

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2019

Bakersfield Senior Center
530 "4th" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

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, Barbara Goodlow, *Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Stephanie Lynch, Jan Lemucchi, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, Stephanie Lynch, and Sandy Morris
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Michelle Pearl Krizo, Clem Dixon, Valerie Rangel, Erma Cole, Mayola Beverly, Ethel Dixon, Karyn Bostick, LaDonna Norwood, Irma Powell, Debra Dunn-Yonke, George Goodloe, Lilli S. Parker, Larry Parker, Sr., Lilliana Galvan, David Cruz, Dorothy Monarrez, Nina Blanco, Ruthie Jones, Frances Young, John Topolewski, Peggy Gonzalez, Joe Valenzuela, Mary Mecado, Peggy Langels, Tee Daniels, and Catherine Vasquez

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was sent to Pastor Alfred, of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, thanking him for once again co-sponsoring the "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair by allowing us to utilize their church property to hold this event.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Bakersfield Senior Center for the lovely lunch that was prepared.

Commissioner Goodlow thanked the COA for the "get well" card she received.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Grasty announced that Norma Jackson has been appointed by the Director of Aging and Adult Services to serve on the Commission on Aging.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the January 28, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Brown/Goodlow/None - Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF HONOARY COMMISSION MEMBER:** Commissioner Brown made a motion to appoint former Commissioner Deanna Sutherland as an Honorary Commissioner effective May 20, 2019. Ms. Sutherland served on the Commission on Aging from July 5, 1994 through December 1, 2002. While on the Commission, she served as Chair, and was on the Executive Committee, which required her to travel at least twice each month to Bakersfield from California City. Ms. Sutherland is also responsible for forming the Kern County Commission on Aging Senior Celebration, which is held bi-annually. **(M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Brown/Goodlow/None - Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Tee Daniels

Tee Daniels, Board President for the Bakersfield Senior Center. She is reporting on behalf of Lilli Parker, who is teaching their Diabetes Prevention/Intervention class. This is the 5th week of class and they will be attending the Albertson's tour and see the Pharmacist this Saturday. These classes are scheduled Monday morning, Monday evening, and Thursday morning. It is a very educational class. The Bakersfield Senior Center is having a "Friends of Seniors Day Car Show" on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bakersfield Senior Center. All are encouraged to come out and join them in this event.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Michelle Pearl Krizo provided detailed information on the different immunizations available and recommended especially for seniors. Flu season is from September to first of April. Public Health provides flu shots from August through June so you still have time receive the flu vaccination if you haven't received it yet. Mobile clinics area also available. You can call Public Health at 661-321-3000 to find out where and when a mobile clinic will be in your area. Costs depend on your insurance. It is recommended that adults 65+ years, or under 65 with a chronic condition, should receive the Pneumococcal Pneumonia vaccination every 5 years. Michelle provided several handouts for attendees to review further at their own leisure. "Shingrix" is a new vaccination for Shingles. Two doses, 2 to 6 months apart, are recommended for adults 50 and older. Shingrix helps to protect against herpes and chickenpox. Pharmacies are the best places to get this vaccination as most Doctor Offices do not carry it. Again, the cost depends on your insurance coverage.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Liliana Galvan

Lilliana Galvan shared information on the Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP). This program is aimed at providing short-term counseling and case management to individuals in our community. This is especially beneficial to those who are homebound and isolated, in need of social support, suffering from loss and/or grief, and those who are experiencing depression. Referrals can be made by calling 661-868-5022. Services are available in Bakersfield, Wasco, Lake Isabella, and Tehachapi. The Wellness, Independence & Senior Enrichment (WISE) program is for individuals who have a history of mental illness or who are suffering from their first episode of severe depression and anxiety and would benefit from intensive case management, medication, and therapy. Referrals for the WISE program can be made by calling 661-868-5050. The main goal for both programs is to help individuals remain in their own home and be as independent as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported they are working every day on Medi-Cal Renewals. If anyone receives Medi-Cal, be sure to turn in your renewals timely and correctly. DHS staff are available to go out to senior facilities upon request to help complete the renewals. Commissioner Gonzalez reported they are going out to help train facility Social Workers on how to complete the paperwork for their clients.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported they had two grand openings for two recently moved facilities. The Ridgecrest ETR/DHS office was relocated to 540 Perdue Avenue, Suite B2, which is right next to the Ridgecrest DMV. EDD is no longer in Ridgecrest. The Oildale ETR office that was on China Grade Loop has been relocated to 1129 Olive Drive, Suite H in Bakersfield. Victor Portillo is the Supervisor at that location and would be happy to give you a tour of the office. Peggy announced and distributed their new guide to services brochures, and also current

open recruitments. Commissioner Fuller commended Peggy on their ETR office and staff in Ridgecrest.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez shared information about two programs in their Housing Program. The Home Access Grant is for home owners or renters, with owner's approval, and helps low-income and disabled individuals for modifications to their residents to add a ramp to their door, walk-in shower, grab bars, etc. The Home Improvement Loan is for home owners to apply. It is a mortgage that is secured as a lien on the property. There is no interest on this loan, and no payments needed until the home is either sold or the home owner moves from the home. This loan helps repair or replace existing items on the home, such as painting, roof, etc. This program is for individuals residing inside county limits. There is a similar program available through the City for those who reside within city limits.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) REPORT - Michele Gomez

Michele Gomez reported there is currently over 7,000 IHSS recipients now receiving home care. We are working on getting clients to submit their time cards electronically. This will help save time on mailing time cards, and also issuing pay checks to care providers. We are also working to get recipients and providers enrolled in the electronic portal. In July 2021, the State will mandate all paper time cards to go away. We are also collaborating with DHS Medi-Cal staff on the reversal of SSI Cash-Out. Beginning in Summer 2019, SSI benefits will not be reduced or eliminated because of this change. Most SSI recipients will be newly eligible for CalFresh. Those SSI recipients living in a home without any current CalFresh recipients in the household will need to apply. For those SSI recipients of current CalFresh households, do not need to apply. DHS staff will work on getting them added to the existing household CalFresh case at the next semi-annual or annual report after its implementation, or the household can make a request to add the SSI recipient. If adding the SSI recipient causes the household's Cal-Fresh benefit to be reduced, they will be eligible to receive a state-funded nutrition benefit called the "Supplemental Nutrition Benefit (SNB) on their existing EBT card. If for some reason the SSI recipient would not be eligible, or if it leads to a total loss of CalFresh benefits, they will be eligible to receive a state-funded benefit called the "Transitional Nutrition Benefit (TNB) on their EBT card. IHSS will be mailing out information to clients to let them know of these coming changes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal News

On February 15, 2019, the government shutdown ended and a federal budget was passed which funds the federal government through the rest of the federal fiscal year that will be

through September 30, 2019. Discussions for FFY 20 are already under way since we are 7 months away from another potential threat of government shutdown.

There's a Social Security 2100 Act that was introduced both in the House and Senate. Here are some key proposed points to the act:

- 1) Increase Social Security proposed benefits across the board by 2%
- 2) Raise Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to reflect things like health care costs
- 3) Cut federal income taxes on Social Security benefits for about 12 million middle income people, while raising taxes elsewhere.
- 4) The payroll tax rate would rise to 14.8% over the next 24 years, from 12.4%. Currently, Americans with incomes below \$132,000 pay Social Security taxes on all of their income. But Americans with incomes above that threshold only pay those taxes on the portion of their income that fall below the threshold. This bill would require these individuals to begin paying the Social Security tax again on income over \$400,000. Oddly, earnings between \$132,000 - \$400,000 would not be taxed, and considered a doughnut hole.
- 5) Current actuaries claim that Social Security funds will be depleted by 2034 if no changes are made. This act would make it solvent for 75 years and possibly longer

State News

IHSS Budget news

Gov. Budget puts in additional State general fund revenue to offset increase Maintenance of Effort (MOE) that counties would have paid in the coming years. The 7% restoration in IHSS hours to continue. It was expected to expire June 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 was 1 of 25 counties that were awarded. Home Safe is designed to assist APS clients if they are homeless or at risk of being homeless. For this pilot project, CA provided \$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.

AASD is In the process of acquiring additional space (Pair & Marotta Gym) due to growth in IHSS and LPS Conservatorship.

Currently VITA is at the Aging and Adult Services office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to prepare your taxes for you free of charge. Call 661-868-1000 to make an appointment.

Tomorrow (Tuesday February 26, 2019) at 9am at the Board Chambers (1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield), we will go before the Board to accept a proclamation for March as "March for Meals Month." This is our opportunity to highlight our nutrition program and staff for the amazing work they do. Please join us if you are able to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Chair Grasty reported a statement addressing the requirement of Ethics training will be added to the COA Bylaws. That language will be presented at the next COA regular meeting.

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

Commissioner Fuller provided a handout on proposals. In addition to the proposals, the handout also includes information about the CSL. An annual Senior Rally Day will be held May 7, 2019 at the State Capitol. Unfortunately, there is no funding to provide transportation to attend this event.

Commissioner Lemucchi reported on the top proposals and provided handouts of same.

The following were listed as the top ten State Legislative proposals:

1. AP-2 Transportation: Seniors' & Disabled Individuals' Access to Transportation to Medical Services

This measure would authorize the use of moneys in the electric program investment charge to fund grant programs in counties to provide transportation to nonemergency medical services for the senior and disabled populations located in rural, desert, and mountain areas through the use of energy renewable vehicles.

2. AP-7 Fall Safe Housing

This measure would amend the Building Homes and Jobs Act to ensure that specific falls prevention structural features designed to prevent falls and facilitate aging in place are built into new housing using funds generated by the Act.

3. AP-18: Labeling of Prescription Drugs

This measure would require physicians and surgeons to include the purpose for which the medication is prescribed on all prescriptions, so that the information would be included on the prescription label, unless the patient requests that this information be omitted.

4. AB-50: Medi-Cal Assisted Living Program

This measure is being reintroduced from 2017.

5. SP-7 Veterans Housing: Affordable Rental Housing

This measure would establish a rental housing assistance program and would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate access to affordable housing with existing State and Federal Veterans services and provide detailed information about the assistance in a specified resource publication.

6. SFP-2 Medicare: Penalties

This measure would memorialize Congress and the President to adopt appropriate regulations for the Medicare Program, or to enact appropriate legislation, that would

prohibit Medicare late enrollment penalties related to the enrollment for Medicare parts A, B, and D.

The following were identified as the Top Federal Legislative proposals:

1. AFP-2 Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Grab Bars

This measure would memorialize the Federal Government to adopt appropriate regulations for the Medicare Program, or to enact appropriate legislation, that would add grab bars to the list of covered durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program, upon an evaluation by the Medicare Program to demonstrate that grab bars meet the requirements of durable medical equipment.

2. SFP-2 Medicare: Penalties

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President to adopt appropriate regulations for the Medicare Program, or to enact appropriate legislation, that would prohibit Medicare late enrollment penalties related to the enrollment for Medicare parts A, B, and D.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Norma Jackson was appointed by the Director of Aging and Adult Services Department. There is one vacancy for 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, R. Oswald, Y. Prado

No report.

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 they visited The Orchards on 34th Street, formerly known as Bakersfield Health Care Center/Life House, and it went through some renovations. Commissioner Duquette reported there are 132 beds, most full. Some are two bedrooms. Some rooms in both wings had three beds. The back of the building is beautiful. Commissioner Barrett reported they are renovating. She didn't see any Ombudsman notices posted. Commissioner R. Oswald reported he got to witness an individual sign an Advanced Directive.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported some of the committee members met with Aging and Adult Services staff on February 4, 2019 to start planning the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. Letters have already gone out to vendors. There will be live music and hopefully more vendors, including the animal shelter. Flyers will be available soon. She will check on

inventory for COA giveaways.

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

Commissioner Brown reported COA officer elections are coming up. So far she has heard from 2 individuals interested in running for office. Please submit nominations via email for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian to Commissioner Brown or Commissioner J. Johnston. A slate will be presented at the May 2019 COA regular meeting, and elections will take place at the June 2019 COA regular meeting.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Unassigned

Commissioner Duquette reported she is sending out cards as needed.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported she will be visiting Rosamond Senior Center and Inyokern Senior Center in March. Commissioner Hodge visited Greenacres Senior Center. Everything is going fine and they are looking forward to having the COA join them next month.

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

They will be meeting next week.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported the committee will meet February 26, 2019.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

Will continue as we're doing. May need to order more pens soon, or consider other giveaways to senior nutrition volunteers and speakers.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

The "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9 am to 12 noon. Vendor letters have been sent out. Flyers have been posted on the AASD & COA websites.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference will be held in June 2019. Details to follow.

We received our largest check yet in the amount of \$25 from Amazon! 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, March 7, 2019 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Department New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, March 18, 2019 1:00 p.m. Greenacres Community Center 2014 Calloway Drive Bakersfield, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary