

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**

March 18, 2019

Greenacres Senior Center
2014 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:07 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, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, *Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Stephanie Lynch, Jan Lemucchi, Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, and Toni Johnston
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker, Marti Overfield

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Jeremy Oliver, Program Director
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Desiree Ingalls, Leslie Wallace, Michael Keese, Valerie Rangel, Lourdes Garcia, Alma Beltran, and Chris Soriano

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Greenacres Community Center for the lunch that was prepared.

Commissioner Lynch thanked the Greenacres Community Center for their hospitality. The center is always inviting and they have a tremendous hostess committee.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the February 25, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Snyder/Jackson/Lynch, Morris/None - Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF ADDITION TO BYLAWS TO INCLUDE MANDATORY ETHICS TRAINING:** Chair Grasty reported the mandatory Ethics Training was not included in the COA Bylaws and a motion was made to add the following to Article IV, #9 COA Bylaws:

"Each member of this Commission is required under AB1234 Mandatory Ethics Training to receive this mandated training no later than one year from the first day of service on the Commission. After the initial training, each is required to receive training at least once every two years. This training may be completed in one of the scheduled sessions provided by Kern County Counsel or through online training at The Fair Political Practices Commission at: www.fppc.ca.gov-select "Learn", "Public Officials and Employees", "Ethics Training."

(M/S/A/O) Brown/Morris/None/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF CSL LETTER OF SUPPORT:** This item was removed by Chair Grasty.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Desiree Ingalls

Desiree Ingalls thanked the Commission on Aging for joining them at the senior center today. For the months of January and February, 3,770 congregate meals were served at Rasmussen and Greenacres senior centers, approximately 100 meals each day. There were 5,675 meals prepared for the Meals on Wheel program for January and February. A Pickleball

tournament was held at the Greenacres Senior Center, raising \$1,800 within a two-day period for their Meals on Wheels program. They will be looking at holding this event every year. They had their annual health fair at the Rasmussen Senior Center and it went well. The centers also had a St. Patrick's Day celebration.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Leslie Wallace reported they recently had a vendor change for custodial services out at East Niles Senior Center and Richard Prado Senior Center. They have a lot more reservations coming in. They are working on some marketing to give senior centers reserved. They are also looking forward to the Cooling Centers coming soon, which will impact some of the senior centers.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Not in attendance.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia shared they are going through some changes with their Wellness, Independence & Senior Enrichment (WISE) program and Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP). The WISE program is a special team at mental health for seniors, targeting those at risk for homelessness, suicide, chronic health issues, depression, and any mental health illness. The VSOP program is a prevention and early intervention program targeting seniors who are homebound and isolated, in need of social support, suffering from loss and/or grief, and those who are experiencing depression. They are going through a transitional phase and are accepting referrals. These are both free programs. They are also looking for volunteers. Services are available in Bakersfield, Wasco, Lake Isabella, and Tehachapi. Referrals for VSOP can be made by calling 661-868-5021. Referrals for WISE can be made by calling 661-868-5000.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported they have approximately 150,000 Medi-Cal cases that they are managing for Kern County. They continue to work with In-Home Supportive Services Department. She received approval for DHS to attend the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair as a vendor on April 27, 2019. The Expansion of CalFresh to the SSI Recipients can be shared with senior centers and SSI clients. They will be providing Outreach to get the word out. The Social Security Administration will be working along with the State to inform their clients of their eligibility and how they can apply. Lito shared that DHS will be at Aging and Adult Services to do a training for staff. Commissioners are welcome to attend this training on April 11, 2019.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported they have a staff member, Sarai Trujillo, over in the Veterans building on Golden State Hwy. Sarai is there full-time to help veterans with getting jobs, resumes, etc. All is going really well. They still have lots of funding for training. If you know of anyone needing training, please refer them to ETR. RAPID Response is working with businesses who

are on the verge of losing their business. They will help the employees of those businesses to help keep them working. Peggy shared information on current open recruitments. You can also view these recruitments on their website: <http://www.americasjobcenterofkern.com/>

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Chris Soriano

Chris Soriano shared that they will be able to spend their full amount this year so they can continue to provide their services. They will be rehabilitating a home here in Bakersfield, which will be an approximate \$100,000 project. He will share pictures with us of this project.

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:

Federal News

President Trump released his proposed budget for federal fiscal year 19-20. The proposal presents a 5% across the board funding cut for non-defense discretionary programs. The highlights are as follows:

- The proposal includes a general provision to extend flexibility for Older Americans Act (OAA) funding which includes nutrition and other support services.
- Calls for level funding for senior nutrition programs at \$907 million. There were no cuts.
- Elimination of Block Grants such as Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Some of these grants in some counties pay for their respective senior nutrition program. These grants have been subject to elimination in the previous budget the President proposed.
- Elimination of, or reduction to USDA Programs, which for some includes Meals on Wheels and Commodity Supplemental Food Program which serves 700,000 seniors annually would be eliminated.
- Reduce State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) funding by 25% (\$13 million). Last year's proposal proposed to eliminate the program. This program is locally known as the Health Insurance and Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP).
- Elimination of Additional Programs serving seniors such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Senior Employment.
- President's proposal also proposed deep cuts to Medicaid in the form of states flexibility to enact block grants. It also cuts Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and disability programs, and continues to roll back the Affordable Care Act.

Department News

Currently Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is in our office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays preparing taxes free of charge. Call (661) 868-1000 to schedule an appointment. VITA is also providing tax preparation services in Tehachapi and Ridgecrest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

No report.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Fuller reported there are no new appointments. There are no expired appointments. Appointments that will soon expire are Chris Barrett in April 2019, Sandy Morris in May 2019, and Kris Grasty in June 2019. There is one vacancy for Supervisorial District 1. There were no new applications received. Laura Juarez will send letters for reappointments.

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 Palms at San Lauren. When they were constructing the entire site, the intent was to have it all together with the same owner; however, that is not the case anymore. Kern Transitional is separate from the Palms. They do have a pending license of 66 beds. Commissioner Barrett shared that the facility is not ready. They will be having their soft opening April 17, 2019. There are a total of 66 rooms, of which 24 will be for Dementia patients with a studio room, restroom, and closet. The other rooms will be for those who are more independent living. They will not hire an RN or LVN on-site, therefore, persons requiring medical services will not qualify to reside there unless the resident chooses to hire their own nurse. Commissioner Bodnar had some concerns about their Dementia unit and the living situation as their health transitions. Commissioner R. Oswald reported this facility also requires that payments are paid privately and up front.

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair is April 27, 2019 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Tables have been rented. They have some water bottles donated. The Commission has jar openers to give out. Commissioner Jackson volunteered to help at the table. Honorary Commissioner Overfield also volunteered to work at the COA table. We have received 17 vendors confirmed so far.

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

Commissioner Brown reported COA officer elections are coming up. She has received only 2 nominations so far. Please submit nominations via email for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian to Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Jackson, or Commissioner Morris. 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 – D. Duquette

No report.

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

No report.

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

There are 33 service areas in California, with Kern County being area 33. We have a much larger homeless population; however, ours is nothing compared to other counties, especially urban counties. They are working on revising their building permits to encourage people to build small homes on their existing property. There's a big push to combine aging and disabled services, which will be pretty interesting to see how the funding will be if combined. The 8 bills proposed in the Assembly and in the Senate are as follows:

1. Administer grant programs that fund transportation to non-emergency medical services in rural areas
2. Establish the California Department of Community Living
3. Modernize the Older California's Act
4. Master plan to implement no wrong door system
5. Establish the Master plan that responds to population needs
6. To require the Governor to appoint an aging task force to work with state departments and stake holders to identify and prioritize
7. To arrange funding for aging and disability resource centers
8. To establish a plan to address the housing needs of older Californians

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

Vice-Chair Prado reported there was a Transit Symposium entitled, Transition 2019. She was not able to attend the Symposium but she received a lot of written information. Valley Go is a new project with plans to have the bus fleets throughout California will be 100% electric. We are the first State-wide policy to put this in place.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

Commissioner Brown reported she will continue as we're doing.

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 tentatively be held June 13, 2019. Details to follow with a tentative theme of Estate Planning.

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.

Commissioner Barrett reported she attend the Ridgecrest Health Fair and there was a great attendance.

Commissioner Snyder reported Alzheimer's Association will be holding a Brain Health & Dementia Community Forum on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, from 5:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Vice-Chair Prado announced the Wendy Wayne Ethics award will be held March 27, 2019. This is when our own Commissioner, Judy Snyder, will receive her award.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 4, 2019 1:30 pm The Pointe at Summit Hills Dining Room 4501 Upland Pointe Dr., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, April 15, 2019 1:00 p.m. Rasmussen Senior Center 115 E. Roberts Lane Bakersfield, CA 93308

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary