

Kern County Commission On Aging

Kris Grasty, Chairperson
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**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

June 17, 2019

Delano Senior Center
436 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:01 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, Jan Lemucchi, Sandy Morris, **Yolanda Prado, and Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, Stephanie Lynch, ***Linda Oswald, and Roger Oswald,

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Martin Reynoso, Administrative Coordinator
Katrechia Short, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Stephanie Serna, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Maria Cruz G. Rodriguez, Sandra Seriales, Stella Quinonez, Anita Lopez, Beverly Pickering, Alma Beltran, Valerie Rangel, and Rebecca Countryman

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no correspondences.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Public Comments:

None

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Morris introduced Rebecca Countryman, of Anderson Acres Bunny Love Project. Ms. Countryman said she would be interested in bringing her animals to the next Senior Resource Fair.

Commissioner Jackson acknowledged the beautiful Delano Senior Center, and thanked the senior nutrition staff for the great meal.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the May 20, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Flucker/Morris/Gonzalez, Barrett, Goodlow, Duquette/None**
- **Motion carried.**
- **ELECTION /APPOINTMENT of 07/2019-06/2021 Commission on Aging Officers:** A vote for new officers was taken. Commissioner Brown, Chair Grasty, and Commissioner Morris of the Nomination Committee, counted the votes, and the results are as follows:
 - *Chair – Yolanda Prado*
 - *Vice-Chair – Stephanie Lynch*
 - *Parliamentarian – Judy Snyder*

The new Officer terms are from 07/01/2019 through 06/30/2021.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Katrecia Short

Katrecia Short reported the Delano Senior Center serves 60 congregate meals per day, which is a big increase since they moved to the new building. They deliver approximately 65 meals to homebound seniors. The center has BINGO twice a week, and karaoke on Fridays. Additional activities are planned by Daniel, the Recreational Associate for the City of Delano.

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) – Valerie Rangel

Valerie Rangel reported there is approximately 160,000 Medi-Cal and Cal-Fresh cases. Their Call Center takes about 20,000 calls each month. One major focus is working on Medi-Cal renewals. Medi-Cal renewal packets are required with signatures, proof of all income, and proof of all resources. Cal-Fresh is now available to anyone who was previously on SSI/SSP. The Department has seen a huge influx in requests for CalFresh. Some are new applicants. Many families are requesting to add their previously excluded SSI/SSP family member into their household. Most of the time it is causing a decrease in their CalFresh and so they are evaluating for the two supplemental programs, Supplemental Nutritional Benefit, and the Transitional Nutrition Benefit. If anyone is added into a CalFresh household and they incur new expenses, it can be reported at any time, they do not need to wait for their renewal.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Alma Beltran

Alma Beltran reported she works for the Fair Housing, representing individuals being discriminated against when renting, buying, or financing a home. She works closely with GBLA to get those people identified and get them the help and resources they need. The original protected classes federally are race, color, religion, sex, family, status, and disability. The State of California has expanded and broadened the classes to protect more people. These new classes include gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, including language, ancestry, source of income, genetic information, and age. They can assist to help combat these types of discrimination. They do not handle landlord/tenant issues; however, they are more than happy to help refer them to the correct resource.

Their Home Access Grant is for anyone with a permanent disability and is need of easier access in and around their home, or shower. This grant is completely free to any landlord or homeowner. This grant allows them to widen doorways, install walk-in showers, grab bars, ramps, etc. The Home Improvement Loan is a grant for homeowners at 0% interest for the life of the loan. This is to repair or replace any existing improvements on or in the house and does not cover a pool.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT – Martin Reynoso

Martin Reynoso reported he is looking for Commissioners to help him with the Area Agency on Aging Needs Assessment for 2020-2024 Area Plan. The needs assessment is a systematic process for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting timely information on local PSA #33 service needs for our client population. In year's past, the AAA Advisory Council (COA) has had an important role in the needs assessment development as it is representative of the interests of all those in the PSA who are involved in programs for seniors. Please contact Martin Reynoso if you are interested in assisting with the needs assessment.

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal News

The Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is still ongoing which is a good sign that it could be reauthorized next Fiscal Year.

State News

The Governor made it official, as a result of his Executive Order, he plans to have a Master Plan on Aging in place by October 2020. This Master Plan will serve as a strategic plan on how to deal with California's aging population. More importantly, it may mean more funding for existing and/or new programs for our seniors.

Legislature passed approval for Senior Nutrition to receive \$17.5 million every year through December 2021, and then it will be re-evaluated after that.

Legislature also added \$5 million for Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), which are one-stop shops for individuals with disabilities and seniors.

Caregiver Resource Centers got \$10 million over 3 years. Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) got \$14.8 million over 3 years. Ombudsman got \$4.2 million/1st year, and \$5 million ongoing. However, Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Association had issues with the requirement of the number of visits being required of the Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities.

The California Department on Aging (CDA) has a new Deputy Director, Irene Walela. She is taking over for Dean Fujimoto, and before him, Ed Long.

In the Governor's proposed budget, the annual cost inflator for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was going to be lowered to 4% instead of 7% (so each county would pay less in their respective MOE). In recent months, the United Domestic Workers (UDW) has pushed for legislature to withhold funding to counties if their IHSS provider wage was not above minimum wage. The UDW's proposal was to have counties pay 7% inflator instead of the 4% if IHSS provider wage was not above minimum wage. The

Legislature approved it, but the administration was not necessarily for it. In short, both the Legislature and Administration negotiated and agreed to withhold realignment dollars in the amount equal to counties 1% of its IHSS MOE if it didn't have a wage above minimum wage. This language would be part of the budget and will go into effect as soon as the budget is passed.

County

Channel 23 news provided coverage of the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference, and Commission on Aging (COA) was recognized as a host of the event. Thanks given to the COA for their support in putting on this successful event.

Lito shared information about a scam he received via fax from a law firm based in the United Kingdom listing him as a possible heir to their late client's life insurance policy. The letter is suggesting that 20% be shared with charity, and the rest be split 40%/40% between them and the "heir". Lito cautioned everyone to please be aware of such scams coming in all forms.

Department

In November 2019, the Department will be sending two Commissioners to attend the California Association on Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Meeting and Allied Conference. If more than two Commissioners are interested in attending, we will have a name draw for who will be going. The conference will be in Glendale, CA.

In addition to acquiring more space, AASD is going through many renovations including cubicles, flooring, paint, and lights in an effort to create a more inviting atmosphere for our customers, and to improve overall employee morale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair Grasty announced the 2-year term for all committees would end 06/30/19. If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, please email Vice-Chair, Yolanda Prado. As a reminder, per the COA Bylaws, Commissioners can serve on no more than three committees.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported the Governor signed a \$300,000 ongoing budget for CSL.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Fuller reported Chris Barrett was recently reappointed by Valley Caregivers Resource Center. Her new term will expire April 24, 2021. Sonia Lopez was recently appointed by Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County. Her term will begin July 1, 2019, and will expire July 1, 2021. There are no expired terms. Sandy Morris's term expired May 31, 2019. Appointments that will soon expire are:

1. Kris Grasty – 06/17/19
2. Susan Bodnar – 08/01/19
3. Antoinette Johnston – 08/04/19

4. Yolanda Prado – 09/08/19
5. Stephanie Lynch – 09/22/19
6. Doris Duquette – 09/29/19

There is one vacancy for Supervisorial District 1. There was one new application received from Catherine Vasquez. Laura Juarez will continue to send letters for reappointments as needed.

Chair Grasty announced this will be the last meeting Commissioner Morris will attend representing ADAKC on the Commission on Aging. Chair Grasty thanked her for her dedication to the COA and hopes that she is appointed soon so she can continue serving.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, S. Lynch; J. Snyder

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

The July 18, 2019 IHSS Advisory Committee meeting has been canceled.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported she, Commissioner Bodnar, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Barrett, and Commissioner Duquette visited the Delano Regional Center subacute section.

Commissioner Duquette reported it is a facility for very seriously ill but stable patients. Of the 51 available beds, 46 were occupied. They received a 5-star rating for their program, which is the highest rating a facility can receive for the State of California, and it is the only subacute facility in Kern County. There is plans to open a Sub-Acute facility in Bakersfield but it is not ready yet. They have a wonderful activities program.

Commissioner Jackson reported the rooms are very nice and spacious. There are 2 beds to a room and all rooms have a mounted flat screen tv. The facility is very lovely and has a nice patio where residents can be taken out there in their beds.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Commissioner Hodge reported he visited all three centers he is assigned to. They are doing well. The East Niles Senior Center is a Cooling Center and will be open until 8 p.m. when temperature reach a certain high.

Commissioner Goodlow reported she will be going to Taft in July. The Bakersfield Senior Center was very lax in May 2019. They do have several activities at the senior center. Bunco is played on the third Friday of the month, and on the last Friday of the month they are having Mixers and dance that costs \$5 to attend. They are building a pantry called "Building Together" that will be furnished by Kern County so people can go there to get food. There is a lot of participation with their congregate meals. They will be going to Allensworth on October 12th for \$15 roundtrip and lunch. They continue have exercise classes, and everything is well. She will also be visiting Kern River Valley Senior Center, and Lamont Senior Center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported there was one birthday card sent in June.

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 –

Mileage reimbursement claims are due today, June 30, 2019 for FY 18-19. Please turn in your claims to Laura Juarez.

The next in-person Ethics Training is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the County Board Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield.

The west Kern Senior Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delano Senior Center. Commissioner R. Oswald and Commissioner L. Oswald will be seeking help from Commissioners to plan this event. Pacifica Senior Living offered to provide the food for this event.

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.

Pacifica Senior Living is having a taco fundraiser June 22, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their facility on Brookside.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 29, 2019 (due to holiday) 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, July 22, 2019 1:00 p.m. E. Niles Senior Center 6601 Niles Street Bakersfield, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary