

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2017
Wasco Senior Center
1280 Poplar Avenue
Wasco, CA 93280

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, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Antoinette Johnston, Jon Johnston, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, and Yolanda Prado

Excused Absences: Susan Bodnar, Devora Gonzalez, and Stephanie Lynch
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Kristian Larios, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Judy Snyder, Marvin Brown, Catherine Vasquez, and Menlee Schrader

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from the Kern County Christmas for Seniors program thanking the Commission on Aging Foundation for their donation in the amount of \$1,000.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the senior nutrition staff for the great lunch and dessert that was served.

Chair Grasty reminded the Commissioners and ex-officios to please RSVP with Laura Juarez for lunch prior to 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before each regular meeting.

Parliamentarian L. Oswald thanked Laura for her quick response confirming/acknowledging receipt of their RSVP via email.

Commissioner Goodlow thanked the Commission for the "get well" card she received.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the October 16, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Barrett/Brown/Flucker, Goodlow/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:** A motion was made to acknowledge Aging and Adult Services staff on December 6, 2017. Candy canes with a thank you poem will be given to all staff.
M/S/A/O – Duquette/Prado/None/None – Motion Carried.
- **APPROVAL OF AMENDED 2018 COA REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:** Chair Grasty announced no amendment is needed and this item is to be removed from Action Items.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Larios

Kristian Larios introduced Alejandra Almanzar, the Site Coordinator for the Wasco Senior Center. There are approximately 17 congregate meals served daily. There are 45 home delivered meals to seniors in Wasco and the route is currently full. In addition to the Wasco route, there are 25 more home deliveries on the Wasco, Lost Hills, and McFarland route. On Mondays, the Happy Hookers knit at 9 a.m. On Wednesdays the center has an exercise class at 10 a.m., and on Fridays they have movies at 9 a.m. Their upcoming events are the Thanksgiving meal and Christmas for Seniors in Wasco. The Sr. Nutrition Site Coordinators handed out 850 surveys to home delivery seniors to get an assessment of what their needs are. They have received 432 responses so far and will be giving out surveys to the congregate participants.

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 – Yadira Melgoza

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Adrianna Kessler

Adrianna Kessler reported all office now have a kiosk at DHS to assist with checking in. Customers will receive a number at the kiosk, have a seat, and wait for that number to be called. Their number will also appear on the tv monitor so they can monitor their place in line in case they cannot hear the number called. The kiosk will send an e-mail message to the employee that the client is there to see them and to let them know the reason for the visit. If the wait time is longer than 15 minutes, the message will get elevated to a supervisor. There is staff available that will help clients use the kiosk, and also have staff available to help persons with disabilities or those who have difficulties using the kiosk. There is also a kiosk in the main office that is for imaging purposes only. Clients can image documents directly to their case. November 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018 is open enrollment for Covered CA. There have been some changes with some of the plans offered through Covered CA that are more costly. A huge change for seniors receiving Cal-Fresh benefits is that medical cost for prescriptions can be used as a deduction on their Cal-Fresh case and allow for more Cal-Fresh benefits. A one-time proof that medical expenses are more than \$35/month then clients will receive the standard deduction of \$120/month. This might be checked on the next renewal. A flyer has been mailed to existing Cal-Fresh clients of this rule change.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez shared information about the Home Access Grant program that funds as a grant for low-income disabled individuals to receive a handicapped accessible ramp at the their front or rear door, install a handicapped accessible stall, widen doorways, American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible toilets, bars, and anything that makes the home modification easier for people to get and around their home safely. The Home Improvement loan program is for 0% interest for home owners. Improvements can include plumbing, electrical, paint, roof, to repair or replace the existing home, and to address any safety concerns. There are no payments or interest but a lien is placed on the house until they either pay it voluntarily or when they sell the property or move out.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

State Level – In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) continues to be discussed at the State Level. It will be an ongoing topic for the next 2 years. The implications on the cost shift the State is making to the counties are profound and will significantly impact the County from a fiscal standpoint. Additionally, we are still in negotiations with the United Domestic Workers (UDW) union regarding wages and benefits for IHSS Providers.

Federal Level – On October 19, 2017, the House passed the Senate version of a FY 2018 budget. Although not binding, it sets the stage for Congress to lay out its agenda for spending. The budget is a framework Congress will use to decide which programs to fund or not fund. The Senate Finance and the House Ways and Means committees will look at appropriating funding to each of these programs within the Federal budget. What's on the table is the tax proposal that will be developed, along with potentially \$800 billion in overall cuts to non-defense discretionary funding which includes Older Americans Act programs. Also, the budget resolution calls for a \$1.3 trillion cut in Medicaid (Medi-Cal in CA) spending by 2027 (which represents a 25% cut in the program), \$473 billion cut in Medicare spending, and \$650 million cut in programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (also known as Cal-Fresh) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Again, all of these proposals are still being worked on in Congress and we will know more after the holiday break.

Medicare – Open enrollment is still going on for Medicare through December 7, 2017.

Commissioner Barrett asked what happens when a care provider is burned out and no longer wants to care for their client and surrenders them to a hospital. Lito answered that the hospital staff will take in the client, check their vitals and medical needs. If there are no medical needs, the client will then be discharged back to their home. Adult Protective Services (APS) will usually be involved to handle those matters by talking with the care provider and providing resources to them, such as a break, or adult day care. If the care provider no longer wants to care for the client, APS will find a placement for the client, usually first check with the client's relatives to see if anyone will take in him/her before finding a placement for the client.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Jackson reported she and Commissioner Overfield went to Sacramento on November 2, 2017 for a 1-day mini conference for the Senior Legislature. Commissioners Overfield and Commissioner Jackson reported on the top ten State Legislative proposals:

1. AP-13: Prescription Drug Labeling
2. SP-3: Medi-Cal Personal Needs Allowance Increase
3. AP-12: Adult Day Care Resources for Alzheimer's Patients
4. AP 2: Long-Term Care System Improvement
5. AP 9: Tax: Voluntary Contribution
6. AP 7: Affordable Living Options for Seniors
7. AP 3: Rural Senior and Disabled Transportation Services
8. AP 8: Senior Hunger
9. SP-7: Elder Financial Abuse: Wire Services as Mandated Reporters
10. AP-16: Toilet Heights & Grab Bars in Public Restrooms

Laura Juarez will copy and distribute the list of proposals to all Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller; Y. Prado

Commissioner Fuller reported Commissioner Duquette was re-appointed by Second District Supervisor. Her new term will expire September 29, 2019. Commissioner Devora Gonzalez was appointed by Greater Bakersfield Legal Asst., Inc. (GBLA). Her term will expire November 8, 2019. There are two Commissioners with expired terms. Laura Juarez is working on the re-appointments. There is one vacancy with Supervisorial District 4, and no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported the next employee recognition will be December 6, 2017. Chair Grasty, Vice-Chair Prado, Commissioner Flucker, Commissioner Jackson, and Commissioner Goodlow have volunteered to arrive at Aging and Adult Services at 9:30 a.m. to help prepare the candy canes and poems.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met to discuss and approve today's 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, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee will need to meet to discuss the upcoming "Spring Alive" Resource Fair.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported the Nomination Committee will be meeting to go through the CSL Election process. There are several people interested in running for office.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center is having their Christmas fundraiser on December 2, 2017 and they have sold out. Commissioner Johnston reported nothing has changed at the Shafter Senior Center since his last report.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards and get well cards

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

Commissioner Overfield reported she will be attending a meeting December 4, 2017 in Sacramento.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Vice-Chair Prado reported she was invited to attend the Intelligent Transportation System workshop on November 17, 2017. There were several people in attendance from Taft, Delano, Tehachapi, Fresno, Arvin and Ridgecrest, as well as individuals from the Fire Department and Law Enforcement agencies to discuss what's happening with transportation issues and share ideas. They also discussed issues with speeders, red light runners, and making sure curbs are ADA compliant. Catherine Vasquez shared that Community Development has a public works architectural barrier program that may be able to assist with grants for ADA curb enhancements.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The COA Holiday Luncheon is coming up on December 13, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. and will be at the Chalet Basque. Attendees will order off of the menu. Gift cards will be accepted in lieu of a gift exchange to go towards Christmas for Seniors. Please RSVP with Laura Juarez by December 4, 2017.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2017 (Dark in December) 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, January 22, 2018 (Dark in December) 1:00 p.m. Taft Community Center 500 Cascade Place Taft, CA 93268

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary