

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2018
Inyokern Senior Center
1247 Broadway
Inyokern, CA 93527

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Prado 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:

Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Chris Barrett, Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Devora Gonzalez, Linda Fuller, Barbara Goodlow, Norma Jackson, Stephanie Lynch, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, Marti Overfield, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: *Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, Antoinette Johnston, and Sandy Morris,

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Kristian Besnard, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Tracy Chrisman, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Jenny Rodriguez, Gayla Hughes, Kelly McDonald, Sheryl Adams, Barbara Marshall, Michael Sales, and Carlos (Chris) Soriano

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair Grasty sent a letter to Richard Taylor, of Veterans Services, congratulating him on his retirement in October 2018.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Commission on Aging for the honor and privilege of having served as Senior Assemblymember for the California Senior Legislature (CSL) for 8 years.

Commissioner Overfield thanked the Commission for allowing her to represent CSL on the Commission on Aging as the Senior Senator for 8 years.

Commissioner Brown thanked the Commission and Commissioners who sent get well cards to her husband, Marvin, while recovering from his accident.

Commissioner Lynch presented a gift to Commissioner Overfield and Commissioner Jackson and recognized them for their years of service to CSL and to the Commission on Aging.

Vice-Chair Prado thanked Barbara Marshall and the other senior nutrition volunteers for their service at the Inyokern Senior Center.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the July 16, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Flucker/Snyder/R. Oswald, Gonzalez, Lynch, Duquette, Brown, L. Oswald, Barrett/None
- Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF REVISED BYLAWS BASED ON COUNTY COUNSEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**
The revised COA Bylaws were reviewed and approved based on County Counsel's recommendations. **(M/S/A/O) Duquette/R. Oswald/Jackson/None – Motion carried.**

- **APPROVAL OF 2019 COA REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:** The schedule for the 2019 COA regular meeting scheduled was reviewed and approved. Laura Juarez will contact the senior centers for approval to hold the 2019 COA regular meetings at their centers. **(M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Brown/Jackson, Overfield/None - Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Kristian Besnard reported meals for Ridgecrest will be cooked out of the California City Senior Center, and congregate meals for Ridgecrest seniors will be available at the Inyokern Senior Center for a few months beginning in October 2018 while renovations are made to the Ridgecrest Senior Center. Kristian introduced Tracy Chrisman, who is a Site Coordinator in Ridgecrest. Tracy Chrisman reported the average congregate meals at the Inyokern Senior Center is about 3 each day. The center averages about 10-15 congregate meals on BINGO, commodity, and Gleaners days.

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 – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported they currently serve about 150,000 medical programs within the County. This month they are focusing on getting their past due Medi-Cal renewals caught up. Their Delano office has been assigned to solely focus on those past due Medi-Cal renewals. Last month she attended a program training given by the State regarding the 250% working disabled programs and their staff allocation program for the clients in their Long-Term Care Program.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Jenny Rodriguez

Jenny Rodriguez reported they just opened a brand new location in Ridgecrest at 540 W. Perdue Street, Suite B next to the DMV. They provide services to help connect job seekers and employers. They have a lot of paid training programs and on-the-job training. They have a full-time Program Technician available to help people with computer skills. Their calendar is full of workshops during the month.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Carlos (Chris) Soriano

Chris Soriano provided information about their Home Access Grant Program and the Home Rehabilitation Loan. Fliers were passed out containing information about these two programs.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Jan Lemucchi

Jan Lemucchi reported ILC serves persons with disabilities who reside in Kern County. They will be celebrating Deaf Awareness Day on September 25, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at their office located on Office Park Drive. Attendees will need to know sign language as there will not be any signing interpreters present at this event. They now have an Independent Living Specialty Case Manager, Jessica Carrillo, who will be traveling to rural areas within the county to offer and provide their services.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michele Gomez

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Long-Term Care statistics was shared with the Commissioners. These statistics were produced by AARP who survey a population to obtain information. Lito thanked Jan Lemucchi for her help with preparing a presentation on Community Needs Discussion related to housing and transportation for seniors and disabled adults. The presentation was recorded by KGOV and can be found on YouTube under "Community Needs Discussion."

Adventist Health is building a new hospital on the corner of Coffee and Brimhall.

On August 24, 2018, the Senate passed a spending bill of \$859 billion for FY 2019. The Spending package combined funding for Department of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies. By merging annual defense spending with the majority of domestic discretionary spending, lawmakers passed this spending bill on the floor for the first time in 15 years.

It should be noted that Older Americans Act funding is the same as last years, but in FY 2018, increases were given in various categories of the OAA. The bill goes to the House for approval. However, it's anticipated that a Continuing Resolution (CR) needs to be issued in late September to keep federal funding flowing and prevent a shutdown.

Additional federal funding is being provided to all AAA's throughout CA. Here in Kern, this additional funding will allow us to address the impacts of minimum wage, and ongoing increases in operating expenses.

The new Delano Senior Center was slated to open on September 10, 2018, however issues with a steam table has delayed that grand opening.

Ridgecrest is planning to renovate its senior center. As a result, the building will not be available starting in October through December. In the meantime, we will cook out of the California City Senior Center and will serve Ridgecrest congregate meals out of the Inyokern Senior Center, and continue Meals on Wheels delivery.

Aging and Adult Services has been meeting with 2 vendors regarding the PACE (Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) program. This program provides for all the health care needs of those seniors participating in the program. The concept is centered around providing participants with a day center, but in addition would provide transportation to and from doctor's appointments, along with other services needed for activities of daily living. Additionally, they would be looking for and providing services that would assist the participant while at home. The focus is keeping the senior in their home for as long as possible. This program is offered statewide. If successful, a new PACE center will be open in 2020 centered in Bakersfield and is open to all Kern County residents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Parliamentarian L. Oswald reported the Bylaws will be sent once again to County Counsel for another review with COA suggestions. Once approved by County Counsel, the Bylaws will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for filing.

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

Commissioner Jackson reported she submitted a proposal for this coming session of the CSL and she was able to find a Senior Senator and Senior Assemblyperson to present it on her behalf at October session. The proposal is in regards to seniors who own their homes and have to pay property taxes. When property taxes become due, they are given only 2 times to pay their taxes before going into default. This can become a hardship on seniors so the proposal is asking that senior citizen home owners be allowed to pay their property taxes in monthly installments of at least \$100. This would help seniors avoid going into default.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Fuller reported that Commissioner Brown was recently reappointed by Supervisor Scrivner. Her new term will expire June 17, 2020. There are no new appointments. Commissioner Fuller's appointment expired June 17, 2018, and will not be reappointed as she will now represent CSL as Senior Senator on the Commission. Commissioner Flucker's term expired August 18, 2018, and Supervisor Perez's office is working on the reappointment. Commissioner Jackson's term as Senior Assemblymember, and Commissioner Overfield's term as Senior Center on the CSL will expire October 1, 2018. There are currently no vacancies. There were no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, M. Overfield

Commissioner Flucker reported the Commission hosted an employee appreciation on August 23, 2018 for Aging and Adult Services staff. Everyone was excited and it was a great success.

On behalf of the AASD staff, Laura Juarez thanked the Commission on Aging for the hosting Employee Appreciation Day at the office. Everyone enjoyed the fresh fruit, vegetables, salad, and cookies.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Executive Committee discussed recognizing senior nutrition volunteers. What would be the best way to do this? Most of the volunteers are not staying after lunch to receive their recognition. Also, are we getting information out to the seniors during Commission meetings since most are not able to stay for the meetings? This matter was referred to the Senior Center Advisory Committee and the Volunteer Recognition Committee for further discussion and ideas.

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

The next IHSS Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported the funds donated for former Commissioner Nona Tolentino's memory were used to put out information in the Ridgecrest paper regarding the Ombudsmen services, notices, and becoming a volunteer. There were 6 new Ombudsmen added this year, bringing the total up to 19 Ombudsmen. Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner R. Oswald, and Commissioner L. Oswald visited Bella Sera, the skilled nursing facility in the Transitional Care within the Ridgecrest hospital. While there, they had the opportunity to witness an Advance HealthCare Directive being prepared. Transitional Care and Bella Sera have finally merged.

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, B. Goodlow, L. Hodge, A. Johnston, J. Johnston

Commissioner Goodlow reported she visited the Tehachapi Senior Center on August 29, 2018. They had 26 seniors there having lunch. She went on a tour and talked with some of the seniors there. During Christmas time, a group of children will go and sing Christmas carols to the seniors at the center. On September 10, 2018, she visited the Wasco Senior Center. There were 20 seniors in attendance. The seniors work on puzzles and when completed, they will frame and raffle the puzzles. On September 13, 2018, she visited the Bakersfield Senior Center. There were approximately 40-50 seniors there having lunch. Everything is going good at the center. They are looking for a grant and collecting donations to purchase a van for the center to use for transportation purposes. A new diabetic class started September 7, 2018. Classes will be every Monday at 10:00 a.m. in September and October. Lunch was good at all centers she visited.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – N. Jackson

Commissioner Jackson reported she sent birthday cards in August and will be sending a get-well card to Commissioner A. Johnston.

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

Commissioner Overfield reported the next TAAC meeting will be next week. This will be the last TAAC meeting she will attend as her term will expire at the end of this month. She also reported that the Director of TAAC is retiring in December.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, L. Fuller, J. Johnston

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Transportation Committee was not able to attend the last Transportation meeting but information was shared that Transportation is looking at the cost of minimum wage going up. As minimum wage increases, the cost of maintaining their drivers will be much higher. They are also looking at other projects such as electric and Uber cars. There are no new transportation unmet needs for 2018 in Kern County.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

Senior Day at the Kern County Fair is Friday, September 21, 2018 at the Kern County Fairgrounds. Commissioner Jackson has a volunteer schedule to greet seniors. Commissioner Flucker, Commissioner Snyder and Commissioner Jackson will be there to greet seniors and veterans at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Goodlow, Commissioner Lynch, Commissioner Overfield, and Chair Grasty have volunteered to work the 10:00 a.m. shift.

The Senior Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Rasmussen Senior Center. Commissioner Snyder and Chair Grasty met with Pacifica Senior Living to discuss the menu, which includes riblets, roast chicken, potato salad, beans, and rolls. Grainger will donate water and possibly disposables (plates, etc.). Pepsi is also donating water and soft drinks. We have 6 confirmed vendors. We have received some monetary donations and door prizes. Brandi DeLaGarza will be the DJ for the event.

The Commission on Aging Highlights for 2017-2018 has been filed with the Clerk of the Board.

The COA Executive meeting schedule for 2019 was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee on September 6, 2018. They will meet 2 times in June due to Independence Day holiday falling on the first Thursday of the month in July 2019.

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. Please let Chair Grasty know if you need instructions.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 4, 2018 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Department New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, October 15, 2018 1:00 p.m. Richard Prado Senior Center 2101 Ridge Road Bakersfield, CA 93305

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary