commissioner Lemucchi reported that she reached out to KernCOG for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee, since they did not attend any meetings last year. They had a meeting last week, so she doesn't really have much of an update because of just getting back into the meetings after being gone for 1.5 years. She did attend the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC), which is the State Transportation Committee meeting the week prior to that and they discussed the same issues that we have here in Kern County, lack of altered routes, stopped routes, and a lack of transportation in general. It was interesting because Solano County talked about what their strategies are to work on these issues which are consistent with what we're facing here as well. She'll have more information after the next advisory committee. The state committee meets monthly, and the KernCOG meeting with Social Services Transportation Advisory meets quarterly.

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 –

- **Centenarian Recognition Program Parliamentarian** – Parliamentarian Grasty reported that they will continue to recognize Centenarians through the Recognition program.

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, February 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (due to County holiday on 2/17) Delano Senior Center 436 Jefferson Street, Delano, CA 93215 (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 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj