

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2019

Wasco Senior Center
1280 Poplar Street
Wasco, CA 93280

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, *Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Stephanie Lynch, Jan Lemucchi, Sandy Morris, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Barbara Goodlow, Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, and Stephanie Lynch
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker
Norma Jackson

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Katrechia Short, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Anita Hernandez, Mireya Lopez, Amalia L. Carter, Lidia, Eleanor Bowles, Ellie Wheeler, Suzanne McWhorter, Magdalena, Chris Soriano, Valerie Rangel, and Kaye Davis

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A card was given to Commissioner Snyder congratulating her for being selected as the recipient of the 2018 Wendy Wayne Ethics Award.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Snyder thanked the Commission on Aging for the card she received. She also shared information about the Wendy Wayne award. As a recipient of this award, \$2,500 will be donated to a non-profit organization in her name. Commissioner Snyder designated the award to go to North of the River Meals on Wheels.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the November 19, 2018 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Brown/R. Oswald/None/None - Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Katrecia Short

Katrecia Short reported the Wasco Senior Center is part of the North Kern Senior Nutrition program. An average of 220 meals are served each day in the North Kern area. There are 15-20 congregate meals served daily. There are approximately 55 home delivered meals served daily. The Wasco Senior Center has exercise classes for seniors each Friday. They have movie days on Thursdays, and knitting on Mondays. They also enjoy putting puzzles together. Meals for the Wasco Senior Center are prepared out of the Shafter Senior Center.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Karen McKenzie

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Ellie Wheeler, Suzanne McWhorter, and Maggie Franco

Ellie, Suzanne, and Maggie were the COA guest speakers this month. Their report was presented prior to the meeting and they shared information about the flu, pneumonia, and shingles vaccinations, and how often you should receive each vaccination.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported there are 160,000 Medi-Cal programs for Kern County and currently there is approximately currently 45,000 ongoing CalFresh cases. They are working every day on managing those ongoing cases. DHS works closely with Aging and Adults Services In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) staff focusing on renewals for the aging population, and this has proven to be a successful partnership. DHS is preparing for the SSI cash out reversal. This will make a large senior population eligible to CalFresh. If SSI recipients are not already on Cal-Fresh, they will need to apply. They are in the process of determining how to outreach to SSI recipients.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Carlos Soriano reported they have two programs the Department offers, the Home Access Grant, and the Home Rehabilitation Program. Most of their advertising for these programs are by word of mouth. Please get the word out and continue to make referrals to their office. Fair Housing Coordinator, Alma Beltran, will be reaching out to senior centers in Kern County on a quarterly basis to remind individuals of the programs available. They are also available to attend resource fairs and other events to help get the word out. Commissioner Gonzalez suggested they reach out to the Real Estate Association. Flyers about the two programs were distributed.

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 and the President came to an agreement to end the government shutdown until 2/15/19.

The House passed a bill on Dec 17, 2018 that extends funding to Money Follows the Person (MFP) project for 3 months. MFP allows individuals to transition from a nursing home to a home in the community.

California Achieving a Better Life Experience (CalABLE) went live December 18, 2018. This program is a savings and investment plan offered by California to individuals with disabilities. Eligible individuals, family, friends and employers can contribute up to \$15,000 a year without affecting the account of the beneficiary's public disability benefits. For example, if you receive SSI, you can save as much as \$100,000 with no effect on federal and California

benefits. Earnings on qualified withdrawals from a CalABLE account are federal and California state tax free. California residents are protected from both creditors and repayment of medical assistance. To be eligible, you have to have been disabled before age 26.

The Governor's January proposed Budget was released (focused on early child development; housing & homelessness; expansion of Medi-Cal; Mental Health; lowering prescriptions thru central negotiations):

- \$3 billion in pension relief to school districts, many of which are struggling to meet their required contributions to employees' retirement funds;
- \$500 million for local shelter expansions and other homeless services;
- \$300 million in one-time funds to expand or develop emergency shelters and navigation centers. \$200 million would be given to continuums of care and \$100 million would go to the State's 11 most populous cities.
- A one-time, \$750 million grant to encourage all school districts to offer full-day kindergarten;
- A \$500 million one-time commitment to expand child care services;
- A \$1.4 billion boost for higher education to support increased enrollment, a tuition freeze and a second year of free tuition at community colleges;
- \$305 million in additional funding to thin forests, cut fuel breaks, fund controlled burns and other methods of reducing fire risk;
- A doubling of the state's Earned Income Tax Credit, renamed a "Working Families Tax Credit," to \$1 billion. It will help poor families with young children by providing a \$500 credit for 400,000 additional families;
- Nearly \$200 million in general-fund dollars to expand Medi-Cal availability to about 138,000 undocumented immigrants ages 19 through 25.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Budget news

- The Governor's proposed Budget puts in additional revenue to offset increase in IHSS Maintenance of Effort that counties are responsible for.
- 7% restoration in IHSS hours to continue. It was expected to expire July 1, 2019. This means IHSS clients will not have their hours cut across the board by 7%.

Kern County news

Kern County applied for a Home Safe Grant and was awarded \$170,000 for 3 years. Kern is one of the 25 counties that was awarded. Home Safe is designed to help Adult Protective Services (APS) clients if they are homeless or at risk of being homeless. For this pilot project, California provided for \$15 million over a 3-year period. It was a competitive bid process and over 36 counties applied for the grant but only 25 were awarded.

The Department is in the process of acquiring additional space (Pair & Marotta Gym) due to growth in IHSS and LPS Conservatorship to continue to meet the needs of the community.

There are no cuts to the nutrition program. Additional federal funds were added but we're not sure of the amount that will be disbursed to Kern County.

March for Meals is an annual campaign Aging and Adult Services participates in to recognize senior nutrition in general. This year we partnered with the Bakersfield Condors ice hockey team to bring awareness to Meals on Wheels during one of their games on March 16, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported there will be a Senior Rally Day in Sacramento on May 7, 2019.

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

No report.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the Executive Committee met on January 3, 2019 and discussed the agenda for today's meeting, and the "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair on April 27, 2019 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

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

Commissioner Flucker reported Kaye Davis was appointed to serve on the IHSS Advisory Committee by the Board of Supervisors as a Private Industry Representative.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported there is no skilled nursing facility in Wasco. There's only one licensed facility which is a residential care facility for the elderly. The committee stopped to visit the facility but there was no answer at the door so they did not get the opportunity to visit any facilities today. A tour is being scheduled to see the new Kern Transitional Care on Knudsen Dr. in Bakersfield. It will initially be a skilled nursing facility. They are still working on obtaining their license. She will send an email with the date and time of the tour. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program will have a new Volunteer Coordinator position within the next month and a half to assist with the recruitment, retaining, and training the volunteers. They are hoping to get up to 40 individuals to volunteer.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported they will be checking inventory to see if anything needs to be purchased for the upcoming Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. A meeting will be scheduled with Aging and Adult Services staff to start planning.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston; S. Morris

Commissioner Brown reported COA officer elections are coming up. Please submit nominations via email for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian to Commissioner Brown or Commissioner J. Johnston. The COA Bylaws state three Commissioners will serve on the Nomination Committee so another member is needed. Commissioner Morris volunteered to serve on this committee. The new Chair can appoint members to committees effective July 1, 2019. Full descriptions of each office and committee is listed in the Bylaws.

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

Commissioner Hodge reported he visited Greenacres Community Center, Rasmussen Senior Center, and East Niles Senior Center and all seem to be doing well. The Greenacres Senior Center has a nice monthly calendar printed in large font, and on the other side has all of the activities listed for that month. The Rasmussen Senior Center is one of the most active centers. They have lots of activities and music. One request from the seniors at all three centers is for funding so more seniors can participate with congregate meals.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Unassigned

Commissioner Duquette reported she sent out birthday and get-well cards.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – L. Oswald, R. Oswald

No report.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee last met in November 2018 and discussed the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, which is input from all over the community. The final review will be January 30, 2019. GET will be presenting their new RYDER app, which is transportation that one can request via the app to take to multiple places within their zone for \$3.50. They will be hiring 25-30 new bus drivers for this program. Vice-Chair Prado will provide more information to the next meeting. Commissioner Duquette suggests compiling a list of companies for senior transportation. The Transportation Committee was assigned to work on compiling the senior transportation contact list. Commissioner Duquette and Commissioner Morris volunteered to assist with this project.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

The COA member contact list was distributed to all Commissioners. If any corrections need to be made, please let Laura Juarez know.

The "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9 am to 12 noon. DJ Brandi has volunteered to provide music during this event. Vendors can start setting up at 8:00 a.m. Letters and flyers will go out as soon as they are ready.

Laura Juarez reported she does not have the dates for the in-person Ethics Training at this time but will provide that information to us as it becomes available.

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.

There will be a health fair in Ridgecrest on March 9, 2019 from 7 am to 2 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 7, 2019 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Department New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, February 25, 2019 1:00 p.m. Bakersfield Senior Center 530 "4th" Street, Bakersfield, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary