

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1052; (661) 868-1001 FAX



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

March 19, 2018

Shafter Senior Center
505 Sunset Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:07 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, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow,
**Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Antoinette Johnston, Jon Johnston, Stephanie
Lynch, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Sandy Morris, and Marti Overfield
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist
Stephanie Serna, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator

Guests:

Catherine Vasquez, Elva Arevalo, and Adrianna Kessler

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were three correspondences:

1. A letter was sent to Dena Murphy, Director of DHS, thanking her for designating Adrianna Kessler as her representative for DHS on the COA.
2. A letter was sent to Teresa Hitchcock, Director of Employer's Training Resource, thanking her for designating Peggy Langels as her representative on the COA, and for Peggy's diligent attendance at COA meetings.
3. A letter was sent to Geoffrey Hill, Director of General Services, thanking him for sending Leslee Wallace and Matt Smith to speak at the February 26, 2018 COA meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Shafter senior nutrition staff for the lovely lunch that was prepared.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the February 26, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Lynch/Snyder/None/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Stephanie Serna

Stephanie Serna reported there has been an increase in meal preparations. Over 200 meals per day are prepared and served out of the Shafter Senior Center kitchen. They service the areas of Shafter, Wasco, Delano, and McFarland. The Shafter Senior Center received an uplift on their facility. With the uplift, they incorporated a new program, A3 Community Training, which focuses on exercise for seniors. The Shafter Senior Center also has several activities such as arts and crafts classes, dancing, and karaoke, of which they all enjoy.

GENERAL SERVICES - 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

Adrianna Kessler distributed fliers in both, English and Spanish, that list each of their programs and the different ways one can apply. This includes in-person application, and online through www.c4yourslef.com. Applications can also be taken over the phone for CalFresh and Medi-Cal. Applications for CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal can be received via fax/email. Commissioner Barrett asked what is the maintenance level for one person so they don't have a share of cost in Medi-Cal? Commissioner Gonzalez shared that Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA) has a Health Consumer Unit that will be able to assist individuals with information on their share of cost based on their income. Commissioner Barret also asked if Aid and Attendance (A&A) income from veterans' benefits are counted as income in the Medi-Cal case? For Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), A&A is exempt. For Non-MAGI, it is exempted in full if the recipient of the A&A is institutionalized (in a nursing home or long term care) with a spouse or child at home. If there isn't a spouse or child, only \$90 of the A&A is exempted and the remainder counted. If the recipient of the income is not institutionalized, only the portion of the veterans' benefit that is designated as being A&A is exempted and the remaining veterans benefit is counted.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez /Jose Gonzalez

Catherine Vasquez reported on the Home Access Grant program which provides a grant up to \$3,000 to construct either a ramp at the door for easy access in and out of the home, or to remove a tub and install a handicap accessible shower stall with grab bars and a handheld shower head. This program is available to home owners and to renters, with the home owner's approval. The Home Improvement Loan is for home owners only and is mortgage, secured as a lien on the property with 0% interest. Payments are deferred so long as they are low-income and occupy the property. This can be used to replace or repair existing issues such as plumbing, electrical, paint, roof, etc. If anyone is interested in either of the programs, contact Catherine Vasquez at Planning and Natural Resources Department at 661-862-5062.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported new Medicare cards will be issued April 1, 2018. These new cards will have a unique identifier and will no longer have the individual's Social Security number or gender on them. The old Medicare cards will be accepted until April 1, 2019 to allow time for everyone to receive their card. These new Medicare cards will be mailed throughout the month of April (maybe sooner) and you can destroy your old card as soon as you receive

your new card. It's important to keep your Medicare Advantage Plan medical cards (HMO/PPO). Keep in mind there could be scams associated with your new card, so never provide your personal or Medicare card information over the phone to especially incoming callers.

Congress passed their 2-year budget. They are still working on the details as they don't have all of the allocations worked out. Another Continuing Resolution was issued and it's good until March 22, 2018. Federal funding will continue for all of our programs until at least March 22, 2018 as a result of the Continuing Resolution. Some of the highlighted proposed eliminations are the Community Service Block Grants (CSBG), Social Services Block Grants (SSBG), Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Senior Employment Resources (SER-jobs) program, which helps retrain seniors 55 and older to get back into the work force, and the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). Again, these are all proposed eliminations.

We are still dealing with the IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE). It is affecting every County across the State in terms of how it's paying for its MOE. The State is shifting a lot of the IHSS cost to the Counties. Kern County's MOE for FY 17-18 was \$9.995 million. Because there's cost inflators built in automatically, the MOE to the County will continue to increase to pay for share of the cost of the IHSS program. In FY 18-19, the MOE will go up to \$11 million, and in FY 19-20, the MOE will go up to \$12.8 million. In FY 20-21, our MOE is \$14.1 million. This isn't just an IHSS program issue, it's a county across the board problem because the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) or Social Service agency will more than likely not have the additional funding to offset the increased costs of the IHSS program. The IHSS caseloads and referrals continue to increase so the Department is trying to look at ways to streamline processes through Lean Six Sigma.

Negotiations are still going on with the County and United Domestic Workers (UDW) regarding IHSS provider wages and benefits. Minimum wage increased to \$11.00 on January 1, 2018. IHSS provider wages also increased to \$11 and will continue to increase \$1 each year up to \$15/hour by the year 2022 to comply with state minimum wage increases. The minimum wage increases will not impact the County's funding since this is a State negotiated wage. However, the cost inflator takes into account these types of rising costs.

The County is still dealing with a \$12.6 million structural deficit. Although the county is in its 3rd year of a 4-year plan to resolve the deficit, issues related to the Fire Fund and pension costs continue to take its toll. For FY 18-19 the Fire Fund has a \$10 million deficit, which is \$1.5 million more than last year.

County Depts. are being asked to take a 2.5% cut to its general fund contribution, and in addition to the 2.5%, prepare a 5% step down plan.

On a positive note, price of oil is priced at \$63 a barrel which is \$13 more than same time last year. Property tax revenues came in higher helping the Fire Fund reduce its deficit from \$17.5 million to \$10 million.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Parliamentarian L. Oswald reported the committee is waiting for the California Senior Legislature (CSL) to finalize their updated elections procedures. Once the Bylaws are updated with the new CSL election procedures.

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

Commissioner Jackson reported on the proposal idea provided at last month's meeting from Mr. Addison regarding issues our veterans face. After research, she learned that with the current climate in Sacramento, a proposal on volunteer work by veterans won't work and suggests that it may be best if they try with their local/county Veterans Services.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller; Y. Prado

Commissioner Fuller reported Commissioner Roger Oswald was appointed by Supervisorial District 4. His term will expire September 15, 2019. Commissioner J. Johnston's term will expire May 4, 2018, Commissioner Fuller's term will expire June 17, 2018. Commissioner Brown's term will expire June 17, 2018, Commissioner Hodge's term will expire June 17, 2018, and Commissioner L. Oswald's term will expire June 17, 2018. There are no reappointments or expired terms. We have not received any new applications. There are no vacancies. Laura Juarez will send letters for reappointments as needed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

The next employee recognition will be in the middle of Summer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Y. Prado

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met on March 1, 2018 and discussed the upcoming Spring Alive Senior Fair. Laura Juarez mailed out 117 letters to vendors. The COA Foundation has a lot of jar openers to give away at the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. Chair Grasty volunteered to donate the pre-packaged sliced apples, and John Grasty will donate bottled water. Cliff bars will also be given out to attendees.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Barrett reported the committee visited Carrington, which is an Assisted Living Facility in Shafter, and also Golden Living Center, which is a skilled nursing facility. They were not able to go inside the Golden Living Center due to a medical issue they were dealing with; however, they were able to visit their memory care facility. There are three residents to a room. At the Carrington facility, they were doing some repairs to the flooring. The residents they spoke with all said they love it there. The starting price for a single, shared room is \$2,200/month. This option is for those who don't need much assistance.

Commissioner Gonzalez reported she talked with Jack, CEO of Adventist Health in Tehachapi, and with Gene, the Regional Licensing for Kern County regarding the Tehachapi Hospital. They agreed to have the 6 swing bed residents of the old Tehachapi hospital to be relocated to the new hospital building in Tehachapi. They are working on getting a license for 21 beds. A lot of remodeling has been done and they are working with the Department of Public Health and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP) to get licensed according to their regulations. They plan to open in July 2018. Licensing did inform the hospital CEO that if he ever has a new patient requiring a swing bed, they will be there for them and will be able to bill Medi-Cal. The swing beds are temporary housing to move individuals to a skilled nursing; however, they can also be long-term. There is currently no skilled nursing facility in Tehachapi so that is why most swing bed residents are long term. Mulberry Place Assisted Living in Tehachapi shut down 3 of their facilities and now have only 2 facilities remain open.

Chair Grasty called for a recess at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Grasty reconvened the meeting from recess at 2:11 p.m.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch; S. Morris, M. Overfield,

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Commission on Aging had representation at the North of the River Senior Health Fair on March 8, 2018. Thanks was given to Commissioner Jackson and to Commissioner Morris for attending the event. Vice-Chair Prado also met with Aging and Adult staff regarding the Spring Alive Resource Fair to go over details for the event. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018 at Aging and Adult Services. She invited the Marketing Committee to attend this meeting. Commissioner Lynch suggested getting sponsors to help with expenses for the event. Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Goodlow, Commissioner Snyder, Commissioner Flucker, Chair Grasty, and Vice-Chair Prado volunteered to attend and work shifts at the vendor table. Laura Juarez reported there are 18 vendors registered. The deadline for vendors to sign up for a table at the event is Friday, March 23, 2018.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported she is waiting on CSL to provide instructions on the election process.

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

Commissioner Hodge reported he met with Martin Gonzalez, of the Rasmussen Senior Center, who shared that their kitchen staff could use some cleaning supplies so they are working on looking for funding for that. He also visited Greenacres Community Center and E. Niles Senior Center. The president of the E. Niles Senior Center, Norma Harl, is retiring from her position soon and is looking for someone to take her place. They are still looking for volunteers for the center.

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center (BSC) is still working on the Car Show. For the month of February, BSC received 1,157 requests for meals and 1,330 meals were served. Next month, Commissioner Goodlow and Commissioner Flucker are planning to visit the other senior centers in Bakersfield, and asked Commissioner Johnston to visit the senior centers in his area.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards in February. There is one birthday in March.

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 -

The "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair will be held Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018 and will be at Hodel's. Details to follow.

The annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 14, 2018 at Hodel's.

There are two in-person Ethics Training Classes scheduled for 2018, April 5, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and August 2, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Both classes will be held at the Board Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. You can also take the class online. Please see instructions provided by Laura Juarez on how to take the class online. Please remember to provide Laura with a copy of your certificate.

The Senior Celebration is coming up this year. Commissioner A. Johnston is looking into the veteran's hall in Shafter. If we cannot find a venue in west Kern, the celebration might be held again in Bakersfield.

Chair Grasty reminded everyone to use "Smile Amazon" when making purchases through Amazon, and select "Kern County Commission on Aging" as their organization of choice. A percentage of proceeds will go to the COA Foundation. There was a deposit of \$8.92 on the last bank statement. If you need instructions on how to access Smile Amazon, please contact Chair Grasty.

Commissioner Morris is looking for a new place to hold the Christmas for Seniors program.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 5, 2018 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Golden Generation Room 5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA	Monday, April 16, 2018 1:00 p.m. Greenacres Community Center 2014 Calloway Drive Bakersfield, CA 93312

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary