

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1052; (661) 868-1001 FAX



REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2017

Bakersfield Senior Center
530 "4th" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

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

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS (*Chairperson, **Vice Chairperson, *** Parliamentarian)

Commission Members Present:

Chris Barrett, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Linda Fuller, Barbara Goodlow, **Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Jon Johnston, Kim Kotrla, Stephanie Lynch, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, and Yolanda Prado

Excused Absences: Aaron Flucker and Sandy Morris

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Fidel Campos, Business Manager
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Lourdes Garcia, Gracie Mendoza, Johnnie H. Jackson, Leon Smith, Ethel Dixon, Clem Dixon, LaDonna Norwood, Edmond H. Lynn, Rosemary Miller, Susan Hyche, Thelma M. Jackson, Sylvia Hayward, Etta Sanders, Diane Newton, Anna Ward, Barbara Perkins, Jesus Acosta, Jr., Hilda Acosta, Carolina Acosta, Michelle Y. Chatman, Wynda Garrison, Mayola T. Beverly, Joyce Bagsby, Ronnie Littlejohn, Charlie Mae Littlejohn, Ali Morris, Antoinette Johnston, Edward Colley, Peggy Langels, Catherine Vasquez, Greg Collins, Frances Young, Trulla Brown, Andrew Collins, Helen Collins, Joe Valenzuela, Mary Mercado, Peggy Gonzalez, Ramona Garcia, and Lilli J. Parker

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

Lito Morillo confirmed agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked Lilli Parker and the Bakersfield Senior Center staff for the delicious lunch.

Chair Grasty provided information about the funeral services for former Commissioner and Ombudsman, Nona Tolentino.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the February 27, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.

Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)

Lynch/Duquette/Goodlow, Kotrla/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Lilli Parker

Lilli Parker reported Bakersfield Senior Center is working with the City of Bakersfield on installing an electric gate at the senior center as it takes 3 to 4 men to close the gate every evening. They are talking with county and government officials and asking for help with funding for this project. The numbers have increased with the meal and STEP programs. Attendance has increased and seniors are asking if they can have 2 days of the STEP program. STEP assists with balancing and prevention of falls. With the increase in attendance and surveys they have taken, seniors seem to be very pleased with services at the Bakersfield Senior Center. This center always welcomes sponsors, programs, events, and donations. Lilli thanked the Commission on Aging for meeting at the Bakersfield Senior Center and said the Commission is welcome to join them any time. She also thanked the Commission on Aging for donating the U.S. flag and stand to the Bakersfield Senior Center.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT- Meseret Springer

Not in attendance.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported Kern County Mental Health changed their name to "Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services." The logo is also changing. If you know of a senior that is isolated or homebound, dealing with depression or anxiety, please refer them to their free Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP). They have volunteers that are ready to reach out to them. You can also call Aging and Adult Services and they will submit a referral on your behalf. You're welcome to call in yourself. There are sites in Bakersfield, Wasco, Shafter, Tehachapi, and Lake Isabella. Commissioner Brown asked if she will look into whether or not they will go out to California City.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Adrianna Kessler

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported their Department submitted the paperwork to the State of California to continue being the Career Services provider for the Amercia's Job Centers so they're waiting for the Governor to sign it. If anyone is looking for a job, they provide orientation Monday through Thursday at their E. Belle Terrace center. They have a lot of free training going on. They have short-term vocational training. They have job search classes to increase your job skills to get you ready for job searching. They also have new free soft skills workshop that are open to the public. They offer free resume and interviewing workshop every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is a great workshop for individuals who have been out of the job market for a while or for those who want to update their job search skills. There is a new Work Place Image workshop on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This workshop covers how to dress professionally for interviews and at work, how to make a good first impression, examples of proper hygiene and grooming practices, and information on work ethics and how to become a more productive worker. Another workshop taught by Grant Wong is Technology and Social Media Workshop. This workshop is held every Friday at 10:30 a.m. and covers all social media programs to help boost your job search and connect with employers. On Wednesday, April 19th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, there will be an "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Job Fair at the Marriot Convention Center. This event will be open to the public, with first preference to veterans. Job Squad is every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Bring your resume if you attend. Free haircuts are also available by the students of Bakersfield Barber College on the first and third Thursdays of the month after Job Squad. Fliers were handed out for these workshops.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on their two housing programs. The Home Accessibility Grant Program helps to make the residence more accessible for someone that's low-income and has a permanent physical disability. They can install grab bars in the bathroom, handicap ramps in the front or rear door, take out a bath tub and put in a handicap shower, widen doors, and anything that makes the home more accessible. The Home Improvement Program is for home owners to make repairs to their home such as painting, roof, plumbing, electrical, etc. Fliers were handed out for both programs.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported on the recall of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). If they repeal the ACA completely, about 5-6 million American's in California alone, would no longer have medical services. Hospitals, including Kern Medical, would have to find other funding to support providing medical care to however many thousands of people in Kern County would lose out if the repeal of the ACA was done in a way that was completely eliminated. What's being proposed by the Federal Government is that they want to put a freeze on the number of individuals who received insurance through the ACA. The approximate 5-6 million who are currently on ACA, would stay on the ACA. Individuals not currently on the ACA would have to qualify based on the old Medi-Cal requirements. If an individual currently receiving services under the ACA loses their services, in order to become eligible again, they will have to reapply and qualify under the old Medi-Cal requirements prior to the ACA.

Under the President's proposal, the Community Development Block Grant is potentially at risk for being eliminated. The Home Access Grant and Home Improvement Loan programs fall under the Community Development Block Grant. Another component within the Community Block Grant is how states utilize Meals on Wheels program and the funding they receive for that program. This is a program that can get eliminated and/or reduced. We currently do not have any numbers but it is definitely a concern for agencies working in the industry providing this service because we're already dealing with budget cuts at the State level. There is currently no plan to close any senior center or eliminate any Meals on Wheels, which includes congregate meals, but it is definitely being talked about at the Federal Level.

The Governor's Budget proposal is to eliminate the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), which is tied in with Aging and Adult's In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The State wants to shift some of the cost of the program back to the counties. If the State has its way, it would shift close to over \$4 million dollars back to the County, and the County does not have the money to take on those additional costs. The Assembly has put together a proposal to loan out to the counties \$623 million, which is the initial cost that the State is trying to shift back to the counties. The State Government would take the growth revenue that the counties receive through the 1991 realignment. This \$623 million dollar deficit that the counties are dealing with is just the first year alone. Over the next 4 years, counties are looking at a \$1 billion deficit. This proposal doesn't address the gap that is going to happen over the 4-year period.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – L. Oswald, K. Grasty

No report.

CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – N. Jackson, M. Overfield

No report.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller; Y. Prado

Commissioner Fuller reported there are a few Commissioner terms soon to expire. There is a vacancy with Around the Clock Care, and a vacancy with Supervisorial Districts 3 and 4. There was one application received. Laura Juarez will work on the letters for reappointments and new appointments.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Chair Grasty reported the committee met and discussed sending letters to Legislators regarding the elimination of the IHSS MOE. Vice-Chair reported on one of the goals for the COA to not forget about the AASD employees in the outlying areas. Dates have been set to go out to acknowledge those staff.

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

No report.

LONG TERM CARE – C. Barrett; D. Duquette; L. Fuller; N. Jackson

Commissioner Kotrla reported they visited Golden Castle on Mount Vernon Avenue. This is a low-income, private pay assisted living facility with 50 beds. They currently have openings for 2 female beds. There are 2 small 6-bed facilities that are closing this month so there are a total of 11 women that they have to find new placement for. They also visited The Rehab Center Bakersfield on Mount Vernon Avenue, which is a Skilled Nursing Facility. It has recently been remodeled and looks very nice.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch; S. Morris, M. Overfield,

No report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported the current officers in place are eligible to run for another term and each have indicated they are willing to run for another term. No one has contacted the nomination committee that they're interested to run. Laura Juarez will prepare the ballots for elections in June.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – A. Flucker, K. Grasty; J. Johnston; Y. Prado

Chair Grasty reported and she Commissioner Flucker visited Bakersfield Senior Center and presented them with a U.S. Flag and stand. They do have another U.S. flag without a stand.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed a get-well card to Commissioner Overfield. A sympathy card will be sent to the Tolentino family on behalf of the Commission.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TAAC) – M. Overfield

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

No report.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

No report.

NEW BUSINESS -

Commissioner Brown reported the date and time for the East Kern Senior Celebration will be August 8, 2017 from 2-4 p.m. at the California City Senior Center. Tehachapi, Boron, Mojave, Ridgecrest, Inyokern and Rosamond will also be included in the celebration.

Commissioner Brown also passed out information on latest scams.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held in May.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 15, 2017 at Hodel's. Early registration is \$30 and \$40 after early registration. This year's theme will be on scams.

Commissioners are required to attend Ethics training every 2 years. Two sessions are offered by County Counsel. Letters were sent out with dates by County Counsel. You can also complete the class online.

Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County (ADAKC) is having a fundraiser at Jersey Mike's. A 100% of sales will be given to ADAKC. Fliers with details were given to Commissioners in their agenda packets.

The updated Commissioner Member List will be revised and available next month.

Chair Grasty reminded everyone to use Smile Amazon and select "Kern County Commission on Aging" when making online purchases through Amazon. A small percentage (.005%) of each sale is donated to the COA.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 6, 2017 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, April 17, 2017 1:00 p.m. Ridgecrest Senior Center 125 S. Warner Street Ridgecrest, CA 93555

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary