

## **Kern County Commission On Aging**

Judy Snyder, Chairperson  
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Bakersfield, CA 93309  
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## **REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

**March 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**

Taft Senior Center  
500 Cascade Place, Taft, CA 93268  
and via Zoom

### **OPENING**

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:04 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, Barbara Goodlow, Sherry Gomez, Anabel Griffin, \*\*Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, \*\*\*\*Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Yolanda Prado, Christie Ray, Miguel Salazar, Yarnell Sherrell, \*Judy Snyder

**Virtually** – None.

**Excused Absences:** Vivian Cao, Sonia Dhillon, Stacie Dollar, Norma Jackson, Julie Juarez-Ceja, Jami Ward

**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  
Angela Domingos – Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator

**GUESTS:**

**In Person:** Janice Ashley, Kathy Orrin, Carolyn Alderedge, Ronald Starkey, Greg Forsyth, Catherine Vasquez

**Virtually:** Chad Acker, Sara Swertfager, Daisy Neri, Tiffany Cigich, Peggy Langels, Laura Rodriguez, Kayla Pinkston

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Received a letter from Around the Clock Care appointing Stacie Dollar as their representative on the COA.
- Received a letter from Bakersfield Senior Center reappointing Barbara Goodlow as their representative for another two-year term.

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

- Jeremy Oliver addressed public concerns about potential closure of the Taft Senior Center and confirmed the Taft Senior Center is not being closed.

**Commissioner Comments :**

- Commissioner Sherrell announced that the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance has free walk-in legal assistance available Wednesdays for Kern County seniors.
- Chair Snyder thanked the COA Operating Committee members and tasked each committee with selecting a Chair of those committees.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve February 23, 2026, Regular Commission on Aging meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion:** Gomez; **Second:** Prado; **Abstention:** Goodlow ; **Objection:** None.

**Motion carried.**

**SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:****TAFT SENIOR CENTER – Angela Domingos**

Angela Domingos reported that the center currently serves approximately 35 seniors daily in the congregate dining room, with an additional 62 homebound seniors receiving hot delivered meals. The center also provides weekly frozen food boxes to 26 clients through the Revolution Foods program. While there is no fixed activities calendar, seniors enjoy a dedicated activity room, outfitted by the Kern County Aging & Adult Services Department (AASD), featuring a pool table, games, puzzles, and a large television for news and movies. Due to recent staffing shortages, the onsite production kitchen has closed; however, fresh meals are now prepared daily at the Shafter senior Center production kitchen. To ensure service continuity, the remaining staff (a site coordinator and two drivers) rotate trips to Shafter each morning to collect the meals. The team utilizes specialized equipment to maintain strict temperature controls, ensuring food quality and safety for all participants.

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

Not in attendance. No report.

**VETERANS SERVICE** – Jose Lopez

Not in attendance. No report.

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

Sara Swertgafer attended virtually and reported there are no new Health Department updates at this time. To schedule an appointment to receive vaccinations through the Public Health Clinic, please call 661-321-3000.

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

Chad Acker attended virtually and gave the following report:

**State Pressure on Counties (Including Kern) Over CARE Court**

- Governor Gavin Newsom recently criticized several counties for being slow in implementing CARE Court, a system designed to court-order treatment for people with severe mental illness who are homeless.
- The State is threatening to redirect funding away from counties considered “underperforming.”

Why this matters locally:

- CARE Court implementation affects:
  - conservatorship processes
  - outreach teams
  - treatment capacity
  - collaboration with the courts
- It could result in pressure on Kern BHRS to increase case processing and treatment placement capacity.

**Expansion of Screening and Assessment Locations**

One operational change has already been implemented recently:

- Kern BHRS expanded adult screening and assessment services to multiple locations across Bakersfield, instead of relying only on the Mary K. Shell Access and Assessment Center.

New access sites include:

- Northeast Recovery & Wellness Center
- Southeast Recovery & Wellness Center
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- West Recovery & Wellness Center
- Clarvida (H Street)

Goal:

Reduce barriers and get clients assessed and into services faster.

### **New Behavioral Health Infrastructure in Kern County**

Even though it's a partnership effort with the City/State, it affects the system of care:

- Bakersfield received \$22.8 million in State funding to convert a motel on Wible Road into a 65-bed substance-use treatment facility for adults and perinatal women.

This is likely to tie into:

- DMC-ODS expansion
- residential treatment capacity
- county referral pathways

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

Daisy Neri reported on the following:

#### **Medi-Cal Policy Change regarding Reinstatement of Asset Limits for Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal Programs:**

Effective January 1, 2026, the asset test has been reinstated for:

- Non-MAGI programs, including the
  - Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) and
  - Long-Term Care (LTC) programs,

The following Non-MAGI programs will continue to be exempt from property/asset limits:

- Pickle,
- Disabled Adult Child (DAC), and
- Disabled Widow/er (DW) programs.

Impacted Population:

- New NON-MAGI population
  - Individuals applying for Medi-Cal benefits under the affected Non-MAGI programs with an application date after January 1, 2026
- Existing NON-MAGI populations
  - Members with annual renewals due on or after January 2026.

The new asset limits are:

- \$130,000 for one person
- Add \$65,000 for each additional family member (up to 10 people)

Assets include:

- Bank accounts:
  - The available balance of all bank and credit union accts
- Cash:
  - Cash on hand is exempt when the client states that the cash on hand are processed from their current month's income. If not exempt, cash

on hand is countable as property.

- Property:
    - Boats, motorcycles etc.
  - Stocks, bonds and mutual funds
  - Trusts
  - Life insurance
    - The cash surrender value (CSV) of the life insurance policy for each individual
  - Burial Plots
  - Vehicles:
    - If the client has more than one vehicle, he/she may choose which vehicle is exempt.
  - Business property:
    - Any property regardless of value, that is used in a business.
- Some assets don't count, like the home you live in, one vehicle, household items, irrevocable burial funds and certain savings, like retirement accounts.

### **Annual Renewals:**

Members with annual renewals due on or after January 1, 2026, are required to report (self-attest) or provide verification of their assets as part of the eligibility determination.

Eligibility process:

- NON-MAGI RE packet provided:
  - Staff must attempt to contact the client to obtain a self-attestation of assets.
    - If contact is established with the client:
      - ✓ Capture self-attestation of all assets via narrative/journal entry.
      - ✓ Update CalSAWS property list page with the minimum necessary info to accept self-attestation
      - ✓ No additional verification should be requested. Human Services Technician (HST) can proceed to process the MC Renewal.
    - If contact is NOT established with the client:
      - ✓ Issue the new MC604 IPS available via CalSAWS with an MC 355 and allow 30 days to provide.

Eligibility must be approved for an Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) Long Term Care (LTC) and Non-LTC applicant who self-attests that the combined value of their assets is below the asset limits of \$130,000 for one person and \$65,000.00 for each additional person.

Asset Verifications Desk Guide provides the minimum necessary information to accept self-attestation.

Additional details will be provided once the AVP report for NON-LTC clients becomes available in CalSAWS in the coming months.

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

Peggy Langels attending virtually and gave the following report:

### **Grant Programs & Training**

- **Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Grant:** Enrollment remains open through March 31, 2027. This program assists laid-off workers in securing new employment or entering training programs to maintain their current wage levels. The next information session is scheduled for March 25 at the 1600 E. Belle Terrace location.
- **Career Orientations:** In-person sessions are held Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (Southeast AJCC), with virtual sessions held Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
- **Partner Workshops:** Through the EDD, various weekly workshops are available, including Mock Interviews, The Expungement Process, Veteran's Job Club, State Employment, and CalJOBS Virtual training.

### **Job Search Resources**

- **Weekly Job Hub:** Held every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Recruitment Center (1215 Olive Dr., Suite C, Bakersfield). Job Developers announce new openings, and a featured employer is highlighted each week.
- **Veteran's Job Club:** Meets every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., both online and in person at the Southeast AJCC.
- **Digital Resources:** Current recruitments are updated daily at [www.AmericasJobCenterofKern.com](http://www.AmericasJobCenterofKern.com) and on their Facebook page. Additional information is available at [EmployersTrainingResource.com](http://EmployersTrainingResource.com).
- **SER Jobs:** The southeast office is currently over-enrolled but continues to accept applications. Interested parties may contact Deborah McDade at 661-635-2792 or [dmcdade@sercalifornia.org](mailto:dmcdade@sercalifornia.org).

### **Other Information:**

- **Café 1600:** The KHSD Culinary Arts program is open Tuesday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They offer three gourmet, bistro-style selections priced between \$12 and \$16. This week's menu will be forwarded to Laura to send to the Commissioners.

## **PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez**

Catherine Vasquez appeared in person and gave the following report:

### **Home Access Grant**

The Home Access Grant is an ADA grant to install wheelchair ramps, grab bars, and walk-in showers for low-income disabled persons. Owner-occupied and rental property are eligible if the property owner agrees to the work. An inspection is completed to determine specific needs, and all work is done by licensed contractors.

### **Home Improvement Loan**

The Home Improvement Loan repairs or replaces existing air conditioners, heaters, roofs, electrical, plumbing, windows, insulation, floors, and paint. This program is available to low-income owner-occupied single-family residence. It is a zero interest, deferred payment loan that is due and payable in full when the owner no longer occupies the property.

If you know anyone interested in either program, please have them call the office at 661-862-5026. These programs are available to clients living within County limits. The City of Bakersfield also has a home access program, but she is not sure if they still have funding. She does not believe that the City has a home improvement program.

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Laura Rodriguez**

Laura Rodriguez attended virtually for Jessica Carrillo and reported the following:

The Independent Living Center and Aging & Adult Services will be teaming up to host an Independent Living Skills Class on April 8, 2026, titled "HICAP: Free, Unbiased Medicare Help & Fraud Prevention Tips" at 2:00 p.m. This class will be available in person or on Zoom and is free for anyone interested in learning about the unbiased services offered through the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and their caregivers. Participants will discover how HICAP can help them understand Medicare rights and benefits, review coverage options, apply for programs that may reduce Medicare costs, and learn practical tips for preventing, detecting, and reporting Medicare fraud. A flyer is still being finalized and will be available soon on their website and social media.

They are still seeking lightly used or new durable medical equipment (DME) items, including power scooters, manual and electric wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility aids.

ILC is once again hosting their annual Americans with Disabilities Act Conference. This year, they are expanding the event to a two-day conference, followed by an exciting casino night. They are currently seeking sponsorships and in-kind donations. If your agency is interested in becoming a sponsor or making an in-kind donation, please contact Jimmie Soto at 661-330-0611 or Jessica Carrillo at 661-325-1063.

### **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:

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
  - 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

- Walk ins– 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 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:
  - Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)
  - Women's Center High Desert
- South Family Justice Center - 12022 Main St, Lamont CA 93241
  - Phone number: Lamont- 661-868-5820

Both programs have access to language lines and intakes can be taken over the phone for those who are not able to come into their facilities for initial services. If anyone has questions, they can call the Program Coordinator Adriana Cuadras Talamantez, at 661-868-5956.

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

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

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

#### **FEDERAL**

Currently watching for any changes from the federal side that may have impacts on Older Americans. Everyone is tracking the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medicare. Examples include some states have AI as part of the approval/denial of certain medical procedures and use in processing applications for Medicare.

#### **STATE**

The Department is tracking many bills and budget hearings involving Aging Programs including a request for \$62.3 million in Older Californians Act Funding. This amount is broken further into \$37 million for nutrition programs, \$15.66 million for Information and Assistance services, and \$10.44 million for caregiver support.

The ask is coming as Modernizing Older Californians Act funding is winding down. As other bills continue to move through the legislative process, Jeremy will provide updates on those with impacts to departmental programs.

