

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

April 16, 2018

Greenacres Community Center
2014 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312

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, Linda Fuller, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, **Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jon Johnston, Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Antoinette Johnston

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Jeremy Oliver, Program Manager
Martin Reynoso, Administrative Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Dick Taylor, Desiree Ingalls, Grace Bradbury, Valerie Rangel, Gari Cave, Jose Luiz Gonzalez, and Yadira Melgoza

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

In preparation of the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference, over 50 letters were mailed out to potential vendors on behalf of the Commission on Aging.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked Desiree and the nutrition staff for the delicious lunch.

Commissioner Goodlow thanked the Commission for the lovely birthday card that she received.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the March 19, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Lynch/R. Oswald/Brown, Duquette, Overfield, Morris/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF AREA PLAN UPDATE FY18-19:** The Area Plan Update for FY 18-19 was presented to the Commission on Aging by Martin Reynoso and was approved.
(M/S/A/O) Overfield/Morris/None/None – Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Desiree Ingalls

Desiree Ingalls thanked everyone for coming to the Greenacres Community Center. For the month of March, 2,321 congregate meals were served at the Rasmussen Senior Center, 483 congregate meals were served at the Greenacres Community Center, and 4,350 home delivery meals, which is an average of 230 meals per day. The Greenacres Community Center has a stamp collecting class. They are talking about bringing back their Friday night dance once each month. They had a health fair in March which went well, and there will be another in November. Chair Grasty thanked Desiree for including the Commission on Aging in their health fair. Commissioner Snyder said she was able to go on a ride along with a Meals on Wheels driver during March for Meals and commended their homebound delivery drivers. Commissioner Gonzalez thanked Grace for the delicious cookies she prepared for the Commission.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor reported they are looking at marketing Kern County so he went out to California City to meet with some individuals there. The Patriots of Kern donated the "Kern County Line Where We Honor Veterans" signs at county lines. Several signs are already up and Caltrans is working on putting up more. The Marine Corp approved for the old ship anchor that was at the Marine Corp Reserve Center to be moved to Veterans Services. The son of one of our Honor Flight veterans built a 4-sided, 8 cabinet kiosk in their front lobby to display military uniforms. The veterans' ID program is still going great. Veterans Service has now gone to taking appointments in their office. A Veterans Service Assistant was hired to take walk-ins, set appointments, and handle phone calls. The wait time for appointments is about three weeks. The Veterans Administration at the federal level will be using Bakersfield for a pilot program to try out a "convenient care" program for veterans. For minor injuries or illnesses, veterans can be seen at an urgent care that is participating with this pilot project. Veterans will need to seek approval before going. There will be 5 in Bakersfield and 2 in Palmdale. A veteran, or surviving spouse of a veteran, may qualify for Pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A) by 1 of 3 areas: 1) Served 1 day in the time of war, 2) Letter from Dr. said they need help with activities with daily living, and 3) Their assets cannot exceed \$80,000, not counting their home. The turnaround time for a decision is within 90 days. The monthly amount for A&A for a single veteran is \$1,800. Individuals can apply for A&A at Veterans Services. Discharge papers (VA Form 40-10007) can also be requested at their office. Commissioner Johnston suggested filing the VA Form 40-10007 with the County Recorder's Office so you will always have access to a copy of the form whenever needed. On March 30, 2017, they had a Vietnam Veterans Day and lapel pins that said "Welcome Home" were given to veterans.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Matt Constantine

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Yadira Melgoza

Yadira Melgoza reported on their 2 teams that serve seniors at their Department. The Wellness Independence & Senior (WISE) team serves seniors who have a chronic mental illness and may be at risk of hospitalization, homelessness, and isolation. The WISE team performs their own assessments. Referrals can be made by calling the Enrichment WISE team supervisor, Lilliana Galvan, at 661-868-5050. This is billed through Medi-Cal. The Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) is an early prevention program for seniors who are dealing with mild to moderate anxiety or depression and who do not have a history of mental illness. This program is not billed through Medi-Cal so clients do not need to have Medi-Cal. At this time, referrals are not being accepted. Volunteers are needed and open for this program. A Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) was opened in Ridgecrest, CA. There is a big picnic at the park event coming up on May 18, 2018. They will also have a fall event around Thanksgiving.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel, new Program Director for CalFresh and Medi-Cal divisions, and Call Center. There are about 145,000 Medi-Cal cases in Kern County. They work renewals every day but there is still a backlog. As a reminder, if you work with any senior population on renewals, they are required to provide written proof of their income and their resources, and will be

required to return their packet. There is a new Asset Verification report that collects assets for individuals. This tool is used as a trigger for assets when reviewing renewals. Their Department also works closely with In-Home Supportive Services to help collect information from clients to help complete the Medi-Cal renewals. This partnership is working really well. Valerie provided handouts showing the different ways individuals can apply for services. Valerie can be reached at 661-868-8971.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez /Jose Gonzalez

Jose Gonzalez reported 21 buildings have been built with public money throughout Kern County, of which 700 of the units are low-income that is managed by the Department. Any questions or referrals regarding discriminatory practices can be referred to him. He works closely with Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA). He has a landlord packet that suggests to owners to know their laws, and tenants to know their rights. Last week they held their 6th annual Fair Housing Conference with 230 people in attendance.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

Chair Grasty called for a recess at 2:10 p.m.

Chair Grasty reconvened the meeting from recess at 2:21 p.m.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the federal budget was passed for FFY 17-18 (October 1-September 30). All of the programs slated to be cut were not cut and most programs received an increase in domestic spending. Social Security received an increase in their budget approximately \$280 million. Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will not be eliminated and received a \$2 million increase. It is unknown how much will be distributed to Kern County. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) received a \$250 million increase. The CalFresh Program, known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in California, received a 6% funding cut. Community Development Block Grant received an increase. The Senior Nutrition program received an increase but it is unknown how much will be disbursed to Kern County. The additional funding for these increases come from the federal government having to increase their spending cap. IHSS did not receive a cut at the federal level; however, at the county level, we continue to deal with the Maintenance of Effort (MOE). We are asking the county for an additional \$2 million to cover the difference in the MOE (the County's share for participating in the IHSS program) that we paid last year compared to this year. Each year it goes up incrementally, 5% this year, 7% the following years because the State is shifting a lot of the increased cost of IHSS back to the counties.

Jeremy Oliver reported the 21st annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 14, 2018 at Hodel's. We are partnering with Kern Behavioral Health Services (KBHS) this year. Dr. Brad Cloud, Deputy Director for KBHS, will be the keynote speaker, and we'll have some other speakers as well. Topics will range from Behavioral Health Services for Seniors, Opioid Addiction, and Innovative Solutions. Early registration is \$30 per person up until May 14, 2018. After May 14th, registration will cost \$40 per person up until the registration deadline of June 1, 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Chair Grasty reported the draft Bylaws were sent to all Commissioners for review. Some suggestions were given for additional changes that will be made to the Bylaws. Email any other change suggestions to Chair Grasty or Parliamentarian L. Oswald. Laura Juarez will revise the Bylaws and have them ready for voting at the next COA regular meeting. This will not be the final copy as County Counsel will need to review for approval.

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

No report.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller; Y. Prado

Commissioner Fuller reported there are no recent appointments or reappointments. There are no expired terms. 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. Laura Juarez will send letters for reappointments for those who wish to continue serving on the Commission on Aging. There was one new application received from Emma Markham.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

No report.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met April 5, 2018 to review the agenda for today's meeting. Also discussed was the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference. The COA Foundation usually helps pay for the speaker expenses. This year COA Foundation will discuss giving out gifts for the speakers. This matter will be discussed further at the COA Foundation meeting.

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 Gonzalez reported the donation given by the COA for Nona Tolentino will be used this year for a newspaper article in the Bakersfield Californian to promote their program, volunteer recruitment, and also the information rights when residents are being discharged. Commissioner Brown suggested adding it to the Mojave Desert News.

Commissioner Barrett reported there was an article in the Tehachapi newspaper saying there will be a Skilled Nursing Facility opened in Tehachapi. It is unknown when this will open.

Commissioner Jackson reported the committee visited the Brookdale River Walk assisted living facility. They also visited the Dementia facility and Memory Care facility. The rooms were big and fit 2 people per room. The rooms cost between \$4,200 - \$4,500 per month. There was a lot of people well-dressed and participating in the assisted living facility.

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

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported the CSL will be held Monday, June 18, 2018 at 1 p.m. at the Delano Senior Center. All candidate applications were sent to CSL on April 13, 2018 by Laura Juarez. No campaigning by candidates can be done within 100 feet of the elections. Candidate names will be released as soon as the candidates are certified by CSL. If the certified candidates approve of their resumes being released for Commissioner viewing, Laura Juarez will include them with the agenda packets.

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

Commissioner Hodge reported he visited the E. Niles Senior Center, the Rasmussen Senior Center, and the Greenacres Community Center. Everything is good.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards in March, and more will be going out this month.

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

Report tabled to the May 21, 2018 COA regular meeting.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Report tabled to the May 21, 2018 COA regular meeting.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

Commissioner Overfield thanked Commissioner Brown for handling the volunteer recognition during her absence.

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 scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018, from 12 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hodel's. Invitations to follow.

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

There is another 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 looked into the veteran's hall in Shafter. It is available for October 20, 2018. There is an application fee for \$25.00. It is unknown if there is another fee. Chair Grasty did check with Desiree Ingalls at the Rasmussen Senior Center for availability and it is also available.

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. If you need instructions on how to access Smile Amazon, please contact Chair Grasty.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 3, 2018 1:30 pm The Pointe at Summit Hills Dining Hall 4501 Upland Pointe Dr., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, May 21, 2018 1:00 p.m. Kern River Valley Senior Center 6401 Lake Isabella Blvd. Lake Isabella, CA 93240

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary