

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2018

Taft Senior Center
500 Cascade Place
Taft, CA 93268

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, Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, **Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Antoinette Johnston, Jon Johnston, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Linda Fuller, Stephanie Lynch, and Marti Overfield

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Roger Oswald

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Harvey Clowers, Sue Privett, Dennis Huggins, and Catherine Vasquez

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 Honor Flight thanking the Commission on Aging Foundation for their donation in the amount of \$500. A letter was also received from the Richard Prado Senior Center thanking the Commission on Aging Foundation for their donation of \$500 to help cover unexpected costs at the senior center.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Grasty introduced and welcomed two new Commissioners:

- Devora Gonzalez, appointed by Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance
- Judy Snyder, appointed by North of the River Parks and Recreation

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked Kristian and the senior nutrition staff for the great lunch and singing by Samantha Bishop.

Commissioner Barrett shared an article entitled "Deaths of Despair" which talks about high mortality rates in semi-rural California. Laura Juarez will make copies of the article for all Commissioners.

Commissioner Morris personally thanked the Commission on Aging Foundation for the donation of \$1,000 to the "Christmas for Seniors" program.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the November 20, 2017 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.

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

Duquette/Jackson/Bodnar, Gonzalez, Snyder/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Larios

Kristian Larios reported the Taft Senior Center serves 25-30 congregate meals and 100 home delivered meals. They have 2 cooks, 1 site coordinator, and 4 drivers. The center has a recreation room, a tv, computer, and game room. Across the parking lot, they have a work-out room, and bowling alley. Membership costs \$15/month for seniors. They also have a walking program that is \$5/month for seniors. Other activities include BINGO and a monthly trip to the casino.

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) – Adrianna Kessler

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported on the two programs available through their Department. The first is the Home Access Grant which is free up to \$3,000 to provide assistance for modifications to the home such as grab bars, ramps, walk-in showers, etc. that will provide safe access in and around the home. This program is for low-income, permanently disabled individuals. Renters can apply, with the home owner's consent. The Home Improvement Loan program is for home owners only to replace or repair existing items such as roof, paint, floor, plumbing, etc. This is an interest-free, no payment loan. A lien will be placed on the property. Repayment will occur when the house is sold or the home owner no longer resides in the home.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Harvey Clowers reported on the California Community Transit (CCT) program. There are currently three transitions in the process. These individuals will be transitioned back into the community and into a home. They are following up with twelve who have previously transitioned into a home to make sure they have good support. There are three who are ready to graduate from the program. ILC is finalizing the details on a new program and will have updates at the next Commission on Aging meeting. ILC now has the ability to live stream. They will have a Disaster Preparedness training with the help of the Kern County Office of Emergency Services (OES) that will take place at ILC. Individuals can attend in person, or for those who cannot attend, they will now have the option to watch via live stream. Harvey introduced Sue Privett, who works with the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) and Visually Impaired (VI). Sue reported their program allows them to work one-on-one with individuals who are 55 years and older. They can also provide the same services to individuals who are under 55 years. Affordable Internet Access is a new program available to low-income individuals for \$5.99 - \$13.00/month. Individuals wanting these services will need to call the Digital Access Program in Sacramento to determine their eligibility. Sign language interpreters are available at the ILC facility.

Commissioner L. Oswald commented on the amazing accomplishments the CTT program has made. Commissioner Morris commended Harvey and Sue on the work they did with her for providing a wheelchair to a senior who was in desperate need of a wheelchair after his broke.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES REPORT (IHSS) – Michele Gomez

Michele Gomez reported on the electronic timesheets that are now offered for the IHSS program. So far, 78,000 providers statewide have signed up for electronic timesheets, which also helps eliminate errors and getting their warrants faster via direct deposit. Paid sick leave for the providers begins July 1, 2018. A provider can accrue 8 hours of sick leave. The Department is working with the State to come up with a backup provider list. The sick leave accrual is fiscal year to fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The provider must work 100 hours in order to accrue the 8 hours of sick leave. The sick leave accrual will go up to 16 hours/year by 2020. Sick leave accruals will not carry over to the next fiscal year. It can only be used within the fiscal year for which it was earned.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal Government

Budget – looking at continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal government going for a few weeks and in order to avoid a government shutdown. They had to pass a budget by Friday or issue a CR to avoid a shutdown. The previous CR was issued on December 22, 2017, and it expired January 19, 2018. The government did shut down for a couple of days but another CR was issued that extended federal spending through February 8, 2018 to allow 2-3 weeks for budget negotiations.

All Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase in their benefit amount. The federal SSI payment increases from \$735/month to \$750/ month for an individual and from \$1,103/month for a couple to \$1,125/month for a couple.

The Medicare Part B premium is unchanged at \$134/month. However, many people have been paying a lower amount—on average \$109—because of a “hold harmless” provision that prohibited Medicare from increasing premiums by more than the Social Security COLA. Because Social Security made no COLA adjustments in recent years, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did not increase premiums for individuals already in the system. This year, however, the 2% SSA COLA will allow CMS to catch up so that individuals who had been paying less than \$134, will be required to pay more. The Part A premium for people who do not have premium-free Part A will rise from \$413/month to \$422/month. Deductibles for hospital care also have increased.

State Government

Governor Brown's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was released 1/10/18. In all, the budget proposal assumes a \$6.1 billion windfall of tax revenues in the coming fiscal year and is projected to have a total expenditure level of \$131.7 billion with \$135.1 billion in total projected revenues. Combined with special fund and bond funds, total expenditures are projected to be \$190.3 billion.

Maintaining Fiscal Prudence

The Governor wants lawmakers to commit the bulk of the estimated surplus tax revenues to:

- \$3.5 billion would go to an extra payment into the state's Budget Stabilization Account, also known as the "rainy-day" fund. By law, this account can grow to 10% of general fund revenue, and the Governor's proposed budget would get it to that maximum limit by early summer of 2019.
- \$2.3 billion would be used for costs that arise during the fiscal year, what the budget calls "economic uncertainties." This could include things like responding to natural disasters. Unlike the rainy-day fund, lawmakers have a significant amount of discretion over this money.
- \$134 million would be used to help pay for outdated voting and election equipment in California's 58 counties, though this is only half of the needed funds and the rest would have to be provided by local governments. They are looking into purchasing an electronic voting system.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The Governor's budget includes \$29.9 million General Fund to reflect the implementation of 8 paid sick leave hours for IHSS providers beginning July 1, 2018. The budget also includes an increase in IHSS expenditures of \$260.3 million to account for state minimum wage going up from \$11 to \$12 effective January 1, 2019.

The County is still in negotiations with United Domestic Workers (UDW), which is the union for IHSS care providers here in Kern.

As part of its Lean Six Sigma effort, Aging and Adult Services has moved its main lobby from 5357 Truxtun to the new 5343 Truxtun suite. We only have one lobby now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Chair Grasty reported the committee is working on updating the COA By-Laws to add California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections. She is asking the Commission members to look over the By-Laws and let her know of any suggestions or necessary changes. Once updated, Lito will send the By-Laws to County Counsel for review and approval.

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

No report.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller; Y. Prado

Chair Grasty reported Commissioner Goodlow was re-appointed by Bakersfield Senior Center. Her new term will expire December 9, 2019. Commissioner Judy Snyder was appointed by North of the River Parks and Recreation (NOR). Her term will expire January 10, 2020. There are no Commissioners with expired terms. There is one vacancy with Supervisorial District 4, and no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met January 4, 2018 and discussed the agenda for the COA regular meeting, and CSL elections. There was a lively discussion regarding the Winter Recess when the County closed for 3 days. Also discussed was the upcoming “Spring Alive” Resource Fair that will be held at St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church. The event was originally scheduled for March 17, 2018, however, they are looking at moving the day to April 2018. Chair Grasty announced anyone wanting to join the Marketing & Orientation Committee and to help with the “Spring Alive” Resource Fair, to please let her know.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported she will be speaking with some members of the Tehachapi Hospital, which is not a skilled nursing facility but a Swing Bed, which is a long-term care program. Tehachapi is looking into building a new hospital. She will meet to discuss what the plans are for the residents of the Swing Bed facility. A Skilled Nursing Facility is needed in Tehachapi. They are working with other agencies to prevent the issues of inappropriate and premature discharged from the skilled facilities out into the community. Ridgecrest has a Transitional Care that is currently being remodeled.

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 Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center (BSC) had a good month for December. They had a Winter Extravaganza and it was a success. They were open for 14 days in December. They received 835 requests for meals and served 913 meals. BSC is having a car show on April 14, 2018. Diabetes classes will start January 29, 2018 and it is already full. The next class will be in April and it is almost full. Commissioner Hodge reported he visited three centers in the 3rd District. All are doing very well with their programs. East Niles has a need for volunteers and request a recruitment for them, if possible. Rasmussen Senior Center active. They have Western bands come in to play. Greenacres is doing very well and is also a very active senior center and have live entertainment. Commissioner T. Johnston reported the Shafter Senior Center is doing good. Commissioner Prado personally thanked the Commission on Aging Foundation for the donation for the unexpected cost of insurance. They are fundraising to cover this cost in the future. A local television station asked to report about the activities and celebrations going on at the Prado Senior Center. The SER program is currently on a freeze so she lost her volunteer.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she sent 3 birthday cards in December and one sympathy card. Birthday cards for January and February will be sent.

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

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

Chair Grasty shared that Laura Juarez will be updating information for the binders and will be getting them out to all Commissioners. Included in the binder information will be senior center site coordinator information, as suggested by Commissioner Hodge.

California Senior Legislature elections will occur at the May 2018 Commission on Aging meeting in Lake Isabella. More information to follow as it becomes available.

As mentioned before, the "Spring Alive" Resource Fair will be held at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. Commissioner Flucker is working with the Pastor to confirm the available date in April 2018.

There was a suggestion to look at the time changes when the senior centers have lunch at 11:30 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. The Executive Committee will discuss this further.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 1, 2018 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5343 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, February 26, 2018 (Due to holiday) 1:00 p.m. Ben Austin Greenfield Senior Center 1751 McKee Road Bakersfield, CA 93268

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary