

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
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**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

September 16, 2019
Shafter Senior Center
505 Sunset Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:06 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, Jon Johnston, Sonia Lopez, **Stephanie Lynch, Roland Meier, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Jan Lemucchi

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Rachael R. Gonzalez, Gayla Hughes, Josh Dhanens, Chris Soriano, Alma Beltran, and Michelle Pearl-Krizo

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Seventy letters were mailed to potential sponsors and vendors inviting them to participate in this year's Senior Celebration. The Senior Celebration invitation flyer and signup sheets were sent to all senior centers.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:**Public Comments:**

Phillip Jimenez welcomed and thanked the Commission on Aging for visiting the Shafter Recreation and Park Senior Center. They will be taking two vans full of seniors to the Senior Celebration in Delano. They will also take some gift cards for door prizes.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Shafter Senior Nutrition staff for the great lunch.

Commissioner Barrett reported Valley Caregiver Resource Center is splitting the county so they will be opening an office in Bakersfield to service Shafter, Delano, Wasco, and Bakersfield. The Tehachapi office will be moving next week to California City and they will service all of east Kern.

Honorary Commissioner Baker reported there was an article in the *Ridgecrest Daily Independent* with Commissioner Brown's picture. The article was about CHP Mojave Area Senior Volunteers presenting Walmart Management with a certificate of appreciation for the generosity the store has shown to their organization. He also shared that the Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council is sponsoring a Veterans Stand Down this Friday, September 19, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest. This event is open to veterans and their families.

Commissioner Morris reported Christmas for Seniors headquarters would again be at the Kern Schools Bank on Rosedale and Allen. They will set up October 1, 2019. She is also getting ready to purchase 20 new tables. Donations are also being accepted for tables. They have a sponsorship program this year where companies can sponsor certain items like socks, etc.. The County is putting on a USO dance at the Women's Club downtown, Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. They will have an Elvis impersonator. There is no fee for this event.

Commissioner Goodlow reported there will be a Veterans Stand Down on October 10, 2019 at Stramler Park. Commissioner Lynch will be assisting her with the American Legion, and Commissioner Goodlow will also be representing the veterans of foreign wars. Please share this event with any veterans you may know.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Prado introduced our newest Commissioner, Roland Maier, who was appointed by Supervisor Gleason representing District 1. Commissioner Morris was appointed by Around the Clock Care.

A gift was presented to Commissioner Grasty thanking her for her many years serving as Chair of the Commission on Aging.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the July 22, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved with corrections. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) Brown/Jackson/Grasty, Synder, Duquette, L. Oswald, Johnston, Meier, Flucker, Bodnar/None - Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF 2020 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:** The 2020 Regular meeting schedule was reviewed and a motion made to change July 20, 2020 from E. Niles to Greenacres Senior Center. **M/S/A/O) Grasty/Meier/None/None – Motion carried.**
A motion was made to approve the 2020 COA Regular meeting schedule with the corrections, dependent on senior center availability.
(M/S/A/O) Grasty/R. Oswald/None/None – Motion carried.

A discussion was had about livestreaming the COA regular meetings rather than visiting senior centers every month. This would provide an opportunity to reach out to more individuals who aren't able to travel or stay for the meetings. There would be a live interactive chat available during the meeting. The livestream would also be posted on the COA website for viewing at a time that is convenient for individuals who can't watch the meeting live. The meeting would still have a physical location where people can attend the meeting, which would likely be held at Aging and Adult Services. It was suggested to pilot the livestream meeting to get a better feel of the live chat interaction, and to ensure the sound quality is good for those who are hearing impaired.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Katrechia Short

Katrechia Short reported there are 28 congregate meals at the Shafter Senior Center with 35 home delivered meals. Some of the senior activities at the center include dancing, arts and crafts, Zumba, and low impact workouts specifically designed for seniors.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

