

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
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REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2019

East Niles Senior Center
6601 Niles Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:13 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, Gloria Brown, Linda Fuller, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Sonia Lopez, **Stephanie Lynch, Roger Oswald, and *Yolanda Prado,

Excused Absences: Susan Bodnar, Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Kris Grasty, Jon Johnston, Toni Johnston, Linda Oswald, and ***Judy Snyder

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker and Marti Overfield

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Leslie Wallace, Joshua Dhanens, Jessica Medrano, Lourdes Garcia, Sharon Vignol, Sandy Morris, Gayla Hughes, Claudia Escobar, Helen Duniger, Norma Harl, Fred Twisselman, and Catherine Vasquez

INSTALLATION OF NEW COA OFFICERS

Lito Morillo installed the new COA Officers as follows:

Chair, Yolanda Prado

Vice-Chair, Stephanie Lynch

Parliamentarian, Judy Snyder

The new Officers will serve from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The meeting was turned over to the new COA Chair, Yolanda Prado.

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you letters were sent on behalf of the Commission on Aging to the speakers and vendors of the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Chair Prado welcomed our newest Commissioner, Sonia Lopez, who was appointed by Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the senior nutrition staff for the good meal. She also thanked Honorary Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Fuller for getting through the Ridgecrest earthquakes.

Commissioner Fuller thanked all who reached out to make sure she was ok during the earthquakes in Ridgecrest. Her side of town was not too bad; however, the other side of town got a lot of damage. The Hospital had to be evacuated and that was very frightening as they are 100 miles from any near city. The military base suffered substantial damage and are just trickling back in to work. Some stores will not be reopened. Thankful that there were no major injuries considering what it could have been.

Commissioner Brown reported there was one fatality in Trona, CA.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the June 17, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Hodge/Brown/Lynch, R. Oswald/None**
- **Motion carried.**

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Katrechia Short

Katrechia Short reported the E. Niles Senior Center serve on average 20-30 seniors there Monday through Friday. The seniors have many activities throughout the week there at the center. On Mondays, they have line dancing. On Tuesdays, they have Tai Chi. They have karaoke and crafts on Wednesdays, Gospel singing on Thursdays, and exercise class on Fridays. They also have a monthly potluck once a month in the afternoon.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Leslie Wallace reported on the Cooling Centers throughout the County. Cooling Centers will be open in Bakersfield when the heat reaches 105 F degrees or higher, and 108 in the Desert areas. There were some instances when power went out and they had to open locations to keep mobile home residents out of the heat. There will be times when Cooling Centers will be opened at the last minute due to PG&E shutting off the power grids associated with areas due to fires.

Lito Morillo thanked Leslie and her staff for their help with the Cooling Centers during the emergency hours. Sandy Morris offered toiletries if needed for seniors during the down power time.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported The Mission Act passed, which will effect health care for veterans. Appointments will be made based on the location of veterans and not on facility. This will allow more access to care. Veterans can now access treatment for urgent care; however, they have to already be enrolled in order to receive access to Urgent Care. The Veterans Department added two positions for this fiscal year. They will be hiring two Vet Reps to help reach out to assisted living facilities and outlining areas that they had not been able to reach.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported the Department is growing. All teams are adding additional staff so they can continue serving the community. The WISE program is also growing so they will have the ability to serve more seniors who might be struggling with Behavioral Health issues. VSOP is looking for those seniors who are being scammed because they have no one to talk to. They have seniors who will make contact with them. The Department is also holding stakeholders meetings throughout the county to see if there are any needs.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported there are 142 thousand Medi-Cal cases. Our focus is community renewals. Each community needs to complete renewal packages. If anyone needs assistance with their renewals, they can call the office and staff will walk them through the process.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported they receive Federal money through HUD. They do Home Access grant which helps to make the home more accessible for someone who has a permanent disability and is low income for up to \$3,000 per household. There is no cost to the homeowner or tenant. This grant is offered to homeowners and renters, with the homeowner's permission. The Home Improvement grant is for homeowners only to repair/replace existing items to their home, such as paint, roof, plumbing, etc. This is a no interest, no payment loan. When the home is sold, the loan will be repaid. They are currently working with residents of Ridgecrest to help with those who have damage due to the earthquake. There is no waiting list, and applications are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Referrals can be sent to Catherine 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 passed a bill that allotted \$1 billion total for Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, which is a \$93 million increase. Now the Senate will consider this bill and the House and Senate along with the President will have to compromise to pass the Federal budget.

Reauthorization of the OAA is still waiting on the Senate to pass.

The House also passed the For the People Act of 2019 (Empowering Beneficiaries, Ensuring Access, and Strengthening Accountability) that extends funding for 4 ½ years to 2 Medi-Cal programs: Money Follows the Person, and the Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Impoverishment Protections. The HCBS program makes it possible for an individual to retain a modest amount of income and resources and still allow their spouse to qualify for home and community based services through Medi-Cal.

State News:

- CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) has a new Director, Kimberley Johnson
- Senior Nutrition Programs: The California budget provides an additional \$17.5 million annually for senior nutrition programs. This funding will be suspended on December 31, 2021, if the Director of the Department of Finance determines General Fund revenues are projected to exceed expenditures in 2021-22. At that point, the Director of the California Department of Finance will extend the funding for one year. Additionally, the Caregiver Resource Centers got \$30 million.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman (\$4.2 million)

- Kern County will get \$81,401 General Fund augmentation and \$16,353 in one-time only augmentation from the State Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account. These funds, per the intent of the Legislature, are to be used by local Ombudsman programs to conduct quarterly, non-complaint related visits to every long-term care facility in the state. CDA will issue Amendment #1 within the next few weeks.
- Adult Protective Services (\$5.75 million over three years); and Alzheimer's Research and the Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force (\$3 million).
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection: The budget provides \$5 million ongoing to support the "No Wrong Door" model currently used by Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ARDC) programs. SB 453 (Hurtado) includes a framework for expanding the No Wrong Door model. This funding would be suspended on December 31, 2021. If the Director of the Department of Finance determines General Fund revenues are projected to exceed expenditures in 2021-22, the Director will extend the funding for one year.
- Fall prevention funding: The budget includes a one-time \$5 million appropriation for the Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program, which is tied to Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's SB 280. That measure requires the Department of Aging to give grants to Area Agencies on Aging to provide injury prevention information, education and services for the purpose of enabling older adults and persons with disabilities to live independently in the home environment for as long as possible.
- Beginning no sooner than January 1, 2020, California will increase the Aged and Disabled Medi-Cal income eligibility limit to 138% FPL to match that of other Medi-Cal programs. This change will mean approximately 27,000 more seniors and people with disabilities will be eligible for free Medi-Cal. The budget contains \$124.9 million in ongoing funding, including \$62.4 million in the General Fund as well as trailer bill language to enact the expansion.

Health Care and Long-Term Services and Supports

- Restores the 7% IHSS Reduction through December 31, 2021—The budget restores the 7% IHSS cuts enacted several years ago during the recession. There is funding for the next two and a half years.
- Temporarily Restores Optional Medi-Cal Benefits for Two Years—Beginning January 1, 2020, optical, audiology, podiatry, speech therapy, and incontinence creams and washes will be covered Medi-Cal benefits for the first time since 2009. These services will be suspended on December 31, 2021.

- Increases reimbursement rates for the Community-Based Adult Services Program—The budget allocates \$13.7 million ongoing to increase CBAS reimbursement rates.
- Provides funding to conduct an actuarial study on long-term care insurance options (\$1 million).

County News:

As a result of communications with both PG&E and SCE, the County is in the process of developing a plan to identify facilities where the general public can go, in the event of a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Attached is a general overview of PG&E's PSPS Program. While no single factor will drive a PSPS, some factors include:

1. A Red Flag Warning, declared by the National Weather Service
2. Low Humidity Levels, generally 20% and below
3. Forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 mph and wind gusts in excess of approximately 45 mph, depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate
4. Condition of Dry Fuel, on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)
5. On-the-Ground, Real-Time observations from PG&E's Wildfire Safety Operations Center (WSOC) and field observations from PG&E crews

Currently, the County intends to designate County-Operated Cooling Center facilities to be available during a determined PSPS. When activated, these locations would be made available during the same operating hours that a Cooling Center would be, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Reminder, in light of the numerous earthquakes we've had, you should have an emergency bag that includes things like medication, flashlight, water, snacks, clothes, and other items you may need in case of an emergency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

No report.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – L. Fuller

Commissioner Fuller reported there were no recent or new appointments. Commissioner Grasty's term has expired. Laura already sent a letter for reappointment. Appointments soon to expire are Commissioner Bodnar, Commissioner A. Johnston, Commissioner Prado, Commissioner Lynch, and Commissioner Duquette. Laura will send reappointment letters as their term date nears. There is one vacancy in Supervisorial District 1, and no new applications received.

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

An Employee Recognition will be held at Aging and Adult Services on August 22, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. If you can attend and help, please notify Commissioner Snyder.

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

No quorum at the last Executive meeting. If you would like to change the committee you are currently serving on, please let Chair Prado know.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – J. Snyder

No report.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported there was three swingbeds at Ridgecrest Hospital. Those residents got transferred out on July 4th to L.A. County via helicopter during the earthquake. The residents in the TCREW unit got transferred to Bella Serra. They have lots of rooms available right now. No residents were hurt. Today, Commissioner R. Oswald, Commissioner Jackson, and Commissioner Barrett went out to visit the Pointe at Summit Hills in Bakersfield.

Commissioner R. Oswald reported it was one of the nicest facilities he's visited and was very happy.

Commissioner Jackson reported she saw only 1 Ombudsman poster posted and the facility staff will be getting and posting more. It is a very nice facility with a nice library. They don't have large print books. Hopefully they will purchase some large print books in there. Dinner is served there at 5 p.m.

Commissioner Barrett reported it is a very nice facility. They give out brochures with a lot of information about the facility. The lowest price is \$2,750/month. The highest is \$6,000/month in the Dementia area. The Assisted Living and Dementia areas have vacancies.

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 Goodlow reported she didn't make it out to visit the Taft Senior Center but will go next week. Kern River Valley (KRV) Senior Center is requesting a new coffee pot. She received an email from Commissioner Grasty that the COA Foundation purchased a coffee pot for KRV three years ago and isn't sure why they would need another coffee pot already. Bakersfield Senior Center is doing well and continue to have many activities at the center.

Commissioner Hodge visited E. Niles Senior Center, Rasmussen Senior Center, and Greenacres Senior Center. All centers are doing well. Commissioner Hodge thanked Norma Harl and the E. Niles Senior Center for hosting the Commission on Aging.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Chair Prado reported Commissioner Snyder thanked the COA for her birthday card.

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

Commissioner Brown reported they will continue to recognize the senior nutrition volunteers.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Senior Day at the Kern County Fair is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2019. Volunteers will be needed to greet the seniors as they enter the fair. Commissioner Jackson volunteered to chair this committee.

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. Commissioner Snyder reported she has plates and cups. Pacifica Senior Living will be providing and preparing the food for this event. Sponsor, donation, and vendor letters will be going out soon. Invitation fliers will be sent to all Senior Centers with signup sheets.

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.

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.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 5, 2019 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. New Generation Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, September 16, 2019 1:00 p.m. Shafter Senior Center 505 Sunset Avenue Shafter, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary