

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2018

Kern River Valley Senior Center
6401 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Prado 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, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Sandy Morris, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Susan Bodnar, *Kris Grasty, Jon Johnston, Antoinette Johnston, Stephanie Lynch, and Lito Morillo

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Jeremy Oliver, Program Manager
Kristian Besnard, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Holly Miller, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Alan Howard, Arlene A. Santangelo, Catherine Vasquez, Coni Ames, and Peggy Langels

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

Jeremy Oliver (on behalf of Lito Morillo) confirmed the agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was mailed to Dr. Antonio M. Alfred, Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, thanking him for co-hosting the "Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair" that was held on April 21, 2018, and for allowing us to utilize his beautiful church building, tables, and chairs.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Snyder reported about several comments displayed on the Neighborhood app regarding homeless individuals putting up tents and living around the general area of the East Niles Senior Center.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Kern River Valley nutrition staff for the delicious lunch.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the April 16, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Hodge/Brown/None/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF SUBMITTING THE DRAFT KERN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAWS TO COUNTY COUNSEL FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL:** A motion was made to approve that the draft COA Bylaws be sent to County Counsel for review and approval.
(M/S/A/O) Flucker/Duquette/None/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVE OF SENIOR CELEBRATION LOCATION AND CHAIR:** Vice-Chair Prado tabled this Action Item to next month's meeting on June 18, 2018. No action taken.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Kristian Besnard reported Kern River Valley (KRV) Senior Center services meals for Lake Isabella, Bodfish, Mount Mesa, Woffard Heights, Kernville, Weldon, and Onyx. There are 115 seniors on Home Delivery, and 36 congregate meals each day. The KRV Senior Center is very active and has several activities going on throughout the week. Some activities include a computer lab, games, and senior line dancing. There is also a live country music band that plays every Tuesday and Thursday. They play BINGO every Wednesday, senior dance

every Wednesday, TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) is every Wednesday, Painter's Group every Thursday, 55+ card game every Wednesday, Ceramic Class every Thursday, Medi Yoga three times each week, and Happy Hookers Crocheting. Kristian announced that there will be special recognition party for Jack Ross on June 14, 2018. Jack volunteered for the senior nutrition program for 20 years, and donated over 11,000 hours.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION- Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Richard Taylor

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Matt Constantine

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Yadira Melgoza

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported they have approximately 150,000 cases and still backlogged on renewals. They are working feverishly to get caught up. The Medi-Cal packet is now required for renewals. If anyone needs help with the renewal process, they can call the Call Center at (877) 410-8812. DHS has a Maintenance of Understanding (MOU) with Aging and Adult Services with the In-Home Supportive Services program and things are going really well. Renewals were able to be completed with the help of IHSS Social Workers who have been able to obtain information needed to complete the process. There are about 48,000 Cal Fresh cases, higher than last year's 44,000. They are still on semi-annual reporting for that program and it is going well. If seniors turn 65 years old, they are no longer qualified for the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) program. There are times when these seniors have to pay a share of cost. Staff will look at these cases with a share of cost and will refer them to either work for a disabled program to get a smaller share of cost, or will refer them to AASD's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (661) 868-1000.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) - Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported she now supervises the Lake Isabella office. The budget has been good this year. There is still a lot of training classes available. The current unemployment rate in Lake Isabella is 6.4%. They see a couple hundred people a month in their Lake Isabella Resource Center. The Dam project will be starting soon and looking forward to that. The job workshops and trainings are still available in Bakersfield. The unemployment level in Kern County dropped dramatically due to oil picking back up.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported Jose Gonzalez will be moving over to the County Administrative Office working with the homeless collaboration. Catherine discussed the Improvement Loan for home owners with no interest or payments. There is a mortgage secured as a lien on the property. The loan will get paid by making voluntary payments, or when the house is sold. The loan can be used for plumbing, electric, paint, roof, and anything to repair or replace

anything in the home currently. The Home Access Grant program is free for home owners or renters, with home owner's approval to make any modifications to the home. Eligible improvements can include, installing grab bars, wider toilets, widening doorways, installing a ramp, or removing a tub and putting in a handicapped assessable shower. Interested persons can call Catherine Vasquez at (661) 862-5062.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

Governor Releases 2018 May Revise

Governor Brown released his \$138 billion "May Revise" budget proposal last Friday, May 11, 2018. There is a new surplus of \$8.8 billion, higher than January's (Governor's budget) \$6.1 billion projection. The Governor proposed to place roughly \$7.6 billion of that surplus into the State's two reserve accounts. The Governor wants lawmakers to commit the bulk of the estimated surplus tax revenues as follows:

- \$4.4 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 up to 10% of general fund revenue.
- \$3.2 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.

Homelessness

- The May Revise includes nearly \$359 million for additional homelessness resources. Funds will be used to immediately address homelessness across the state and bridge the gap until new funds begin flowing from the Governor's housing measures signed last year. Fifteen million of the \$359 is going to Home Safe - an Adult Protective Services 3-year pilot project designed to prevent homelessness amongst seniors. Home Safe will be piloted in 15 counties.

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)/Coordinated Care Initiative

- The May Revise includes an increase of \$24 million General Fund in 2018-19 for county IHSS administrative costs to reflect revised workload and budget assumptions. The Administration indicates that IHSS administrative cost assumptions will be reexamined as part of the 2020-2021 budget.
- Additionally, the May Revise contains no new changes to the structure of the new county IHSS maintenance of effort (MOE) that was negotiated last year and included in the budget trailer bill SB 90. For 2018-19, the May Revision projects total redirected

VLF revenues to be \$86.6 million, which is \$33.2 million more than was projected in January. This will help offset our current MOE of \$10.4 million. Our MOE is expected to reach \$11.2 million by FY 19/20.

Mental Health Services

- The May Revision provides funding for programs that help people with mental illness, including training for mental health professionals and early identification of mental health problems. This includes \$254 million to help counties serve youth with mental illness.
- The May Revision also proposes to place the \$2 billion *No Place Like Home* bond on the November ballot to accelerate the delivery of housing projects to serve the mentally ill.

Public Safety

- The 2011 Realignment Community Corrections Subaccount (AB 109) statewide base remains at \$1.2 billion in the May Revision and the growth funds counties will receive has increased from \$84.3 million to \$87 million.
- The May Revision includes \$5.4 million General Fund to establish two investigation teams to combat cybercrime, white collar crimes, and human trafficking crimes, as well as \$14 million from the Cannabis Tax Fund to create four investigation teams and one interdiction team to combat large-scale illegal cannabis activities.
- The May Revision also proposes an additional \$96 million for resource management and wildland fire protection services.

Currently, the County is still negotiating with United Domestic Worker's (UDW) union on new provider wages and benefits. Currently IHSS provider wage is at \$11/hour, and will rise with minimum wage each year.

The annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held June 14, 2018 from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hodel's. Registrations are still being accepted up to the deadline of June 1, 2018. Registration costs \$40/per person.

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 there are no recent appointments or reappointments. Commissioner J. Johnston's term expired on May 4, 2018 but will be reappointed by Supervisor Mick Gleason at the May 22, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting. 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. Please let Laura Juarez know if you wish to serve for another two-year term so she can send letters requesting reappointments on your behalf. There were no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported the next employee recognition will be in August 2018.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met May 3, 2018 at The Pointe at Summit Hills and discussed the agenda for today's meeting, the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference, the Senior Celebration, CSL Elections, and the 2018 COA regular meeting schedule with the new Supervisorial boundaries. Commissioner Jackson will assist with the vendors during the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference. Pacifica Senior Living Center offered to sponsor the Senior Celebration by providing the food.

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 she, Commissioner R. Oswald, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Duquette, Commissioner Fuller, and Commissioner Barrett visited the Kern Valley Health Care facility.

Commissioner Jackson reported the staff were nice and friendly. The rooms are spacious and allow 2 people per room. Most of the residents were out of their rooms participating in activities. Menus and activity calendars were copied in large print for easy-reading.

Commissioner Duquette reported she saw signs posted in the resident's own language so that they knew which doors to enter and not enter. Residents were getting around in motorized wheelchairs and can sign out of the facility to run errands.

Commissioner Barrett reported they currently have 55 out of 75 residents and all appeared to be friendly, dressed, and well cared for.

Commissioner R. Oswald reported the facility had beautiful hand painted murals hanging throughout the building.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported on the "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair that took place April 21, 2018. There were over 40 vendors at the event. Commissioner Flucker reported he received positive feedback. Kudos to Mary Flucker for making copies of the flyer and distributing them to members of her church. Laura Juarez thanked Vice-Chair Prado for securing DJ Brandie, who donated her time and music for this special event. Commissioner Flucker added that

Pastor Alfred was very excited to have this event at the church and is looking forward to hosting this event again in the future. All in attendance had a great time and went home with lots of nice giveaways and resource information.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston

Commissioner Brown reported the California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections will take place Monday, June 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. during the COA regular meeting at the Delano Senior Center, located at 925 Ellington Street, in Delano, CA. CSL is still working on the eligible candidate list and is hoping to have it available by June 1st, but no later than June 4th. Once an eligible list is determined, Laura Juarez will notify the candidates and will seek their approval to include their resume with the COA agenda packets for your review. CSL eligible candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves/campaign at the June 7th COA Executive meeting. Each candidate will have a time limit of no more than 5 minutes. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend the COA Executive meeting so they will have an opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates before elections.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center are installing a security gate. They have had a lot of problems with people breaking into cars and homeless people so they are hoping to eliminate this issue with the installation of the new gate. She also thanked Vice-Chair Prado for providing her information about the Prado Center.

Commissioner Hodge reported he visited the E. Niles, Greenacres Community, and Rasmussen Senior Centers. The Greenacres Community Center is concerned about the drop in attendance. The Rasmussen Senior Center is concerned about the funding of the meals. They were serving 250 meals and now because of budget constraints, they can only serve 150. Seniors asked if there is anything the Commission on Aging can do about that. The kitchen staff requested some cleaning supplies and a high pressured hose to clean off the barbeque. He was able to secure a private donor who will pay to have those items secured and will be able to deliver it to them by the end of this month. The E. Niles Senior Center has a few housekeeping items that are needed. Their plumbing is not adequate. General Services had someone go out but the issue has not been resolved. Pat and Norma are looking to retire but haven't found anyone to take their place so they are still in need of volunteers at the E. Niles Senior Center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she mailed birthday cards in April, and more will be going out this month. She also sent a sympathy card to Commissioner Overfield. Laura Juarez thanked the Commission on Aging for the birthday card she received.

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

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller

Vice-Chair reported she attended a meeting August 11, 2017 and their focus is on making sure when minimum wage goes up to \$15/hour in 2022 that they move from gas to electric vehicles in rural areas. They are also looking at South Help's pilot project about low-income

housing. They are looking at having rebates and incentives for companies wanting to purchase electric cars. There will also be a phone app that will allow you to make reservations for transportation automated.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held Monday, May 14, 2018, from 12 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hodel's. The guest speaker was Brenda Ratliff, Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Kern County. A great time was had by all in attendance.

The last in-person Ethics Training Classes for this year is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Board Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. You can also take the class online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance. Please see instructions provided by Laura Juarez on how to access the class online. Please remember to provide Laura with a copy of your certificate.

A schedule of 2018 COA meetings that includes all the senior centers with the Supervisors for the new district boundaries on the back was distributed to all Commissioners.

As a reminder, please use "Smile Amazon" when making purchases through Amazon, and select "Kern County Commission on Aging" as your charity organization of choice. A percentage of proceeds will go to the COA Foundation.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 7, 2018 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Department Golden Generation Conference Room 5353 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, June 18, 2018 1:00 p.m. Delano Senior Center 925 Ellington Street Delano, CA 93215

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary