

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2018

Richard Prado Senior Center
2101 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, CA 93305

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,
*Kris Grasty, Linda Fuller, Barbara Goodlow, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, Stephanie Lynch,
***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Antoinette Johnston, Jan Lemucchi, 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
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Bertha M. G., Rafael Avanto, Chris Soriano, Roman Rodriguez, Gayla Hughes, Adalia Vargas,
Karen McKenzie, Peggy Langels, Kaye Davis, Joshua Dhanens, Jose Sanchez, Maria Rivera,
Walter K., Adela Granados, Hilda Sustaita, Iris Ford, Maria Martinez, Elfeda Lujan, Antonio
Sanchez, Angelica R.

AGENDA & MINUTES

POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was sent to Michael Myers, CEO & President of Dignity Health, thanking him for sponsoring the Kern County Senior Day at the Fair. A letter was also sent to Mike Olcott, CEO of the Kern County Fair, recognizing the seniors of Kern County by planning "Senior Day at the Kern County Fair."

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Duquette thanked Kristian Besnard and the Richard Prado senior nutrition staff for the delicious lunch. She also acknowledged the donations from Supervisor Zack Scrivner and Supervisor Mike Maggard for the Senior Celebration.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the September 17, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Lynch/Grasty/None - Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Kristian Besnard reported 600 meals are prepared daily Monday through Friday out of the Richard Prado Senior Center for Bakersfield, Lamont, and Arvin. There are approximately 30 to 50 congregate meals served at the center. They have a number of different activities going on throughout the week at the Richard Prado Senior Center. On Mondays they have chair Yoga, Tai Chi exercise, and crochet classes. On Tuesdays they have karaoke. On Wednesdays they have line dancing and crochet class. Bingo is on Thursdays. On Fridays they have a very well attended dance. This site prepares meals for three other congregate sites, as well as 400 meals for Meals on Wheels clients. Vice-Chair Prado announced they will be having a costume contest at the Richard Prado Senior Center on October 26, 2018. On November 2, 2018, they will also have a Dia de los Muertos celebration, and everyone is invited to attend.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Karen McKenzie

Karen McKenzie reported advanced reservations for 2019 are due into office November 2, 2018. Senior groups and veterans have priority. The County has its winter recess closure from December 22, 2018 to January 1, 2019, reopened on January 2, 2019. Reservations will not

be available during that time. Also, as a reminder, service animals only are allowed in the buildings, including Cooling Centers. Lito Morillo reported senior centers will be open for senior nutrition congregate and Meals on Wheels. For all other purposes, the County buildings will be closed. Vice-Chair Prado thanked Parks and Recreation for the new parking lot at the Richard Prado Senior Center.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens, new Director of Veterans Services, reported the Veterans Administration (VA) has a new initiative in town – the Accelerated Urgent Care. Veterans must already be enrolled in VA healthcare plan and will need to have preapproval before going to the urgent care. On October 2, 2018, Congressman McCarthy's office notified the County that VA will be building a new clinic here in Kern County on Olive Drive and Knudsen. Groundbreaking will begin in a couple of months and should be completed in two years. There are some changes to VA pension in regards to income limit. This is a good change and should allow for more veterans to qualify.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl-Krizo

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported Kern County currently assists 150,000 families with Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal. Adelia Vargas shared a success story about a client family who had trouble completing their renewal. They were able to go to the facility to get help with the recertification process and obtained the necessary information. If anyone needs assistance with completing their renewals, they can call the DHS Call Center at (661) 868-8823 and they'll send someone out to help. Lito thanked DHS for being great partners with AASD. They have done a tremendous job responding to requests. There is nothing like this partnership throughout the state so it is greatly appreciated.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported the Ridgecrest office moved and is now next to the DMV. They no longer have EDD in Ridgecrest, but they still have ETR, Department of Rehabilitation, and DHS. The Oildale location was recently moved and is now located on Olive Drive by Big Lots. This move was necessary to be more centrally located, and for better parking. They are working on moving the Lake Isabella office but that will take months to do. Kern County is having a Work Force Summit on October 25, 2018. Awards will be given to participants and workers of the year. Tickets can be purchased online. The Workforce Development Board will have regional and local forums held at the Beale Memorial Library Auditorium beginning October 3, 2018 through December 4, 2018. Everyone is welcome and your input is critical to developing a plan that is responsive to the needs of our community. Peggy provided information about their ongoing workshops, and also provided flyers for current open recruitments.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Carlos (Chris) Soriano

Chris Soriano shared information about the Home Access Grant program, which is grant up to \$3,000 to help low income and permanently disabled individuals to install a ramp, walk-in showers, grab bars, raise toilets, and other changes to make it more accessible to move in and around the home. The Home Improvement Loan program is for homeowners to apply for help with making existing repairs to the home such as electrical, plumbing, paint, and roof. This is a 0% interest loan up to \$10,000 and no monthly payments are required. There is a lien placed on the mortgage and the loan will be paid back when the home is sold or when the owners no longer live in the home. If anyone is interested, please call Chris at (661) 862-5024.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Congress reached an agreement on several spending bills and continuing resolution to maintain government funding through December 7, 2018. Included in this package is a \$10 million increase in Senior Nutrition funding (\$5 million for Congregate/\$5 million for Meals on Wheels). The President signed the bill on Sept 28, 2018.

Social Security and SSI announced a 2.8% increase monthly allotment starting in January 2019. This will impact more than 67 million Americans.

The new Delano Senior Center finally opened on 9/28/18. After a few hiccups, they finally opened their doors and the seniors from the Ellington Senior Center are all at the new center on Jefferson Street.

Adventist Health is building a new hospital on the corner of Coffee and Brimhall which is set to open in 2024.

The State IHSS Quality Assurance recently did an audit on our IHSS cases. The audit was very favorable. The reviewers commented on how we are a model county in terms of our cases and how we administer the program.

Minimum wage continues to put a strain on senior nutrition's program budget. In addition to many of our staff getting \$1 raises each January until 2022, we have to deal with compaction issues of those staff's supervisors and higher classifications. This will definitely force us to change how we deliver our service.

AASD received additional federal dollar in our California Department on Aging (CDA) programs and we are using it to switch out the county funding we used previously to deal with cuts our providers would have faced via sequestration and cuts over the years. This

funding switch will also allow us to help with staffing positions in our CDSS program which has seen substantial growth in the last 2 years. For example, IHSS has 1,000 more cases than it did last year. Adult Protective Services (APS) receives about 100 more referrals a month than last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

The amended Bylaws will be placed on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors approval and adoption of Resolution.

CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – L. Fuller; J. Lemucchi

Lito Morillo reported (for Commissioner Lemucchi) as CSL Assemblymember, Commissioner Lemucchi has been assigned to the Health Committee. A copy of the September 5, 2018 Report for Legislative Bills passage or denial was passed out to all Commissioners for review. A copy of the 2018-2019 Policy Committee Roster was also distributed to Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Fuller reported that Commissioner Flucker was reappointed by Supervisor Perez. His new term will expire August 18, 2020. Commissioner Fuller is representing CSL on the Commission as their newly elected Senior Senator. Commissioner Lemucchi is also representing CSL on the Commission as their newly elected Senior Assemblymember. There are no expired terms. There is one vacancy with Supervisorial District 1. There were no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker

No report.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Executive Committee met on October 4, 2018 and covered details of the Senior Celebration. The "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair is coming up. Possible dates for the event are April 6th, April 13th, or April 27th. The event will once again be held at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Commissioner Flucker will work with Pastor Alfred on setting the date for the event. Also discussed was the COA Holiday Luncheon. Commissioner Duquette volunteered to chair this event.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported she, Commissioner Duquette, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Bodnar, and Commissioner R. Oswald visited the Height Street Skilled Nursing facility. Commissioner Duquette reported she was very impressed with the facility. The facility was reopened 2 years ago with a new owner. There are three beds in a room but only two people in a room. They currently have 68 residents and have a 70 maximum capacity.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported calls were made to all the seniors who RSVP'd for the Senior Celebration to remind them of the upcoming event, and thanked Commissioner Lynch and Laura Juarez for their help with calls and reservations. She also thanked Commissioner Snyder for all of her hard work preparing for this event.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; J. Johnston

No report.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – A. Flucker, B. Goodlow, L. Hodge, A. Johnston, J. Johnston

Commissioner Hodge reported that he visited the Greenacres Senior Center, Rasmussen Senior Center, and E. Niles Senior Center, and all seem to be doing well. No problems reported.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Unassigned

Chair Grasty is looking to assign a chair to the Sunshine Committee. Commissioner Duquette volunteered to chair this committee.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – Unassigned

Chair Grasty is looking to assign a chair to TACC. If anyone would like to chair this committee, please let her know.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee met October 10, 2018. The cost of living continues to increase and the price of having drivers is going up. Kern County observed how other counties in California are operating. They have a group working on a project and they are coming up with ideas to make transportation easier. The Thomas Road Improvement program is working on 24th Street project. They will be widening the north side of the road to add an extra lane going from Oak Street to Truxtun Avenue, and another going from 24th Street to Oak Street. Eventually every highway will have three lanes. The Centennial Corridor is 57% complete and it is anticipated to have this project complete in Spring 2020. There are other projects going on with freeway 58 to the Parkway. There will be an off-ramp to Mohawk, and there will also be a 1.5-mile flyover. Belle Terrace will be closed due to work on the bridge. They will also be widening the north and south lanes of freeway 99.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

Chair Grasty will be assigning another Commissioner to help Commissioner Brown with this committee.

INFORMATION ITEMS -

Chair Grasty thanked Commissioner Snyder for the excellent job she did chairing and planning the Senior Celebration. There were almost 200 seniors in attendance and event was a great success. The music was great and there were a lot of sponsors for this event. Pacifica Senior Living co-sponsored the event.

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 small percentage of proceeds will go to the COA Foundation. Please let Chair Grasty know if you need instructions. \$8.52 last quarter. Every little bit helps.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 1, 2018 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Department New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, November 19, 2018 1:00 p.m. Lamont Senior Center 10300 San Diego Street Lamont, CA 93241

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary