

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2017

East Niles Senior Center
6601 Niles Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

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

FLAG SALUTE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

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

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

Commission Members Present:

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

Excused Absences: None

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Luanne Jones, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Kathy Blount, Herbert Lynch, Jo Pat Dix, Eddie Dix, Ocie Brewer, Faye Berry, Helen Dunigan, Leonard Dunigan, Sharon Vignol, Jesse Coronado, Maria I. Reyes, Susie Florian, Moises Florian, Kaye Davis, Edward Colley, Catherine Vasquez, Peggy Langels, Harvey Clowers, Luanne Jones, Valerie Rangel, and Kaycee Phillips

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:

Laura Juarez thanked the Commission on Aging (COA) for the birthday card she received on behalf of the COA. Laura also introduced her mother, Maria I. Reyes, and friends, Susie and Moises Florian who joined the Commission and seniors for lunch.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked Luanne Jones and staff for the lovely lunch.

Commissioner Morris announced her new place of employment is the Society for Disabled Children, located at 1819 Brundage Ln, Bakersfield. The building is in dire need of a facelift. Dunn and Edwards has donated 25 gallons of paint. She has approximately 50-75 high school and college students who will be there on a 3-day Christian retreat. She is in need of painting equipment such as brushes, rollers, tarps, etc. She also recognized Commissioner Lynch for her picture that was featured in the newspaper.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the April 17, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.

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

R. Oswald/Duquette/Overfield, Johnston/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Luanne Jones

Luanne Jones thanked the Commission on Aging for joining the seniors for lunch. There have been some renovations to the East Niles Senior Center, including a new roof and repaving and striping of the parking lot, bringing it up to ADA code. New linoleum was also placed in the restrooms. The East Niles Senior Center is a very active senior center.

Norma Harl reported they have line dancing on Mondays, Tai Chi on Tuesdays, Karaoke and Crafts on Wednesdays, Gospel singing and exercise on Thursday. They are like family and they love it. Norma thanked the Commission on Aging for working for the seniors.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor was the Commission's guest lunchtime speaker and he provided his report prior to the meeting. He spoke about the many programs available to veterans, including the veterans ID cards. He also shared information about the Kern County Honor Flights.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Kaycee Phillips

Kaycee Phillips reported on their Nurses Week celebration that took place last week. Friday is their annual May meeting where they will announce their "2017 Nurse of the Year" nominee.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported there are currently 158,000 Medi-Cal cases in Kern County, and 45,000 Cal-Fresh cases. They recently started a specialized caseload for all Medi-Cal cases that have an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) recipient. This is being done in partnership with Aging and Adult Services and their IHSS staff. The goal is to maintain Medi-Cal for recipients of IHSS. The team consists of 10 staff member, each responsible to make sure the Medi-Cal renewals run smoothly. Each worker has 1,500 cases. This will help prevent IHSS recipients from losing their IHSS eligibility. The team also acts as liaisons for new IHSS cases.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported the Governor signed off for ETR to continue with Career Services. With the new federal budget the Administration is trying to get approved, the Department is looking at having to take a 21% cut to their Work Force Services program. SER Jobs has been completely cut. Anyone who is looking for a part-time or full-time job can attend their Job Squad every Thursday at the Cottonwood & Belle Terrace office. On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, Bakersfield Barber provides free haircuts. They also have a Workplace Image Workshop to help individuals get job ready. The Technology and Social Media Workshop is every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Anyone looking for work can attend their Resume and Skills Workshop every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There aren't a lot of recruitments this week. Anyone interested in recruitments can also go to their website: www.americasjobcenterofkern.com

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez handed out fliers and reported on the two grant programs in relation to housing offered through their Department. The Home Accessibility Grant Program provides ADA handicapped accessible improvements to residents. This is a free program offered to home owners and renters, with owner's consent. The Home Improvement Loan Program is only for homeowners who want to apply for home improvements such as painting, plumbing, electrical, roof. There is no interest and no monthly payment required. A lien secured on the property and the loan will be paid whenever the owner moves or sells the property.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Harvey Clowers reported on the California Community Transition (CCT) program. There have already been several transitions happening this month out of the nursing homes. ILC is working on a grant for \$40,000 to enhance the program. Another grant application was submitted for ILC's Assisted Technology (AT) department to help repair wheelchairs and power wheelchairs. ILC currently has a supply of walkers and canes for anyone in need. On June 13, 2017, ILC will host a Disaster Preparedness class for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The class will start at 2:00 p.m. and will be held at ILC, 5251 Office Park Dr., Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA. This event will teach people how to survive in a widespread emergency. The first 50 in attendance to this event will receive a 3-day survival pack that contains emergency food, water, etc.

OTHER SERVICE PROVIDER

Kay Davis, Service Coordinator at St. John Manor, said she has been working feverously to try to fill the gap between the services in our community and the seniors who need them. She would like to connect with the COA and providers to work together to provide information to seniors.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported on the budget. In January the Governor released his proposed budget and was considering shifting \$623 million cost of IHSS back to the counties, of which \$4 million would be the approximate deficit Kern County would be facing if this proposed budget (funding methodology) passes. The governor released his May Revise and decided not to do the cost shift the way it was intended in January. Rather than shift the entire \$623 million to the counties, the Governor decided to gradually shift the cost over the next 2-4 years. The Governor is looking at shifting \$140 million to the counties and then putting \$400 million State general fund dollars to offset the deficit, and will continue to phase in the cost shift over the next few years by \$300 million, \$250 million, and \$150 million. It is unknown at this time how much of the State dollars will be given to Kern County. The department will still need to embrace budget cuts over the next 2 to 4 years as IHSS grows due to overtime costs, minimum wage increases, etc., and because the State's contribution will gradually decrease. This will cause a greater deficit for the county. We should know more in June 2017.

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 Commissioner Barret has recently been reappointed. There are no new appointments or expired terms. There are two Commissioner appointments soon to expire and Laura Juarez will send letters for reappointments as needed. There are three vacancies. One new application was received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported there was an employee recognition held last month in Ridgecrest for the AASD nutritional staff employees in Ridgecrest.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee discussed the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Elder Abuse Prevention Conference.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Kotrla reported the committee visited Height Street Skilled Nursing Facility. There are 25 residents with full staff and are currently waiting for certification. The rooms are clean and ready for more residents. They also visited Evergreen Skilled Nursing Facility on Tudor Way. Residents seemed to be happy.

Lito thanked Commissioner Kotrla for the services provided with long-term care. The Department recently went through an audit with the California Department of Aging and the Long-Term Ombudsman program did very well with regards to managing and administering the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, as well as the volunteers. Commissioner Kotrla reported there are now 19 volunteers with the Ombudsman program and can always use more.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch; S. Morris, M. Overfield,
No report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported all officers are eligible to run for another term and they all have agreed for another term. . The slate of officers was presented as follows: Chair, Kris Grasty; Vice-Chair, Yolanda Prado; Parliamentarian, Linda Oswald. No other nominations were presented for either office. Ballots will be available for voting at the June meeting. Nominations can still be made from the floor before elections prior to elections at the next meeting. Chair Grasty and Vice-Chair L. Oswald reported they both accept their nomination but will not be in attendance during the June meeting and elections. They will also prepare a written statement accepting their nominations.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center (BSC) has a new free diabetic class that began May 1, 2017 and will end the second week of June 2017. As of right now, the class is full. There were 1,200 meals requested at BSC and served 1,314 meals. Armed Forces Day will be celebrated May 18, 2017. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at BSC on June 8, 2017 at 9a.m. by the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce for the installation of the exercise stations. The BSC Fourth of July "Game Day" celebration will be celebrated on July 3rd because the center will be closed on July 4th. A meat company donated several pounds of meat and it was distributed to the seniors in 2 lbs package. The profit from the cars show fundraiser was \$7,000. BSC received a \$285 donation from the Woman's Club, and \$150 from the Peace Officers of Wasco.

Commissioner L. Oswald reported walls are going up for the new Delano Center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards to three individuals in April.

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

Commissioner Overfield reported on the 3rd Annual Senior Rally Day. There will be lots of guest speakers and more vendors.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Transportation Committee met on May 10, 2017. Their annual unmet needs reports will be put together by the middle of July 2017. A representative from Caltrans was in attendance and asked about being a partner as unmet needs are identified. Senate Bill 1 will boost some of the public transit monies for the next 10 years. Talks are in the works of how to best use this money to make it easier for public transit. Dial-A-Ride is working on a grant with Uber and LYFT to provide transport services in any area, and for the low-income. Proposition 1b has funding right now to make it possible for Amtrak to have a parking lot extension, to add solar panels there, and to have an electric car charging station. They are also discussing adding a transfer station in Ridgecrest. Going live on Kern Transit will be an app, where anyone can go online to purchase their bus ticket. The bus driver will be able to scan their app, as they enter the bus.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

Laura Juarez confirmed there are still a lot of lapel pins for the senior nutrition volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS -

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is being held Monday, May 22, 2017 at Hodel's. Invitations went out in the mail and RSVP's are due today.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 15, 2017 at Hodel's. All vendor tables are reserved. We are almost full to capacity with attendees.

If you are claiming mileage reimbursement for travel to and from the COA meetings, please get your mileage claim form to Laura Juarez by June 19, 2017.

The next Ethics class is Friday, August 11, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at the Board Chambers. The class can also be completed 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.

Please remember 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 Grasty, Lynch, L. Oswald, R. Oswald, and Morris reported they will not be in attendance at the June 19, 2017 regular COA meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 1, 2017 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, June 19, 2017 1:00 p.m. Greenacres Community Center 2014 Calloway Drive Bakersfield, CA 93312

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary