

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2017

Ridgecrest Senior Center
125 S. Warner Street
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, Barbara Goodlow, **Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Kim Kotrla, Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, and Yolanda Prado

Excused Absences: Jon Johnston and Marti Overfield

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Martin Reynoso, Administrative Coordinator
Kristian Larios, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Tracy Chrisman, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Catherine Vasquez, Susan Bodnar, Tracy Selph, Edward Colley and Forrest Lloyd

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters were sent to the Ex-Officio Department Directors thanking them for selecting a representative for their Department and for their active participation at the COA meetings.

Letters were also sent out to vendors for the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

Susan Bodnar, of Senior Services Program with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, reported they were recently awarded the contract through Aging and Adult Services to continue to provide senior services in Ridgecrest. They provide case management services, information and assistance services, and homemaker services to the community, as well as other support groups. She will work with Laura Juarez on appointing an individual who will represent Ridgecrest Regional Hospital on the Commission on Aging.

Commissioner Comments :

Chair Grasty shared that her son got engaged this past weekend.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the staff of the Ridgecrest Senior Center for the great lunch.

Commissioner Brown thanked the COA for the birthday card she received on behalf of the COA.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the March 20, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Lynch/Flucker/None/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF AREA PLAN UPDATE:** The Area Plan Update for 17-18 was presented to the Commission on Aging by Martin Reynoso and was approved.
(M/S/A/O) Flucker/Brown/None/None – Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Tracy Chrisman

Tracy Chrisman reported they serve approximately 30-40 congregate meals each day at the Ridgecrest Senior Center. They have had a lot of programs at the center this year. AARP was out at the senior center to prepare taxes for seniors. They average about 65 homebound meals each day. She has been working with Susan Bodnar of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Linda Fuller with Rose Varga, and Chris Barrett with the Valley Caregivers Support Group. They offer activities at the center such as exercise, crochet classes, and pool. They raise money with their boutiques and donate the money to the senior nutrition program. They have Valentine's, Mother's Day and Christmas programs that also help raise funds for the senior nutrition program. A luncheon will be held on Veterans Day and a free lunch will be given to all veterans.

Commissioner Fuller commended Tracy Chrisman for her work with the Ridgecrest Senior Center.

Commissioner Morris commented that she spoke with two volunteers from AARP and it was reported that they prepared taxes for over 200 seniors at the Ridgecrest Senior Center.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES - Meseret Springer

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Tracy Selph

Tracy Selph discussed and distributed a flyer with information and options to apply for Cal-Fresh benefits.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on the two grant programs offered through their Department. The Home Access Grant Program installs ramps, handicapped accessible showers, and other items to make the home more accessible for low-income disabled individuals. This program is also offered to renters, with the homeowner's consent. The Home Loan Program is only for homeowners to apply for home improvements such as painting, plumbing, electrical, roof. This is a 0% deferred payment loan. There is no interest and no monthly payment required. There is a lien secured on the property that will have to be paid when they move or sell the property. It appears the funding for these programs will be cut and these programs are likely to be eliminated. She will know more after April 20, 2017.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported they are still dealing with the Department's budget. The State is trying to shift the cost of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) programs to the counties. In Kern County there is about a \$4 million dollar deficit that Aging and Adult Services is dealing with. There's a big push from the Legislature to work with the Governor to come up with a solution. There is a proposal on the table that loans the counties the cost of the shift that the State is trying to make. This proposal only covers the initial deficit. This deficit would impact not only the IHSS program, but also the nutrition, Adult Protective Services divisions, and AASD as a whole. The Federal Government is currently looking at reducing Older American's Act funding, which includes Meals on Wheels and congregate meals.

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 three Commissioner terms soon to expire. Laura Juarez has sent letters for reappointment for two of the Commissioners. The other will be sent as the expiration term nears. There is a vacancy with Around the Clock Care, and a vacancy with Supervisorial Districts 3 and 4. No new applications were received. There were four applications previously received and sent to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported there was an employee recognition held today for the AASD nutritional staff employees in Ridgecrest. The committee will continue to acknowledge AASD nutritional staff in the outlying areas as scheduled (Shafter in June, and Taft in September). Anyone interested in accompanying the committee during these presentations, please contact Commissioner Flucker.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald,

No report.

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

The next IHSS Advisory Committee meeting will be in May 2017.

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

Commissioner Duquette reported she, Commissioner Barrett, and Commissioner Kotrla visited Desert Haven in Ridgecrest. It is a very nice facility with 20 residents in their Memory Care facility. Their regular assisted living facility has 58 beds and currently has 53 residents. Each resident has their own room and bathroom. They were up and ready for lunch. The facility has a lot of activities.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee will be meeting in May 2017.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported there is no change from last month's report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, along with other city and county departments will be installing exercise stations at the center. The ribbon cutting will be held the first week of June, and the installation will be following the ribbon cutting. A grant for \$10 thousand has been approved for repairs and a facelift of the Bakersfield Senior Center. On Saturday, April 15, 2017, there was a car show fundraiser where 56 cars participating in the show. It was a great success. For the month of March, 1,200 people signed up for lunches at the Bakersfield Senior Center, of which 1,404 meals were served for that month. The center received donations in the amount of \$3,130, which is the highest ever in the history of the Bakersfield Senior Center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed one birthday card in late March, one in April, and will sending more birthday cards later in April.

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

Laura Juarez will check on the quantity of lapel pins left for the senior nutrition volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS -

Commissioner Brown reported there is an unmet need in California City for Adult Day Care. There was a discussion on how to go about getting an Adult Day Care started. Commissioner Barrett said she will discuss this further with Commissioner Brown.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is tentatively set for May 17, 2017. The confirmed date, details, and invitation to follow.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 15, 2017 at Hodel's. Early registration is \$30 and \$40 after early registration up to the deadline of June 1, 2017. This year's speakers will be Paul Greenwood, Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County, John Mitchell, Deputy District Attorney in Kern County, and Prescott Cole, Senior Staff attorney for California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR).

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.

Commissioners are required to attend Ethics training every 2 years. There is another Ethics class being offered by County Counsel on Friday, August 11, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at the Board Chambers. You can also complete the class online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance

The Senior Celebration for East Kern will be held Saturday, August 12, 2017, from 1-4 p.m. in California City, CA.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 5, 2017 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, May 15, 2017 1:00 p.m. E. Niles Senior Center 6601 Niles Street Bakersfield, CA 93306

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary