

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2017

Rasmussen Senior Center
115 E. Roberts Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93308

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:10 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, Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, and Yolanda Prado

Excused Absences: **Kris Grasty, Antoinette Johnston, and Jon Johnston

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Roberta Jack, Monica Candelario, Stephen D. Lewis, Dick Taylor, Judy Snyder, Desiree Ingalls, Peggy Langels, Lucy Flores, Meseret Springer, Lourdes Garcia, Yadira Melgoza, and Catherine Vasquez

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters of thanks were sent to those who donated and/or sponsored the East Kern Senior Celebration. A letter was also sent to CSUB's 60+ Club thanking them for acknowledging senior services during their Elder College coming up on October 23-27, 2017.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

Monica Candelario, of All Things Are Possible (ATAP), shared information about the ATAP program. This program provides recreation, social, and educational services to seniors in their homes. There is one site in Bakersfield at Sunny Lane Village on Sunny Lane. Their phone number is 1-877-604-8999 ext. 207, and their website is www.atap.org. There is a fee associated with this program.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Rasmussen Sr. Center nutrition staff for the lovely lunch.

Commissioner Brown reminded everyone next month's regular meeting will be in California City. Brochures for the Mable Sr. Center were distributed.

Commissioner Hodge reported on an issue that was shared with him about many seniors these days are seeing their children and grandchildren returning to their senior parent's homes and are not helping with the cost of living.

Honorary Commissioner Baker announced that there will be a Veterans Stand Down on Friday, September 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest, CA.

Commissioner Morris shared information about a new program she is working on at the Society for Disabled Children. Many seniors are now raising their grandchildren and are not aware that there are many programs in the community that can possibly help them. The Society for Disabled Children has a Student Tutoring and Reading (STAR) program that assists disabled children with reading and tutoring. Classes will be every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning October 3rd. There is a \$25 minimum registration fee and a minimum \$25/day. There may be sponsors available to help with parents who are unable to pay the daily fee. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call 661-322-5595. She also shared that the Christmas for Seniors program will be working out of the Society for Disabled Children building this year. The building is located at 1819 Brundage Lane, Bakersfield, CA.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the July 17, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Brown/Lynch/L. Oswald, R. Oswald, M. Overfield/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF 2018 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:** The proposed regular Commission on Aging meeting scheduled for 2018 was approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Morris/Overfield/None/Brown

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Desiree Ingalls

Desiree Ingalls reported she is new to the Rasmussen Sr. Center but has been working with seniors for the last 20 years. For the months of July and August, the Rasmussen Sr. Center served about 3,000 home delivered meals for Rasmussen and Greenacres Sr. Centers, and over 800 congregate meals, which would be approximately 250 home meals delivered daily and 100 congregate meals served daily. North of the River is hosting a Fall Festival on October 14, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the park, 405 Galaxy Avenue, Bakersfield. There will be a \$5 pre-registration fee and \$10 at the door. There will be food, games, prizes, and more. The Rasmussen Sr. Center will have a health fare November 15, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They will also begin their "Santa for Seniors" drive soon. The center also has BINGO every Tuesday and Friday, with Penny BINGO on Wednesdays.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor reported there will be representatives from Veterans Services at the Veterans Stand Down in Ridgecrest on Friday, September 22, 2017, as well as at Senior Day at the Kern County Fair. Beginning November 11, 2017, all honorably discharged veterans will be able to shop online at the Military Exchange. Currently, only active duty and retirees can shop online. There will be free shipping on purchases over \$50. Veterans can go to www.vetverify.org to sign up. Once verified, veterans can go online to www.shopmyexchange.com to shop online. Another benefit for veterans and their spouses is they are allowed to be buried at a national cemetery. To do this, the veteran will need to complete the pre-eligibility VA form 40-10007. It will not allow them to select their specific plot but it will allow them to choose which national cemetery, other than Arlington. The spouse will be buried in the same plot with the veteran, a second plot will not be provided, unless both are veterans. The veteran's name will be on the front of headstone and the spouse's name will be on the back of the headstone. If you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a veteran, be sure they have a copy of their DD214 and make sure someone has a copy or knows where it is kept because this saves a lot of time in the event of death. Veterans Services may not always have this form on file. If they don't have it and need to order it, it could take about 2-6 weeks to receive it.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Meseret Springer

Meseret Springer reported flu season is approaching and encouraged everyone to get their flu vaccinations. The Public Health Department has flu vaccinations available. Their office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Flu Vaccinations will also be available at the Swap Meet at the Kern County Fairgrounds October 15th, 7 a.m. to noon, and at the Hosking Ave. Swap Meet October 27th, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please check the Public Health website for other flu clinics @ <http://kernpublichealth.com/>

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Yadira Melgoza

Yadira Melgoza announced their Volunteer Senior Outreached Program (VSOP) program is currently accepting referrals. The VSOP program serves adults over 60 years and provides free support and counseling to seniors who are going through depression, anxiety, or grief. Referrals can be made to Martha Juarez at 661-868-5022. The program is also looking for volunteers.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Adrianna Kessler

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported on the new grant they received, The Disability Employment Accelerator Grant, which is for 31 deaf or hard of hearing individuals over the age of 18 to help get them employed. Their first class started today and they already had 9 individuals in attendance. If you know of anyone interested and who qualifies for this program, please refer them to ETR. There are lots of recruitments going on. Fliers were distributed for all recruitments. The Job Squad continues every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Cottonwood & Belle Terrace office. Free haircuts are provided a couple of Thursdays each month. The Resume and Interviewing Workshops are every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the Technology Workshop is every Monday at 1:30 p.m. Free certified typing certificates are available every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 noon.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez provided information about two available housing programs, the Home Accessibility Grant program, and the Home Improvement Loan. The Home Accessibility Grant is a free program where they make ADA accessible improvements to home for low-income and disabled individuals to help eliminate slips and falls. This is a free program up to \$3,000 to help make improvements such as handicapped accessible ramps, or to remove a bath tub and install a shower stall with some grab bars and shower seat or handheld shower head. This loan is available to home owners and renters, with homeowner's consent. The Home Improvement Loan Program is a deferred loan with 0% interest. This is for home owners who occupy their property and are low-income. It is a mortgage on the property and the loan will be paid when the home is sold. This program will allow home owners to repair or replace existing items, such as painting, roof, plumbing, etc. Fliers were distributed with information for both of these programs.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

Vice-Chair Prado called for a recess at 2:04 p.m.

Vice-Chair Prado reconvened the meeting from recess at 2:19 p.m.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo provided the following report:

Federal News

As part of the relief effort for Hurricane Harvey, the House passed a spending bill for Fiscal Year 2018 that approved funding for the Older Americans Act funding through mid-December 2017. This is helpful because the funding for one of our main programs, HICAP, was slated to be eliminated. Pushing the discussion to December allows for the House and Senate to rethink its position on preserving the HICAP program, which is an essential piece to us assisting those needing Medicare counseling.

New Medicare cards will be issued to beneficiaries in April of 2018. A special note about the

new cards is the fact that it will no longer have beneficiary's social security numbers on them. Each beneficiary will be assigned a unique id number that everyone, including providers, will use. Commissioner Brown warned everyone to be aware of scammers who are aware of the new cards and are already trying to find ways to obtain your social security numbers.

State News

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE), which is the county's bill from the State, is still the main topic for counties throughout the state. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the State have come to an agreement on what the MOE will be for each county. For Kern it's not as bad as initially thought the first year, but in subsequent years, it will for sure impact our funding. The primary reason why it isn't so bad the first year is because the State is putting funding to offset the cost shift it's trying to shift to the counties. However, in subsequent years, the state will reduce its contribution ultimately making the counties responsible for the cost shift. In addition, each counties MOE will have a cost inflator (5%-7% annually) tacked on to its cost automatically regardless if counties reduce its cost of operating the program.

Kern County News

We are also currently in the process of negotiating wages and benefits with United Domestic Workers Union (UDW), who is the union for the IHSS care providers.

Aging and Adult Services is renovating its building to add interview rooms to our new suite. The Department would like to go to one lobby instead of two as it currently stands. However, to do this, we need more interview rooms to accommodate our needs and the main building entrance will be 5343 Truxtun Avenue.

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 Prado was reappointed for another two-year term. There were two new appointments, Commissioner Antoinette Johnston, representing Around the Clock Care, and Commissioner Susan Bodnar, representing Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. There is one expired term waiting on reappointment. There are three vacancies, and two new applications received from John Colocho, and Manpreet Kaur.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported the committee met in August and invited all of the Aging and Adult Services employees to the Golden Generation Conference room for fruit, vegetables, and cookies. The employees were very appreciative. Commissioner Jackson reported she and Commissioners Flucker, Goodlow, and Lynch also recognized the employees in Taft.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met and discussed the upcoming Senior Day at the Fair. Also discussed was the postponing of the Healthy Harvest Resource Fair to spring of 2018, the new COA brochure, the 2018 meeting schedules, and the COA Highlights for 2016-2017, all of which will be discussed further under “information items” on this agenda.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Hodge reported he visited three senior centers. He also visited with Mr. Morillo at Aging and Adult Services and toured the building and was impressed with the facility and services provided. Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center served 1,408 meals during the month of August. The center is planning events for Friday, October 6, 2017, and Friday, December 1, 2017.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards for July and August.

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

Commissioner Overfield reported the next meeting is in December 2017 in Sacramento.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Vice-Chair Prado reported the next meeting is in October 2017.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The 2018 Executive Commission meeting scheduled was approved by the Executive Committee at the September 7th Executive meeting. A copy was distributed to all Commissioners for review.

Senior Day at the Kern County Fair will be Friday, September 22, 2017. Gates will open to seniors at 9 a.m. and open ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. Fair admission is free to seniors 62 years and older, along with free parking up until 4 p.m. Commissioners will be there early to greet the seniors as they enter the fairground gates. Commissioner Jackson has the list of volunteers who will be working the two shifts of 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Healthy Harvest Resource Fair usually scheduled for October at Aging and Adult Services has been postponed to sometime in the spring at a location to be determined.

A new COA brochure was created with updated information. Copies of the brochure were distributed to all Commissioners. Copies of the new COA brochure will be made for Commissioners to hand out to seniors at the fair.

The COA Highlights for 2016-2017 were filed with the Clerk of the Board and appeared on the September 12, 2017 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Some ideas of where to have this year's Holiday Luncheon were presented. Commissioner Duquette volunteered to chair this event. She will call around looking for places to hold the luncheon. Commissioner Morris volunteered to assist with this task.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 5, 2017 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, October 16, 2017 1:00 p.m. California City Senior Center 10221 Heather Avenue California City, CA 93505

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary