

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2017

Greenacres Community Center
2014 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312

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, Norma Jackson, Jon Johnston, Kim Kotrla, Marti Overfield, and Yolanda Prado

Excused Absences: **Kris Grasty, Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Jeremy Oliver, Program Director
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Antoinette Johnston, Liliana Galvan, Peggy Langels, Catherine Vasquez, Grace Bradbury, Mishelle Ulrich, Lourdes Garcia, Amy Rutledge, Richard Taylor, Judy Snyder, and Kaye Davis

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was sent to Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary thanking them for honoring the veterans of Kern County on Memorial Day with the Thousand Flags tribute displayed throughout the Park at the River Walk.

A letter was also sent to Richard Taylor, of Veterans Services, thanking him for the recent articles he had published in the newspaper regarding our local veterans.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Greenacres Community Center staff for the lunch.

Commissioner Overfield thanked the Commission on Aging and Lito Morillo for the wonderful Elder Abuse Prevention Conference. It was outstanding. Lito Morillo thanked Jeremy Oliver and his staff for the work they did organizing the conference.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the May 15, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Overfield/Jackson/None/None - Motion carried.
- **ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF 2017-2018 COA OFFICERS:** The slate of officers was presented by the Nomination Committee as follows:
Chair: Kris Grasty; Vice-Chair: Yolanda Prado; Parliamentarian: Linda Oswald
There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. It should be noted that Kris Grasty and Linda Oswald were not in attendance but they both submitted a letter in advance accepting their nomination.
M/S/A/O Johnston/Duquette/None/None
The slate was accepted and the officers were elected. No vote necessary as nominees ran unopposed. **M/S/A/O Brown/Overfield/None/None**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia/Lilliana Galvan

Lourdes Garcia reported the Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) is still doing outreach to target isolated seniors who need company, services, and to be linked to resources and programs like Meals on Wheels. If you know of any seniors who can benefit from this program, please refer them to their office or Aging and Adult Services.

Lilliana Galvan added clients needing more intensive services can be directed to their Department or preferably, they can go into the office for a complete assessment, fill out paperwork, make copies, etc. For a list of programs and services offered, visit their website www.kernbhhs.org.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Mishelle Ulrich/Grace Bradbury

Mishelle Ulrich reported they have a waiting list of 84 seniors for Meals on Wheels. This is higher than they have had in quite some time as the need is becoming greater each day. North of the River (NOR) serves over 244 Meals on Wheels seniors every day. In 2016, they served 28,100 congregate meals, and 52,115 Meals on Wheels clients. They look forward to continue serving seniors.

Grace Bradbury reported the Greenacres Community Center has Karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor thanked the COA and Chair Grasty for the very nice letter he received. There is a new Veterans Administration Secretary who contacted him for his opinion on pending legislation. One thing they are trying to get is a new clinic in Bakersfield, and to work on improving the Veterans Choice program to give veterans a choice for medical services and vendors. Suicide prevention is also something they are looking at doing a better job in getting the word out that there's help for veterans. Beginning in November, veterans will have access to the Military Exchange Services. The Exchange offers great deals and is tax-free to veterans. There is free shipping on orders \$49 and more. There was a great Flag Day celebration and are looking at increasing the number of members and commissioners. Mr. Taylor shared a great story about the Vietnam Airline Helicopter appearance at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day. Aid and Attendance is a program to help reimburse medical expenses for veterans or their surviving spouse. It is currently taking about 6 months or less for approval. There are 3 components to qualify for Aid and Attendance: 1) Veteran spends 1 day during the time of war, 2) There has to be a medical need, and 3) They have to meet assets and income qualifications. Staff at the Veteran Services Department is always available to help find benefits for veterans or their surviving family.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Amy Rutledge

Amy Rutledge reported on basic food safety. When preparing meals for the whole day, take out your food all at once, make what you're going to make and then put it away as soon as possible. All perishables, meats, cheeses, dairy, etc. should be put away right away. When shopping, be sure to get all your cold items last so that they aren't spoiled. You can also purchase a cold bag to store your cold perishables during transit from the store to your home, or keep a cooler in your vehicle. The Department has some campaigns going on right now. The first is mosquito control. If you have swamp coolers, make sure you don't have any leaks or standing water. If you do, most of metropolitan Bakersfield is covered by Kern Mosquito Abatement. Contact Kern Mosquito Abatement and ask them to come out to treat the area. "Safe Eats on Kern Streets" is another safety campaign focused on mobile food vendors. All facilities that sell food to the public should have a large, bright green sticker on their vehicle to make sure their food is prepared and handled safely. Each vehicle should have their health permit displayed. Vendors operating without a permit should be reported to Environmental Health Division. Another campaign going on is "Pool Safety." Make sure someone is there keeping an eye out on swimmers at all times. Lastly, Amy encouraged everyone to stay

hydrated. Everyone should drink lots of water to avoid heat exhaustion. Gatorade helps to replace electrolytes when someone is already dehydrated.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Adrianna Kessler

Adrianna Kessler reported they have self-serve options available for clients via telephone. The outbound Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system allows clients to receive automatic messages for appointments or notifications when documents are due. They also have an inbound IVR system that is available 24 hours/day that provides them information about their case. They also have online access where they can apply online through their website www.c4yourself.com and can also complete their renewals, SAR7, and other documents. Currently, 136,000 people call in each month to get information through the IVR. Last year the Department was pushing e-notifications that allow clients to access Notice of Action and documents. If there are documents that have to do with a hearing, those will still go out in the mail. Clients can also sign up for e-texts to remind them of their appointments and to notify them when documents are missing from their case that could negatively impact their benefits. Standard text messaging rates apply but it is very helpful and has been successful. Fliers were passed out with information on how to apply for Cal-Fresh.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported there is not a lot new going on at Employer's Training Resource (ETR). Her supervisor, Lydia Rogers, just retired. Ryan Rush is their new analyst working on getting new grants. With the new proposed federal budget, they are looking at a 22% budget cut for the Department so they are trying to get as many grants as they can. They still have all their workshops going on. The technology and social media workshop has been changed to every Monday at 1:30 p.m. The workplace image workshop is good for anyone new to the job market or anyone trying to get their job search skills back up. The Job Squad Workshop is every Thursday at 9 a.m. Bakersfield Barber College students provide free haircuts on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. The Resume and Interview and Skills Workshop is every Wednesday 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are no recruitments going on this week. Their resource rooms are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on the two programs offered through their Department, the Home Accessibility Grant, and the Home Improvement Loan. The Home Accessibility Grant Program provides ADA handicapped accessible home improvements for individuals who are low-income and have a permanent physical disability. This is a free program offered to home owners and renters, with owner's consent. Improvements include widen doorways, install grab bars, putting in ADA accessible toilets, replacing tubs with showers, or installing ramps at the doors for easier access in and out of the home. The Home Improvement Loan Program is offered to homeowners who want to make home improvements such as painting, plumbing, electrical, roof repair, etc. There is no interest and no monthly payments required. A lien is secured on the property and the loan will be paid whenever the owner moves or sells the property.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

Vice-Chair Prado called for a recess at 2:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Prado reconvened the meeting from recess at 2:10 pm.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported on the budget. There are a series of budget hearings that the County of Kern will hold. The first will be June 20th at 9 a.m. Other meetings will take place at 9 a.m. on July 25th and August 29th. The meeting on August 28th will begin at 6 p.m. These meetings were designed to allow people to have public input into the budget process. One thing that we have been dealing with over the last several months is the shifting of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) cost back to the counties. There is close to a \$4 million deficit. Most of that is largely due to IHSS providers now receiving overtime, minimum wage increasing, and more people (close to 5,000) on the IHSS program. The shift is still somewhat happening but the State will be contributing close to \$400 million in State General Fund dollars to the counties the first year, and then it will decrease to \$300 million, and then \$150 million accordingly year after year. You will continue to see the cost of IHSS increase, and the contribution from the State decrease. At the Federal level, there are potential federal cuts that will impact social service programs operated by Aging and Adult Services which fall under the Older American's Act. The Federal Fiscal year 17-18 begins October 1, 2017. Directors of AASD throughout the state are asking the State to plug back in an additional \$12 million dollars for senior nutrition. The State Assembly and Senate approved the request, but the request was vetoed by the Governor. They will try again next year, although it is anticipated the State budget will get worst. Lito reported there was a classification change with Per Diem staff back in 2014 to extra-help employees. The CAO's office is allowing Per Diem staff again so those staff will be changed back to Per Diem employees.

Commissioner Brown thanked Lito and the Senior Nutrition Coordinators and staff for the nutritious meals they plan and prepare for the seniors.

Jeremy Oliver reported on the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference and thanked the Commission on Aging Foundation for their contribution towards the speaker. The entire month of June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. During this time of year there are a lot of contractor scams so they are being active in watching out for that. They have seen an increase in the number of calls as a result of the heat wave.

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 Morris was recently reappointed by Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County. There are no new appointments. There is one expired term and Laura Juarez is working on the reappointment. There are three vacancies and one new application was received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported the next employee recognition will be held in Shafter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee discussed the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference. The COA Foundation made \$788 on the Dodger tickets raffle. There were approximately 240 attendees and 14 vendors.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported elections are complete.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center's (BSC) diabetic class ended and the 2nd class will begin July 17, 2017 and runs through August 21st at 10:00 a.m. every Monday. For the month of May 2017, BSC served 1,397 lunches. BSC had a veteran's celebration and it turned out great. They will have a BBQ fundraiser in July 2017. One slab of ribs will cost \$25 or 2 slabs for \$45. There was a donation of \$1,000 to BSC by the Porsche Club and they plan to donate \$1,000 or more every year. The City of Bakersfield gave a grant to BSC in the amount of \$1,110. Mercy Hospital requested the BSC to apply for a grant.

Commissioner Johnston reported there was a new paint job done on the Shafter Senior Center building. Landscaping was done as well. It looks very nice.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed one birthday card.

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

Commissioner Overfield reported they'll be meeting the week of August 21, 2017.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Transportation Committee will meet on July 7, 2017.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

Commissioner Overfield thanked Laura Juarez for her help with the Volunteer Recognition.

NEW BUSINESS -

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

Commissioner Kotrla reported she is moving back to Dallas, TX. Devora Gonzales has accepted the Ombudsman position and Estela Casas will be nominating Devora to serve on the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Kotrla's last day is June 30, 2017.

If you are claiming mileage reimbursement for travel to and from the COA meetings, please get your mileage claim form to Laura Juarez by today, 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 East Kern Senior Celebration will be held Saturday, August 12, 2017, from 1-4 p.m. in California City, CA. Sponsorship letters are going out.

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.

Commissioner Brown reported on the East Kern Senior Celebration. Letters have gone out to request sponsors.

Vice-Chair Prado shared an article that was in the paper on June 12, 2017 entitled "Caring for a loved one? Care for yourself, too." Laura Juarez will send a copy of the article to all Commissioners.

Antoinette Johnston shared the City of Shafter is hosting a free fireworks show on July 3, 2017 at 6 p.m. in Shafter.

Commissioner Brown announced they will also have a free firework show in California City.

Lito Morillo reported he will not be in attendance at the July 17, 2017 regular COA meeting. Program Director, Michele Gomez, will fill in for him.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 6, 2017 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, July 17, 2017 1:00 p.m. Tehachapi Senior Center 500 E "F" Street Tehachapi, CA 93561

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary