

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

November 19, 2018

Lamont Senior Center
10300 San Diego Street
Lamont, CA 93215

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:13 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, Stephanie Lynch, Jan Lemucchi, Sandy Morris, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, and Stephanie Lynch
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:

Soledad Cruz, Josh Dhanens, Berry Macky, Mary G. Ramos, and Catherine Vasquez.

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you cards were sent to the vendors and sponsors of the Senior Celebration. A thank you card was also sent to Commissioner R. Oswald for taking pictures during the Senior Celebration.

Chair Grasty reported a thank you letter was received from Volunteer Center of Kern County for donating \$50 for their Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recognition luncheon on October 19, 2018.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Fuller reported the Ridgecrest Senior Center parking lot is finished and it looks fabulous. They are now working on the interior.

Commissioner R. Oswald thanked Commission Duquette and the Commission on Aging for the birthday card he received.

Commissioner Morris thanked the Commission on Aging Foundation for the donation made to the Christmas for Seniors program, as well as, the gift cards and monetary donations from the Commissioners.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Grasty introduced Jan Lemucchi, who is a new Commissioner representing California Senior Legislature (CSL). Commissioner Lemucchi gave a brief background about herself. She also thanked the Commission for electing her as the new CSL Senior Assemblymember for PSA 33.

Chair Grasty thanked Kristian Besnard and the Lamont Senior nutrition staff for the lunch provided. She also thanked Kristian for interpreting during the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the October 15, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Duquette/R. Oswald/Lemucchi/None - Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF HONORARY COMMISSIONERS:** Motion made to make former Commission on Aging Commissioners, Marti Overfield and Norma Jackson, Honorary Commissioners. **M/S/A/O Fuller/R. Oswald/None/None – Motion carried.**

- **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:** Motion made to pass out candy canes to AASD employees on December 12, 2018 for employee appreciation.
M/S/A/O Snyder/Morris/None/None – Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Kristian Besnard reported there is an average of 16 congregate meals per day. On Wednesdays they serve approximately 28 meals. Commodities are distributed at this center every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month which is why there is an increase in congregate meals served on Wednesdays. Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator, Denise Juarez, volunteers her time to do arts and crafts with the seniors. There are no other activities going on at that center. Seniors are requesting to have exercise classes at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays. There are 18 people on the Arvin home delivered route, and 16 people on the Lamont home delivered route. These meals are cooked out of the Richard Prado Senior Center.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Karen McKenzie

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens thanked the Commission for allowing him to attend the meetings. A new veterans resource center was opened at Bakersfield College. They are hoping to start reaching out to assisted living, care facilities, and senior centers to assist veteran's families with Aid and Attendance. They have offices in Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, and Lake Isabella. Taft has offered the use of a conference room with free Wi-Fi so they will be out there soon. For individuals requesting veteran services, they can call the office for an appointment at (661) 868-7300. Vice-Chair Prado encouraged Veterans Services to attend as a vendor during their Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair in April. Commissioner Morris thanked Josh and staff for all of their help and outreach throughout the community.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Andria Smith & Adriana Mora

Vital information was shared about the cold and flu season and the benefits of receiving a flu vaccination, especially for those who are at a greater risk of getting the flu (seniors, children, pregnant women). Information was also provided about the differences between colds and flus, and they shared valuable tips on how to best prevent getting sick with proper hand washing, and keeping away from sick people.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported they receive federal money from Housing Urban Development (HUD) to offer grants to low-income. They have two programs. The first is the Home Access Program that creates accessibility improvements to a residence. You can be a home owner or renter to widen doors, install a ramp, remove a tub and put in a shower stall. The other program is for home owners to replace or repair existing items such as painting, roofing, plumbing, electrical, etc. This is a mortgage that is secured as a lien on the property. There is no payments or interest. It is a silent loan and remains until the house is sold. Fliers for the two programs were handed out to attendees.

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:

In September 2017, Congress passed the budget that would be good until December 2018. As part of this budget, senior nutrition got an additional \$10 million funding increase nationwide.

Social Security Administration (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) announced a 2.8% increase in monthly allotment starting in January 2019. This will impact more than 67 million Americans. The Medicare premiums are expected to increase, but not by much.

The new Delano Senior Center on Jefferson Street is fully operational. The Senior Center on Ellington has been closed by the City of Delano.

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. As the community learns more about the services available through AASD, IHSS referrals will continue to increase. Lito commended the IHSS Social Workers and staff for their hard work maintaining the increased caseloads, especially while being understaffed.

Minimum wage continues to put a strain on senior nutrition's program budget. In addition, many of our minimum wage staff will be getting \$1 raises each year until January 2022 as a result of minimum wage going up. 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 dollars 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 California Department of Social Services (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. We are looking to add 1 Program Support Supervisor, 3 SSWs in IHSS, and 1 in APS.

Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act/Conservatorship program received additional funding as well. We are looking at adding 1 Supervisor and 2 Social Service Workers in LPS.

AASD will implement an electronic check-in process using kiosks iPads effective January 7, 2019. This new electronic check-in process is available but people can still meet with receptionist.

At the C4A conference, a legislative hearing was held to discuss the effort to consolidate California Department on Aging, Department of Rehab, Independent Living Center, etc. under a new Department called Department of Community Living. This is similar to what the federal government did when it formed Administration on Community Living.

SCAMS:

The scam is where the caller claims to work for SSA and ask for personal information—such as the individual's Social Security Number—supposedly in order to process a benefit increase. These scam artists have also tried to get this information by claiming that the person's benefits will be cut off if the personal information isn't provided. Commissioner Gonzales reported about another potential scam for lowering costs of gas and electricity. Please be cautious before signing or having any services changed as it can result in paying higher rates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

The amended Bylaws Resolution was adopted on November 13, 2018. Chair Grasty thanked Parliamentarian L. Oswald and Laura Juarez for their work done on amending the Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be given to all Commissioners at the January 28, 2019 meeting.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported they had a general session November 1-3, 2018. Below is a list of the 2019 CSL Top 10 State Priorities and top 2 Federal Proposals that we CSL Legislators voted on last week at the General Session.

CSL members will be supporting these proposals:

1. AP-18 Labeling of Prescription Drugs (Gould)
2. AP-2 Transportation: Seniors' & Disabled Individuals' Access to Transportation to Medical Services (Warren)
3. SP-10 Financial Elder Abuse: Mandated Reporting (Molnar)

4. SP-7 Veterans Housing: Affordable Rental Housing (Kagan)
5. AP-7 Fall Safe Housing (Rolfe)
6. AP-8 Affordable Housing for the Elderly (Rolfe)
7. SP-4 Dental Insurance (Molnar)
8. AP-17 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (Horne)
9. AP-15 Homelessness: Seniors & Persons with Disabilities (Bloch)
10. AP-3 Travel Safety (Taylor)

Commissioner Fuller reported on the Top 2 Federal Proposals for 2019:
Listed below are the Top 2 Federal Proposals for 2019:

1. AFP-2 Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Grab Bars (Gould)
2. SFP-2 Medicare: Penalties (Love)

Unfortunately, Norma Jackson's property tax proposal didn't make the top ten.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

There is one vacancy for Supervisorial District 1. There is one vacancy for Aging and Adult Services Director. There were no new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker

Employee recognition will be December 12, 2018. Commissioners are invited to join the committee at 10 a.m. at AASD to tie poems and ribbon to the candy canes before passing them out to staff.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Executive Committee met on November 1, 2018 and discussed the COA Holiday Luncheon and the upcoming "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair. We do not have a date for this event at this time. Chair Grasty reported the Executive Committee decided that the Commission should now receive the agenda packets via email only. This will help the Department complying with Lean Six Sigma by saving time and money. The Area Plan Update will continue to be sent via U.S. Postal service. Laura Juarez requested everyone please keep their email addresses updated.

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 the committee visited the Evergreen Arvin skilled nursing. Kern Transitional Care is a new skilled nursing facility opening up on Knudsen Drive. It is a very beautiful building, very modern and huge. They are still working on getting licensed. They will be opening up the skilled side first, and will eventually open up the acute side. The need for an acute facility is great as we only have one in Kern County, which is the Delano Regional Medical and they only have 55 beds. They also want to expand an open a community care retirement facility. The facility has a fireproof slide. They have a lot of nice, home-like details. They have 146 total beds, 116 for the skilled section, and 30 beds for the acute side. Their rehab room is huge and have a lot of nice equipment for physical therapy.

When they obtain their license, before the facility is opened, Commissioners can go on a tour. Referrals for Ombudsman program can be done on their website: www.kernlongtermcare.com.

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

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston
COA officer elections are coming up. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian can be submitted to Commissioner Brown or Commissioner J. Johnston.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – A. Flucker, B. Goodlow, L. Hodge, A. Johnston, J. Johnston
Commissioner Goodlow reported all senior centers have been covered this year and all seem to be doing very well. Beginning in January 2019, Commissioner Goodlow will be visiting all centers that the COA are not scheduled to meet.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Unassigned
Commissioner Duquette sent two birthday cards.

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. She will be making an appointment in December so they will be ready to serve in January 2019. This appointment will expire June 30, 2019.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, L. Fuller, J. Johnston
Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee will meet November 29, 2018. There was an article printed in the Bakersfield Californian about the City of Arvin receiving their first electric bus. Arvin is the only city in California to receive the \$2.3 million Federal Transit Authority grant for 3 electric buses and a charging station. The electric bus will go 251 miles per charge with zero air emissions. The bus rides will begin in September 2019.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown
Commissioner Brown reported they will continue to recognize volunteers as they are doing.

INFORMATION ITEMS –
The holiday luncheon is coming up December 19, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Woolgrowers. Payments can be made payable to Commission on Aging Foundation. Chair Grasty will be writing one check to the restaurant.

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.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 3, 2019 1:30 pm (Dark in December) Aging and Adult Services Department New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, January 28, 2019 1:00 p.m. (Dark in December) (4th Monday due to Holiday on 3rd Monday) Wasco Senior Center - Tentative 1280 Poplar Street, Wasco, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary