**Kern County Commission On Aging**
Kris Grasty, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1052; (661) 868-1001 FAX

Commission On Aging
*"Making a difference in the lives of senior citizens."*

**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING**
**MINUTES**
**May 20, 2019**
California City Senior Center
10221 Heather Avenue
California City, CA 93505

**OPENING**
**CALL TO ORDER:**
Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:09 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, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, *Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Sandy Morris, ***Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

**Excused Absences:** Chris Barrett, Doris Duquette, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, and Stephanie Lynch
**A QUORUM WAS PRESENT**

**Honorary Commission Members Present:**
Harley Baker and Deanna Sutherland

**Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:**
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

**Guests:**
Virginia Clemons, Theresa Trujillo, Cora B. McCrumb, Deena Chacanaca, Michael E. Edmiston, Janice Gibson, Jane Huffsmith, Craig Huffsmith, Catherine Vasquez, Albert Mendoza, Zoila Esquivel, and Jeanette McCaless

**AGENDA POSTING:**
Lito Morillo confirmed the agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letters were sent on behalf of the Commission on Aging thanking the vendors for participating in the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. Letters were also sent to Pastor Alfred of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and to John Money of Kern High School District PAL. A letter will be sent to DJ Brandi De La Garza thanking her for volunteering her time at the event, and to congratulate her for being honored with the East Bakersfield Leadership Award.

**COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**Public Comments:**

Michael Edmiston welcomed the Commission on Aging to the California City Senior Center, as it is always a pleasure to have you. He also invited the Commission to visit the center every year.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Chair Grasty thanked Cal City Mayor, Charles (Chuck) McGuire, for attending the meeting. Mayor McGuire thanked the Commission for being here and for having him there.

Chair Grasty reported Commissioner Bodnar wrote a letter to the Bakersfield Californian to "Join the Fight for Alzheimer's education." The letter asks Congressman McCarthy to co-sponsor the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which would help educate clinicians on Alzheimer's and dementia care planning through Medicare. She also encouraged others to join her in asking the Congressman and Senators to support the Bill (S.880/H.R. 1873).
Commissioner Jackson thanked the Cal City Senior Nutrition staff for the outstanding lunch provided.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Grasty welcomed Honorary Commissioner Deanna Sutherland to the Commission on Aging.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the April 15, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Fuller/R. Oswald/Flucker/None - Motion carried.**

**SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:**

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard**

Kristian Besnard welcomed the Commission on Aging to the California Senior Center. Kristian reported they serve an average of 25-35 congregate meals each day, and 15 home delivered meals. All home delivery drivers are volunteers, and they also work with CAPK to deliver food boxes. They are still working out of the Cal City kitchen until renovations are complete at the Ridgecrest Senior Center. Activities at the center include: exercise on Monday and Wednesdays, Bowling on Tuesdays, Creative Crafts on Wednesdays, Scrabble on Thursdays, movies on Fridays, and birthday celebrations on the third Wednesday of the month.

**GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace**
Not in attendance.

**VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens**
Not in attendance.

**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) – Teresa Trujillo**
Teresa Trujillo reported Medi-Cal renewals go out two months ahead. Proof of income and resources will always be required with the renewals. The SSI Cal-Fresh expansion is effective June 1, 2019. Individuals can apply in May but it will not take effect until June 1, 2019. You can apply via fax, phone, in-person, or mail.

**EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels**
Not in attendance.

**PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez**
Catherine Vasquez reported on the two programs offered through her Department. The Home Improvement Loan is for homeowners with no interest or payments. There is a mortgage secured as a lien on the property. The loan will be paid by making voluntary payments, or when the house is sold. The loan can be used for plumbing, electric, paint, roof, and anything to repair or replace anything in the home currently. The Home Access Grant program is free for homeowners or renters with homeowner's approval, to make any modifications to the home. Eligible improvements can include, installing grab bars, wider toilets, widening doorways, installing a ramp, or removing a tub and putting in a handicapped assessable shower. Interested persons can call Catherine Vasquez at (661) 862-5062.

**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**

The House Appropriations Committee yesterday approved its FY 2020 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). In addition to considering the Labor-HHS bill, the committee also approved

overall spending allocations for federal non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs that would significantly exceed current budget caps. Moving forward, the House and Senate will need to agree on a proposal to increase these caps. This definitely is completely different than what Administration's budget proposed, which was a lot of reductions and/or elimination.

| FEDERAL PROGRAMS | FY 2020 PROPOSED FUNDING LEVELS |
|---|---|
| **OAA Congregate Nutrition Program (Title III-C1)** | **$525 million ($29.6 million more, an increase of 6%)** |
| **OAA Home-Delivered Nutrition Program (Title III-C2)** | **$305 million ($53.6 million more an increase of 21%)** |
| **OAA Nutrition Services Incentive Program (Title III)** | **$170 million (an increase of 6%)** |
| **OAA Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III-B)** | **$422 million ($37 million more an increase of 9%)** |
| **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** | **$55 million ($5.9 million increase)** |
| **OAA Title VII LTC Ombudsman and Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect** | **$23.7 million ($2 million more an increase of 9%)** |
| **OAA Native American Nutrition Programs (Title VI)** | **$37.2 million ($5.9 million more an increase of 8%)** |
| **Social Services Block Grant (Title XX)** | **$1.7 billion (level funding)** |
| **Community Services Block Grant** | **$760 million (an increase of 5%)** |
| **National Family Caregiver Support Program (III E)** | **$200 million ($19 million more an increase of 10%)** |
| Title III D Preventative Services | **$24.8 million (no change)** |
| **Aging and Disability Resource Centers** | **$8.1 million (no change)** |
| **Community Services Block Grant** | **$760 million (an increase of 5%)** |

**State News**
Since Governor Newsome's State of the Union address, there has been a lot of discussion and movement about a Master Plan for Aging. Currently there are several bills in the legislature that is being discussed that all have to do with a Master Plan on Aging. This is exciting news since it is truly the first time I can recall that the legislature and governor are talking about supporting our aging community.

Additionally, there is a bill in the legislature that is looking at combining various agencies to serve seniors and disabled adults. At the federal level, they did so under the Administration on Community Living. Now at the State level, they are trying to mirror the same concept to provide more seamless service to this population. It is great to see the focus on seniors again.

**County**
Aging and Adult submitted its FY 19-20 budget on 4/15/19. Happy to say we are in a great position. Next year we will be looking at adding staff to IHSS, acquiring more space, and doing renovations to allow for more space. The population is growing and so is our caseload.

Commissioner Snyder asked about the increase in APS. When elder abuse referrals are made for physical or emotional abuse, there is almost always sure to be some type of financial component involved. APS has received many financial abuse referrals. APS referrals can be made online, via telephone, or fax, and can be made anonymously unless you are mandated reported. Commissioner Morris added that in her previous line of employment at the Police Department, she noticed that in 100% of prosecuted cases there has been some component of physical and/or mental abuse.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – L. Oswald, K. Grasty**
No report.

**CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – L. Fuller; J. Lemucchi**
Commissioner Lemucchi reported CSL is financially funded through tax returns from taxpayers who check the "California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund" box on their tax returns. Our Legislative members reported the voluntarily tax contribution fund has unanimously passed the Senate and looks like it will stay on the tax form.

**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 sent letters for reappointments.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, S. Lynch; J. Snyder**
Commissioner Flucker reported the committee will be planning an employee appreciation event for some time in August 2019.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – K. Grasty, A. Flucker, J. Johnston, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, R. Oswald, Y. Prado**
Vice-Chair Prado reported the west kern senior celebration will be held at the Delano Senior Center in October 2019. Parliamentarian L. Oswald and Commissioner R. Oswald will chair this event, and will be looking for volunteers to assist in the preparation.

**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**
No report.

**MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch, S. Morris,**
Vice-Chair Prado reported there were many vendors in attendance at the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair and lots of opportunity for networking. They are looking forward to next year's event. The committee met with AASD staff for a debriefing. Thanks given to Commissioner Snyder for her help with the balloons and getting water donated, to Chair Grasty for the COA table giveaway, to Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Duquette, and Chair Grasty for their help at the COA table, and thanks to AASD staff for all of their help with planning the event. Aging and Adult Services is looking into a "messenger" program where people can subscribe to receive text messages to learn about upcoming events.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE** - G. Brown; J. Johnston; S. Morris
Commissioner Brown presented the slate of officers for voting in June 2019:

**Chair:** Kris Grasty, Yolanda Prado
**Vice-Chair:** Barbara Goodlow, Norma Jackson, Stephanie Lynch, Linda Oswald, and Yolanda Prado
**Parliamentarian:** Loron Hodge, Linda Oswald, and Judy Snyder

Nominations for officers will be accepted up until voting time on June 17, 2019. Laura Juarez will prepare the voting ballots.

**SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – A. Flucker, B. Goodlow, L. Hodge, A. Johnston, J. Johnston**
No report.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** – D. Duquette
No report.

**THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – L. Oswald, R. Oswald**
No report.

**TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, L. Fuller, J. Johnston**
No report.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown**
No report.

**INFORMATION ITEMS –**
The COA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for May 30, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Hodel's. Please R.S.V.P. with Laura Juarez by May 23, 2019.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled for June 13, 2019, at Hodel's. This year's speaker will be Kira Wattenburg King, and the theme will be "Estate Planning and Financial Abuse." Chair Grasty will be in charge of selling the tickets for Dodger's Game Package opportunity drawing that will be held during the conference.

As a reminder, please continue to 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. Be sure to click "Support Kern County Commission on Aging" each time you log in. Please let Chair Grasty know if you need instructions.

Commissioner Morris announced ADAKC is hosting their annual "ADAKC Caring for the Caregiver" conference on June 22, 2019 at Hodel's in the Liberty Hall. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the conference will end at 2:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the event.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

| EXECUTIVE MEETING | REGULAR MEETING |
|---|---|
| **Thursday, June 6, 2019**<br>**1:30 pm**<br>**Aging and Adult Services Dept.**<br>**New Generation Conference Room**<br>**5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA** | **Monday, June 17, 2019**<br>**1:00 p.m.**<br>**Delano Senior Center**<br>**436 Jefferson Street**<br>**Delano, CA** |

**ADJOURNMENT -** The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary