

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

May 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Aging and Adult Services Department
5357 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93309
and via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:08 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 – Vivian Cao, Sonia Dhillon, Stacie Dollar, Anabel Griffin, Sherry Gomez, Barbara Goodlow, Julie Juarez-Ceja, **Jan Lemucchi, Ellen Linder, ****Jeremy Oliver (non-voting), Julie Parsons, Yolanda Prado, Christie Ray, Miguel Salazar, Yarnell Sherrell, *Judy Snyder

Virtually – None.

Excused Absences: Susan Bodnar, Norma Jackson, 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
Michele Gomez – Program Manager
Colleen Philley – Program Manager

GUESTS:

In Person: Shubhangi Shrivastava, Sheila Roth, Catherine Vasquez, Jose Lopez, Isaac Preston

Virtually: Tiffany Cigich, Hermandeep Dhawali, Peggy Langels, Sara Swertfager, Kayla Pinkston

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments: None.

Commissioner Comments :

- Chair Snyder extended a welcome to newest Commissioner, Julie Parsons, who shared her background in education and childcare services.
- Commissioner Cao shared that on behalf of the Kern County Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Black Chamber, and the Downtown Business Association, they are co-hosting a Public Safety Forum. The event will take place on Thursday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the historic Fox Theater. The forum features a panel of prominent city and county leadership, including Sheriff Donny Youngblood, Bakersfield Police Department Chief Greg Terry, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, Fire Chief Aaron Duncan, and County Supervisor Jeff Flores. Outside the theater, a resource fair will feature a variety of city and county personnel. Representatives from Public Works, Code Enforcement, and Aging and Adult Services will be available on-site to help residents resolve local issues. Commissioner Cao will serve as the moderator for the event. She invites community members to submit their questions to her directly so she can pose them to the panel during the forum, noting that anyone should feel free to text or reach out to her with inquiries. In addition to the forum, Commissioner Cao highlighted that the county budget hearing is scheduled for May 19th. She concluded her remarks by welcoming Commissioner Parsons and thanking her for her representation of District 3 on the Commission on Aging.
- Commissioner Sherrell shared that Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA) Senior Law Center accepts walk-ins on Wednesdays. The main building door is closed while work is being done but you can walk across the parking lot and ring the doorbell to enter. They are open, you'll just need to gain access through the other door. They do have signs out there letting the community know.
- Commissioner Juarez-Ceja clarified about the change with ADAKC. As of 04/30/2026, they no longer offered the Adult Day Care program, but their organization is still operating. They are offering additional support groups in the community and rural areas. They are still available to help the community. Commissioner Prado added that an employee of ADAKC, Jose, went out to the Richard Prado Senior Center to share information about Alzheimer's. The seniors in attendance were eager to learn.

She was thankful for Jose presenting, and the seniors are waiting for him to come back to the senior center in June 2026.

- Chair Snyder announced that there are materials from the Department of Aging and transportation surveys for the Commissioners on the table to take and complete. She shared that the Senior Resource Fair was terrific and during that event, she was given a stack of business cards from the California Department of Justice – Fraud Division. Those cards were also placed on the table for Commissioners to take.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made to approve April 20, 2026, Regular Commission on Aging meeting minutes as presented.
Motion: Prado; **Second:** Lemucchi; **Abstention:** Parsons, Sherrell, Griffin, Juarez-Ceja;
Objection: None.
Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE (CSL) ELECTIONS 2026-2023:** On April 6, 2026, the CSL issued a Certificate of Eligibility for PSA #33 to incumbents Jan Lemucchi (Senior Senator) and Judy Snyder (Senior Assemblymember). This certificate is valid from April 1 through June 30, 2026. Because both candidates ran unopposed, the Commission on Aging officially declared their elections by acclamation:

Senior Senator: Jan Lemucchi

Senior Assemblymember: Judy Snyder

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Isaac Preston

Isaac Preston attended in person and reported on several county projects, including the completed \$862,000 ARPA-funded Rosemond Park restroom renovation and a \$790,000 RENEWBIZ community building project. A separate \$9 million initiative is expected to finish in June, while the \$2.69 million Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area improvements, featuring a new splash pad and dock system, are scheduled for completion in December 2026. Additionally, an estimated \$9.5 million General Fund investment will support the Rosemond Sheriff Substation project beginning in the fall.

VETERANS SERVICE – Jose Lopez

Jose Lopez attended in person and shared updates on Kern County's upcoming budget discussions, veteran outreach initiatives, and holiday preparations. While the current county budget remains balanced and his department staffing is stable, extensive talks are expected to take place at tomorrow's Board meeting. Their team remains committed to maximizing their existing resources to meet the ongoing needs of residents. To help bridge the gap for veterans who often lack guidance on using their military benefits post-discharge, they launched a series of VA homebuyer workshops. Inspired by his own success using a VA loan over a decade ago, these sessions have proven highly successful. Last Thursday's workshop drew a massive turnout and featured a credit repair specialist who taught

attendees how to qualify for a home loan. Due to strong community demand, these workshops will now become a quarterly event series, with future dates promoted across social media and public channels. Preparations are also underway for Memorial Day events at Union Cemetery. Community members are invited to assist with flag placement on Friday afternoon, which operates on an "all-hands-on-deck" basis without the need for reservations. The formal Memorial Day Ceremony will follow on Monday morning, with him serving as the Master of Ceremonies. Their department continues to rely on three dedicated volunteers who travel extensively to support veterans at senior centers, senior facilities, and other local care homes. To ensure veterans receive accurate support, the department prioritizes thorough training for these volunteers before they are deployed to the field. Jose will create a list of the services their department provides with contact information for the Commissioners to share.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Sara Swertfager, SPHN

Sara Swertfager attended virtually and shared key updates highlighting new community initiatives and seasonal health resources. Their department's ongoing 2026 annual campaign, "Thrive Like a Poppy," continues to celebrate health as a lifelong journey. By using the life cycle of a poppy flower as a metaphor, the initiative spotlights essential public health services and seasonal wellness tips tailored for every age group. Currently in its second quarter, the campaign is focusing heavily on teens, affectionately dubbed the "Sprouts." Families and residents can visit their website to access targeted resources covering tobacco prevention, water safety, body art safety, and heat prevention. In addition to seasonal wellness, Public Health has officially launched the Valley Fever Ambassador Program to deepen community education regarding symptoms, prevention, and local resources. Becoming an ambassador is designed to be simple and accessible; it requires no prior medical experience or long-term volunteer commitment. Interested individuals only need to email valleyfever@kerncounty.com to sign up for a brief 30-minute training session, equipping them to share life-saving health information throughout their neighborhoods. Health officials announced that the 2025–26 flu season has officially concluded, meaning no new influenza vaccine recommendations are active at this time. However, community members are reminded to stay up to date on other standard immunizations. Those requiring routine wellness vaccines or specialized travel immunizations can easily schedule an appointment with the public health clinic by calling 661-321-3000.

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

Chad Acker could not attend but prepared a report that was read by Chair Snyder:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Kern BHRS is marking its 65th anniversary in May by launching a major restructuring of its outpatient systems. This evolution aligns with State shifts under Proposition 1 and the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). The new framework prioritizes high-risk, unhoused, and complex individuals with co-occurring disorders by mandating 30% of funding for housing and 35% for Full-Service Partnership/WISE programs. Remaining funds will sustain prevention, early intervention, and crisis services. To support these changes, the county is introducing new children's programs, launching the SmartCare health records system, and expanding crisis infrastructure through 988 agreements, CARE Court, and homeless co-response law enforcement partnerships.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Tiffany Cigich

Tiffany Cigich attended virtually and reported about the Medi-Cal Policy Change regarding Reinstatement of Asset Limits for Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal Programs. Effective January 1, 2026, asset limits were reinstated for non-MAGI Medi-Cal programs, impacting aged and disabled beneficiaries during new applications and renewals. The policy sets a \$130,000 limit for individuals, with an additional \$65,000 for each family member, requiring households to report assets like bank accounts and stocks, while exempting homes, one vehicle, and irrevocable burial funds. To ease compliance, members may now self-attest to asset values on renewal forms or verbally, eliminating the need to submit physical documentation. Commissioner Cao shared that she serves on the HR1 Task Force and highlighted ongoing efforts to investigate discrepancies in eligibility requirements for programs like Medi-Cal, Medicaid, and CalFresh. Commissioner Cao noted that while they serve on the Food Policy Council of Kern County and coordinate with local medical providers (such as Kern Medical and Kern Health), Lito, the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), is taking the lead on managing these system changes. Commissioner Cao expressed appreciation for Lito and the entire DHS team for handling these complex transitions.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels attended the meeting virtually and reported that employment services continue to be available to job seekers in the Delano area through a strategic partnership with Proteus, despite the absence of a standalone local office at this time. Individuals seeking employment assistance, access to resource room services, or other workforce support can currently receive in-person assistance from Melinda Cost, who is stationed at the local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. Contact information for both Melinda Cost and the Proteus office was included in the comprehensive report previously submitted to Laura. Peggy also shared that local service delivery will soon expand with the opening of a dedicated Proteus office in Delano, anticipated within the next few months. Once the new office is operational, Melinda Cost will relocate from the DHS office to the Proteus facility, creating a centralized location for employment and workforce development services in the community. In the meantime, Delano residents continue to have full access to Bakersfield-based services through virtual platforms. Job seekers may participate in online orientations and professional development workshops, ensuring equitable access to workforce resources regardless of location. Additionally, a virtual expungement workshop is offered on the first Friday of each month, providing participants with guidance on clearing eligible legal records to improve employment opportunities. For individuals able to travel to the Bakersfield recruitment center on Olive Drive, two specialized in-person programs are available each Tuesday. The Job Hub, held Tuesday mornings, features announcements of current job openings by job developers and offers direct networking opportunities with local employers. Operation VIP (Veterans Job Club), held Tuesday afternoons, provides employment resources, career support, and peer networking specifically for military veterans. Randstad is currently the primary agency actively recruiting in the Delano area. Available positions include forklift drivers, shipping clerks, quality control staff, and machine operators. Interested applicants may apply in person at 1420 High Street, Suite B. An update was also provided regarding the SER Jobs for Progress Federal Senior Employment Program. While the program continues to accept applications, it remains significantly overburdened, with far more

applicants than available placements. This ongoing shortage underscores the strong demand for part-time employment opportunities among seniors and individuals living on limited incomes. To support outreach and partnership efforts that may generate additional work opportunities for participants, Peggy provided the following SER Jobs for Progress contacts: Deborah, Program Coordinator, at 635-2792, and Jay Cardenas, Supervisor. Additional information is available through the SER California website: www.SERCCalifornia.org. Peggy will also email a promotional flyer to Laura for distribution to the Commissioners. Café 1600 is entering its final week of operation for the season. Because the café follows the high school district's academic calendar, it will close at the conclusion of the school year. Community members are encouraged to visit during the final week and enjoy the current menu before the seasonal closure.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez attended in person and reported 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. 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. Mobile homes do qualify on the home accessibility grants with the park manager's approval to install a ramp. Mobile Homes also qualify for the Home Improvement Loan if they own the land. Roofs are eligible depending on the year. If the roof is 15-20 years old, they would require the entire roof to be replaced and brought to current building code standards. If the roof is five years old, it's likely they can make repairs, but they would have to check with the contract and determine if it is something they'd feel comfortable with repairing or replacing. These programs are available to clients living within County limits. If you know anyone interested in either program, please have them call the office at 661-862-5026.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Hermandeep Dhawali

Hermandeep Dhawali attended virtually and reported that ILCKC is launching a new Benefits Planning Services Program in collaboration with the Kern Regional Center to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving employment, financial stability, and long-term security. Additionally, a community emergency preparedness training session will be held on June 10th at the Kern River Valley Senior Center in Lake Isabella, walking community members through creating emergency plans, building disaster kits, and learning about local resources available during emergencies. Flyers were available for anyone interested. They're still accepting walkers, wheelchairs, and other durable medical equipment.

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM – Kayla Pinkston

Kayla Pinkston attended virtually and reported that the Kern County Victim Services Unit and Family Justice Center are located at 1315 8th Street in downtown Bakersfield, and reminds the community that services are available to victims of crime regardless of whether they

choose to report the incident. The center provides comprehensive support, including criminal justice assistance, on-site law enforcement reporting, counseling, and restraining orders, as well as connections to Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance for elder abuse programs.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS - AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken the step of deferring \$1.1 billion in federal funding tied to California's In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. IHSS is a federally approved Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program to keep people safe at home and out of costly institutional settings. Within Kern County, we serve over 18,000 recipients. The funding being withheld is for services already rendered by providers of the IHSS recipients. CMS has cited concerns over IHSS growth in caseload, costs, and concerns over program integrity. In addition to the IHSS-related deferral, CMS also included roughly \$200 million associated with long-standing administrative and technical claiming items that the state has already been working through with CMS. These administrative claims are related to program administration and agency operation costs, not health care. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has submitted comprehensive documentation to CMS demonstrating compliance with claiming processes. We are unsure of what the impact of this deferral of payment will be at this time, but we are aware that the state is trying to resolve the issues.

STATE

The Governor released his May revise to the state budget. Within the revise are the following changes that have impact on older adults and people with disabilities:

California is challenged by H.R. 1, federal legislation passed last summer, which has reduced our federal revenue, increased state costs, and required program changes.

County Medi-Cal Administration—The May Revision reflects a one-time augmentation of \$262 million (\$74 million General Fund) in 2026-27, \$33 million (\$16.7 million General Fund) in each of 2027-28 and 2028-29 to support county workload for the implementation of Medi-Cal eligibility changes pursuant to H.R. 1. This augmentation for county administration includes optional surge staffing capacity to provide additional support to counties with workload such as application, renewal, call center, and work requirements. The May Revision includes a total of \$2.8 billion (\$705.3 million General Fund) for Medi-Cal County administration in 2026-27.

The May Revision includes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- Increase Monthly Premium for Adults with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (Aged 19–59) from \$30 to \$50.

- **Medi-Cal Asset Test Limits**—A General Fund reduction of \$278.3 million in 2026-27 and \$495.6 million ongoing, inclusive of IHSS impacts, to reinstate the Medi-Cal asset limit for seniors and disabled adults to \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple, effective no sooner than January 1, 2027. The 2025 Budget Act included a partial reinstatement of the Medi-Cal asset limit that went into effect January 1, 2026.

- **Enhanced Care Management**—A General Fund reduction of \$41.4 million in 2026-27, and \$99.2 million ongoing to refine eligibility criteria, service definitions, utilization management criteria, and payment adjustments for the Medi-Cal enhanced care management benefit, effective January 1, 2027.

In-Home Supportive Services - The May Revision includes \$33.7 billion (\$12.7 billion General Fund) for the IHSS program in 2026-27.

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

- **Conforming IHSS with Medi-Cal Immigrant Eligibility**—An increase of \$30.8 million General Fund in 2026-27 to conform IHSS to the delayed transition to restricted-scope Medi-Cal for individuals impacted by the federal eligibility change for qualified non-citizens to July 1, 2027.

Other Program Adjustments:

- **Adult Protective Services Expansion**—A reduction of \$70 million General Fund in 2026-27 and ongoing to revert the expansion of Adult Protective Services adopted in 2021-22, including changing the age of eligibility from 60 back to 65.

Permanent Back-Up Provider System – ELIMINATED

The State Legislature will review and potentially suggest amendments to these changes as well.

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) has submitted proposals for additional funding for Nutrition programs and watching closely proposed changes to the funding formula for Area Agencies on Aging. Current proposals are favorable for our Area but disadvantages some larger population areas that would result in less funding creating impacts on their local older adults. Advocating for a fair process for all, the C4A will be requesting more transparency and feedback from the public to the state on revisions.

DEPARTMENT

The Department will continue to monitor the changes mentioned and revise our budgets to compensate for shifts at the state level. Preliminary budget will be approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.

Adult Protective Services has established the title for this year's Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference, "Between Independence and Intervention: The Capacity Dilemma". The date selected is June 11, 2026. Location will be The Lux venue off Gosford in Bakersfield. The Board of Supervisors will proclaim the month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month on May 19, 2026.

The IHSS CFCO penalty continues to be a high priority to minimize the penalty to the department/county. Penalty totals as of the end of March is \$288,532.64. We 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.

We 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.

Ombudsman program was awarded to Valley Caregiver Resources, and the state is supporting the transition. The transition will occur on July 1, 2026, and more information will be shared as the location and names of who will be overseeing the program are updated.

Cooling Centers will be available June 1, 2026, based upon temperature thresholds in specific regions of the County.

OPERATING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – S. Bodnar; Y. Sherrell

No report.

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

Vice Chair Lemucchi shared that General Fund revenues have increased by \$11 billion, higher amount than expected, but 80% of these funds are required to support priority policies. Senior Rally Day was very successful. The information was excellent, and the presentations were very good. She strongly encourages everyone view the recording on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCFfLc07lxE>.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Gomez

Commissioner Gomez provided the following report that was read by Chair Snyder:

Recently Reappointed: None.

New Appointments: Julie Parson, appointed by Third District Supervisors. Term expires 09/22/2027.

Resignations/Retiring: Sherry Gomez, effective June 30, 2026, due to moving out of state.

*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

Laura will send letters requesting reappointments.

Vacancies:

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

New Applications Received:

None.

This concludes the Commissioner Appointment Report for May 2026.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – *E. Linder*

No report.

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

Chair Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met on May 6th. The Older Americans Month Resource Fair was well-received, with increased vendor and attendee engagement and positive feedback regarding document shredding services. Preparations for the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference are progressing. Vice Chair Lemucchi will oversee handling the Dodgers Game Packet fundraiser. Commissioner Cao will be able to help sell tickets for a couple of hours during the event. Will need additional help with ticket sales throughout the event.

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

Commissioner Griffin shared that the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) cases are getting completed quickly. Jeremy already provided most of the news in his report. Chair Snyder shared that Commissioner Dollar will serve as her back up on this committee.

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

Commissioner Ray reported that she recently visited Commissioner Jackson in a local post-acute facility, where she has resided since February. During her initial stay, Commissioner Jackson was receiving physical therapy and appeared to be making steady progress. However, after being transferred to a different unit for reasons that were unclear to her, she is no longer receiving physical therapy and has experienced a decline in mobility.

Commissioner Ray expressed serious concern regarding Commissioner Jackson's condition, noting that she has declining health. Commissioner Ray also raised concerns about nutrition and communication regarding meal options since Commissioner Jackson reported receiving minimal breakfast options, which did not align with the posted menu. Upon inquiry, Commissioner Ray learned that menus were posted on a wall in small print, inaccessible to the residents in the shared room. Staff informed her that residents could request meal substitutions using a form.

Despite her physical challenges, Commissioner Jackson was described as attentive, alert, and cognitively engaged. During the visit, Commissioner Jackson expressed intentions to

change locations but was unsure of how to proceed.

Chair Snyder thanked Commissioner Ray for bringing the matter forward and shared that she had spoken with Commissioner Jackson on several occasions. While Commissioner Jackson had not specifically requested assistance with relocation, Chair Snyder stated she would be willing to help. She noted that Commissioner Jackson has raised broader concerns regarding resident care and conditions affecting other patients, viewing these issues through her role as a Commissioner as well as a resident. Chair Snyder stated that these concerns warranted public attention and informed the Commission that the Long-Term Care Committee would be following up on the matter.

Commissioner Ray further reported that before leaving the facility, she attempted to speak with staff at the nurses' station but stated that despite several staff members being present, no one acknowledged her or responded to her attempts to engage them.

Commissioner Jackson has requested assistance from an Ombudsman. Commissioner Ray expressed concern that while intervention could improve care for Commissioner Jackson, it might not address broader systemic issues and could potentially lead to negative repercussions for residents, based on experiences she and her family have encountered in similar situations.

Secretary Oliver advised that concerns involving licensed care facilities may be reported as elder or dependent adult abuse through the appropriate reporting process. He further shared that he had already contacted the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and requested a follow-up visit, which is expected to occur.

Commissioner Linder added that she had contacted the same facility the previous week to confirm Commissioner Jackson's residence before sending her a card. She was mistakenly informed that Commissioner Jackson was no longer at the facility. Now knowing that she remains there, Commissioner Linder stated that she would send the card.

Chair Snyder concluded by noting that she was given authorization from Commissioner Jackson to share this information and added that significant work remains to be done to improve conditions and oversight within such facilities.

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

Commissioner Prado provided an update regarding the Older Americans Month Resource Fair at Aging and Adult Services. She commended the staff for their exceptional planning and execution, noting that it was one of the most successful fairs the organization has held in years. She highlighted the unprecedented level of staff assistance provided during the booth setup, ensuring all exhibitors were well supported. Attendance at the event was highly successful, with estimates of approximately 300 attendees. The event also featured live entertainment, including an Elvis impersonator. She confirmed to Chair Snyder that the Commissioner manual remains on schedule and will be finalized and distributed by July. Additionally, with the arrival of Commissioner Parsons, plans are underway for an upcoming

new Commissioner orientation session. She indicated she will follow up shortly to coordinate the scheduling and details for this session.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported that CSL Elections are complete and there's no other elections coming up.

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

The Committee provided reports on the following senior centers:

- Commissioner Goodlow:
 - **Bakersfield Senior Center (BSC):** The Bakersfield Senior Center has relocated to R Street. Following the move, concerns were raised by approximately 11 seniors regarding the lunch program. Participants who attend activities at the center are currently required to travel from R Street to Brundage Lane to pick up their meals, creating an inconvenience and added transportation costs. The issue was brought to Commissioner Goodlow's attention in advance of an upcoming retirement meeting, and she subsequently discussed the matter with the organization's president. As a potential solution, volunteers will pick up meals from the Brundage Lane Street location at St. Peter's Church and deliver them to residents on R Street. Commissioner Goodlow also reported that the relocation is now complete. The former building has been vacated and is scheduled for demolition.
- Commissioner Ray:
 - **Ben Austin Senior Center:** Per conversation with Connie Pitkin, attendance is slipping a bit except on Thursdays when they play BINGO. Connie asked her to help line up a few speakers to draw interest. They are looking at inviting an exercise instructor from Kaiser to assist with a fall prevention class, and will try to get help from some of the COA Ex-Officio members regarding scams, AI abuse, etc.
 - **Delano Senior Center:** Things are going well except their air conditioning unit broke. They have people working on it but no fix yet. Rosa informed her about the broken unit so that information was passed to Chair Snyder, Secretary Oliver, and Laura and that is the reason for holding this month's meeting at Aging and Adult Services instead of at the Delano Senior Center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – E. Linder

Commissioner Linder reported she sent out three birthday cards this month, and on the 21st of May, we have our newest Commissioner's birthday so she will send a card to her too.

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

Commissioner Dhillon shared that due to family events that occurred, she could not attend the meeting. She will review the meeting and will provide a report at next month's meeting.

TRANSPORTATION – J. Lemucchi; M. Salazar

Vice Chair Lemucchi reported that the most recent Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 21. She noted that the meeting was brief, lasting approximately 15 minutes, and primarily focused on the completion of the Public Transit Unmet Needs Report. Vice Chair Lemucchi also announced that the committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 14.

Commissioner Salazar reported that on September 11, he participated in a virtual stakeholder discussion as part of the Kern County Transportation Brainstorming Session. He noted that several months had passed without any updates and had assumed the effort may have stalled. However, he received an email that morning from the organizers providing an update and requesting stakeholder input. He explained that the email included draft transportation strategies and a questionnaire seeking feedback. He requested the committee's assistance in reviewing the materials and identifying their top five recommended strategies. To facilitate this process, he plans to distribute the information and instructions to all Commissioners via email. He asked them to provide their feedback to him by June 12th, allowing time for him and Vice Chair Lemucchi to compile and review the responses before submitting the committee's recommendations by the June 18 deadline. Although the materials are several pages in length, Commissioner Salazar emphasized that this is an important opportunity for the Commissioners to provide meaningful input on transportation planning efforts, particularly as they relate to meeting the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities. He noted that the feedback submitted will help inform future transportation strategies and expressed hope that a final draft and summary of stakeholder input will be shared following the review process.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – E. Linder; Y. Sherrell

Commissioner Linder reported that although the volunteer recognition at the Delano Senior Center did not take place, 13 senior nutrition volunteers will still receive thank-you gifts and a commemorative certificate for the center to display. Additionally, Supervisor Couch's office provided certificates for each volunteer. Laura will coordinate with Angela and Julie to distribute these items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- **Centenarian Recognition Program Parliamentarian** – Commissioner Ray shared that since the last COA meeting in April, she's presented one more certificate to Maxine Scatena. It was a great party and well attended. She received another certificate

request for Joan Phillips, which was mailed to family. There is one pending for Margie Omdahl. Waiting for the formal request form to be completed and returned.

- **Older Americans Month Resource Fair** – Chair Snyder extended a special thank you to Laura for ensuring the Commissioners had everything they needed for the event, including the canopy and additional decorations that enhanced the event's atmosphere.
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Conference** – The 27th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is taking place June 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Lux Event Center in Bakersfield. Early Registration is \$55/person through May 22nd and \$65 regular registration through the deadline of June 3rd.
- **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 Bodnar shared that she and Commissioner Salazar 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.
- **National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI)** – Commissioner Prado shared that she was asked to speak during NAMI's 3rd Annual Multicultural Symposium on June 2, 2026, at Hodel's Country Dining. This is a free event and will focus on strengthening mental wellness.
- **Message to Commissioners** – Chair Snyder thanked all Commissioners for the great work they are doing – it does not go unnoticed. She added that if at any time Commissioners need help getting to the Regular meetings, to please reach out to her. Secretary usually drives the County van, but if full, can possibly rideshare with other Commissioners.

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 3, 2026, at 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, June 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. 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 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary

JO/lj