#### **DEPARTMENT**

The Department is drafting its budget for the next fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. The County is requesting that all departments prepare step down plans in General fund areas. This has impact on any over-match programs such as senior nutrition.

The Older Americans Month Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2026. This event will be held at Aging and Adult Services Department, located at 5357 Truxtun Avenue from

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Channel 23 News has offered to promote the event and have a booth at the event this year. There will be no charge for community partners and flyers have begun to be circulated.

Adult Protective Services has begun planning for the Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference and has a date selected of June 11, 2026. They are awaiting contract language to secure The Lux Event Center as the venue, which is located off Gosford in Bakersfield. The process of selecting presenters for the event is occurring and topics will be shared as they develop the program.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Community First Choice Option (CFCO) penalty continues to be a high priority to minimize the penalty to the department/county. The penalty total as of the end of January is \$287,713.84. Staff are pivoting to try to address the pending applications and other reassessments that are overdue. Challenges faced are high volume and staffing to keep up with the workload.

The Calfresh Healthy Living program within the department will end due to no longer receiving federal or state funding effective 3/31/2026. This is in part due to HR1 implementations. They continue exploring partnership with Eli Health for a Medicare Funded program called Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model. More information will be shared as it is fully implemented.

The Ombudsman program is currently seeking Request for Proposals (RFP) to assume the program. Applications were due on March 12, 2026, and additional updates with the outcomes of the process will be shared.

## **OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE** – S. Bodnar; Y. Sherrell

No report.

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

Vice Chair Lemucchi shared that the Senior Rally Day is scheduled for May 6, 2026. It will be a virtual meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The registration information for this meeting has already been passed on to the Commission. CSL is working on proposals for 2027. March 16<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to submit CSL proposals. She submitted one proposal about Active Adult Communities with Homeowners Associations (HOA). There are some HOAs in California that are not allowed to keep their interest rates in their reserves account – it must go to a major HOA. Some are under the umbrella of a large HOA, and their individual active adult community can't keep their own interest rates.

Chair Snyder added that she is teaming up with one of the CSL Assemblymembers out of the Tulare area who will be submitting a proposal for long-term care accountability and licensing reform. The intention is for any of the long-term care owners, providers, or facilities who are in violation and are always being cited to the degree where they are really creating harmful environments for people, or not mitigating the harmful environments, and then close their

businesses, and then reopen under other names, or other types of issues where they continue to work under the guise of other business names, or bringing in different family members, etc., but are still in control. The intention is to look at that carefully and get reform built into it so that it can no longer happen. She will be assisting with research and will keep the Commission updated as it evolves.

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

Commissioner Gomez provided the following report:

#### Recently Reappointed:

1. Yolanda Prado – reappointed by Aging and Adult Services. New term expires 09/08/2027.
2. Barbara Goodlow – reappointed by Bakersfield Senior Center. New term expires 12/08/2027.

#### New Appointments:

1. Stacie Dollar – appointed by Around the Clock Care. Term expires 08/07/2027.

#### Resignations/Retiring:

None.

#### \*Expired Terms:

1. Ellen Linder – In Process, awaiting response.

\*Commissioners can continue serving until they are reappointed.

#### Terms Soon to Expire:

1. Vivian Cao – term expires 06/17/2026
2. Sherry Gomez – term expires 06/17/2026
3. Christie Ray – term expires 06/17/2026

#### Vacancies:

1. District 2 - for term expiring 06/17/2026 (replacing Gloria Brown)
2. District 2 – for term expiring 09/29/2027
3. District 3 – for term expiring 09/22/2027
4. District 5 – for term expiring 06/17/2027

#### New Applications Received:

None; however, she did speak with Priscilla Sanchez, who applied last month, but she said she is waiting to see if she will be appointed to another committee.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for March 2026.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION** – *E. Linder*

Commissioner Linder shared that as of November 2025, on behalf of the Commission on Aging, she has been sending notes to Aging and Adult staff via email through Laura Juarez. It is intended that these notes will give a little boost of encouragement to staff from the COA. Some notes contain a photo to put a smile on their face, or a little pat on the back to

let them know we appreciate what they're doing. She's received some positive responses from the notes sent so far.

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

Chair Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met on Tuesday, March 4, via Zoom and continued its ongoing discussions on several key topics. While some updates may sound familiar, the committee is making steady progress. Discussions are as follows:

- **Commissioner Appointments & Recruitment** - The committee continues to focus on commissioner appointments and recruitment efforts. Although this topic has been discussed frequently, it is important to note that the Commission is not in a crisis at this time. A significant number of departures—five commissioners leaving within a short period—created a temporary gap in representation. Active recruitment efforts are underway to ensure balanced representation. Commissioners have been working diligently behind the scenes; for example, Jan has made personal trips to Taft to engage potential candidates. The committee expressed appreciation for all current appointees and their continued service. Special acknowledgment was given to Commissioner Goodlow on her decision to continue serving on the Commission.
- **Social Media Discussion** - The committee discussed a suggestion from a Commissioner regarding the development of a social media presence. This idea was brought before the Executive Committee, where members considered direction, sustainability, and the possibility of a pilot program. The Executive Committee decided to defer the matter to the Marketing Committee for further exploration. The Marketing Committee will develop recommendations, including proposed boundaries, protocols, and implementation strategies, to bring back to the Executive Committee for future consideration. Commissioners are encouraged to share any ideas or suggestions with the Marketing Committee.
- **Communications Ad Hoc Committee** - The Communications Ad Hoc Committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and held a productive discussion. Based on the meeting notes, the committee focused on longstanding communication challenges identified over the past year—particularly those raised during visits to senior centers across the county. Communication and transportation remain top concerns among community members. The committee has begun developing talking points and exploring potential solutions. Further updates are expected. Commissioner Prado emphasized that while the Commission has valuable information to share, it is not always reaching the intended audience. This raises the question of how best to connect with community members. Effective communication strategies should consider audience awareness, clearly convey available resources, and highlight the benefits to individuals and their families.

Vice Chair Lemucchi added that the Ad Hoc Committee is identifying needs that may fall under both the Marketing and Senior Center Advisory Committees. While ideas and potential solutions are emerging, success will also depend on Commissioners' active participation. She shared her recent outreach efforts in Taft, where she spoke at the Chamber about the current meeting and observed similar communication challenges within the City. She also

noted that while brochures are made available in public spaces, many seniors may not be aware of them. Increasing direct engagement, such as speaking with seniors during meetings and pointing out available materials. This may help improve awareness.

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

Commissioner Griffin reported that the committee will meet on March 19, 2026. Application delays continue due to the focus on processing Community First Choice Option (CFCO) intakes to avoid State penalties. She noted that delays remain an ongoing challenge, though efforts are being made to improve processing times. Commissioner Griffin shared that community members have raised concerns about intake delays. She encourages them to attend bi-monthly meetings to learn more about the IHSS program and to possibly speak with IHSS management, though very few have attended. She will provide a fuller update next month.

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

No report.

**MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE** –J. Juarez-Ceja; M. Salazar; Y. Prado; J. Snyder

Commissioner Prado reported that she hasn't been able to contact the vendor for the jar openers, but she is working on getting the jar openers ordered and have them delivered before the Senior Resource Fair.

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

No report. Laura Juarez reminded Commissioners that the CSL Elections are coming up in May 2026.

**SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY** – S. Bodnar; B. Goodlow; A. Griffin; C. Ray

The Committee provided reports on the following senior centers:

- Commissioner Goodlow:
  - **Tehachapi Senior Center:** She made a visit to Tehachapi Senior Center and talked with Louis Green about the center and had lunch with him and about seven seniors who were also there for lunch. One gentleman asked about IHSS services and respite care, so she gave him the number to call AASD. They get about 35 seniors on Tuesdays and other days when there's activities at the center. When there's no activities, the seniors usually just pick up their lunch. They will be having a luncheon to help support the cost of their utility bills. Every month they have this fundraiser, so on March 27<sup>th</sup>, they are selling corned beef and cabbage.
  - **Shafter Senior Center:** She also visited Shafter Senior Center, but no one was there but she received a copy of their schedule: On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, they have Zumba classes, but the day she went, she picked up her lunch and left since no one was there. Commissioner Griffin shared that the Activities Director retired but will continue to volunteer her time offering dance

therapy at different senior centers throughout the county. Commissioner Prado added how the dance exercises have been well accepted at the Richard Prado Senior Center.

- **Taft Senior Center:** She visited the Taft Senior Center and had lunch with the few seniors in attendance. Angela already provided the details for this center in her report.
  - **Bakersfield Senior Center:** The center will be closed starting April 30, 2026, and moving May 1, 2026. This weekend, there will be a health fair at Lowell Park on 800 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Bakersfield, CA, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Bodnar:
    - **Ridgecrest Senior Center:** Parliamentarian Bodnar shared that the Ridgecrest Senior Center has really rallied up other seniors and they are doing all sorts of things now. They have yoga every other week and crochet classes, so it is nice to see them coming together.

Chair Snyder shared that one thing she observed at the 60+ Club senior group at CSUB is that they tend to survey their members almost annually making sure that what they are presenting and providing in terms of activities is still relevant to the people who are in attendance. It's important to know what their seniors like and want to do to keep the momentum.

#### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** – E. Linder

Commissioner Linder reported it is glowing right along.

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

No report.

#### **TRANSPORTATION** – J. Lemucchi; M. Salazar

No report. The next Social Services, Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

#### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** – E. Linder; Y. Sherrell

Commissioner Linder shared that prior to the meeting, the Commission recognized 1 senior nutrition volunteer for her volunteerism. Volunteers will continue to be recognized as they visit different senior centers throughout the county.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- **Centenarian Recognition Program Parliamentarian** – Commissioner Ray shared that they are working on three certificates and possible parties to attend for Maxine Scatena (4/13), Endelva (Del) Troy (3/28), and Dorothy Allard (certificate only – birthday was in February). She is working on getting all the information needed to add to the COA website.

- **Spring Gathering** – Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP) is hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gathering. This year's event is being moved to Bakersfield College (BC) in the Renegade Center (indoors), and will be held Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are seeking healthcare exhibitors, partners, and cultural vendors. Please call 661-327-4030 or email them at [baihpcommunity@bakersfieldaihp.org](mailto:baihpcommunity@bakersfieldaihp.org). Everyone is invited to this free event. They will have free parking and free food prepared by the BC culinary students.
- **Older Americans Month Resource Fair** – May 2, 2026, at Aging and Adult Services from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be free document shredding, community resource booths, educational presentations, chair yoga, mobile health clinic, games, giveaways, an Elvis impersonator, and more!
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Conference** – June 11, 2026, The Lux Event Center in Bakersfield. Details are still being finalized. Dodgers Ticket Game Package was secured (donated), so the Commissioner will need help with the opportunity drawing during the event.
- **Caring for the Caregiver Conference** – Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County (ADAKC) is hosting this conference on November 7, 2026, at Hodel's Country Dining. Commissioner Salazar and Commission Bodnar are working with ADAKC to have the conference live streamed in Ridgecrest. The Ridgecrest Hospital has graciously offered their facility and IT team so that the caregivers in Ridgecrest can attend virtually.

#### NEXT MEETINGS:

| EXECUTIVE MEETING                                                                                                                      | REGULAR MEETING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 1, 2026, at<br>1:30 pm Via Zoom<br>If interested in attending via Zoom, please<br>contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052. | Monday, April 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.<br>Ridgecrest Senior Center<br>125 S. Warner Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555<br>(COA Ex-Officio Members and the public may attend<br>in person or via Zoom. Please contact Laura Juarez at<br>661-868-1052 for the link to join) |

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver  
Secretary

JO/lj