No report.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported there is a lot going on beginning with the Veterans Stand down this month in Ridgecrest and next month in Bakersfield, as well as the Kern County Fair. Shafter is one of the few cities in the county that has a participating urgent care for veterans. There's a lot of changes with how VA pays for non-VA emergency care. There was some issues with

payments so there will be more changes coming with getting services to veterans in their local committees. They are waiting on a court ruling to see how that will go. California Veterans Assistance Foundation is a local non-profit that helps with veteran housing and homelessness here in Bakersfield and they have a very innovative new approach to housing veterans. They are working on a tiny home project that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. There will be twelve 400 square foot homes on a piece of land that was donated to them for permanent housing. People expect it to be a huge success, and if it is a success, it will be a model for other places around the county.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Michelle Pearl Krizo shared that flu season is October through April. There were 9 deaths in Kern County in the last fiscal year, with 70-80% of those 9 persons were seniors 60+ years old. As we get older, our immune system goes down. Getting annual vaccinations is the best way to reduce the risk of getting the flu. You can receive your flu vaccination at the Public Health Department, your Doctor's office, or at a local pharmacy. There is a new vaccination for Shingles called Shingrix that covers many strains. Everyone who had chicken pox already has the shingle virus in his or her bodies. Whenever our immune system is compromised, we will be at risk of getting Shingles. Shingrix comes in two doses. The first dose and then 2-6 months later you go back to get the second dose. If you never had chicken pox, be sure to get the Varicella vaccination, especially if you are around children or babies. The Pneumococcal vaccination is also important to get to help prevent pneumonia. You can receive this vaccination at a clinic or your care provider.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lilliana Galvan

No report.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported they have about 140,000 Medi-Cal cases. Seniors who are completing their renewals will need to complete and return the entire packet, and provide their proof of income. Help is available to assist seniors with completing their renewal packet by calling their office at 661-631-6000. Gayla can be reached at 661-868-8823.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Alma Beltran

Alma Beltran reported the Fair Housing program is there to help with those who are experiencing discrimination when renting, buying, or leasing property. They do not assist with landlord/tenant issues that are not related to discrimination. Alma also shared information about the Home Access Grant, which is a program that helps make it more accessible in and around the home for those who have a permanent disability. This program allows them to install ramps, widen doorways, walk-in showers, grab bars, etc., and is available to home owners and renters, with homeowner's permission. Another program they have is the Home Improvement Grant, which is a no interest, deferred payment loan that helps repair or replace existing items on their home such as paint, roof, plumbing, etc. A lien will be placed on the home and will be repaid when the home is sold.

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

- The two-year, bipartisan budget deal was signed on August 2, 2019 by the President. Essentially what it does is raise spending caps for 2020 and 2021, thus avoiding any issues with government shutdowns. It also avoids the threat of automatic spending cuts through sequestration, which would have kicked in at the start of the new fiscal year under the Budget Control Act of 2011.
- Medicare genetic testing scam – Genetic testing fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a test or screening that was not medically necessary and/or was not ordered by a Medicare beneficiary's treating physician. Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries "free" screenings or cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for identity theft or fraudulent billing purposes. Fraudsters are targeting beneficiaries through telemarketing calls, booths at public events, health fairs, and door-to-door visits. Beneficiaries who agree to genetic testing or verify personal or Medicare information may receive a cheek swab, an in-person screening or a testing kit in the mail, even if it is not ordered by a physician or medically necessary. If Medicare denies the claim, the beneficiary could be responsible for the entire cost of the test, which could be thousands of dollars.

State

- Senior Nutrition Programs: The recently passed California budget provides \$17.5 million General Fund 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 expenditure are projected to exceed revenue in 2021-22.
- Increases funding for the Caregiver Resource Centers (\$30 million);
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman (\$4.2 million) - Kern will get \$81,401 General Fund augmentation and \$16,353 in one-time only augmentation from the State Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account.
- Adult Protective Services training (\$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
- 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.

County

- NOR Calendar – something we will try to mirror and use at AASD.
- Looking at using new bar code scanning technology as part of our senior centers and MOW. As people check in for a meal they will have a bar code that will help us track meals served and attendance. Also, those receiving a meal through MOW will have a bar code scanned to acknowledge they received a meal. We are hoping the technology will give us more accurate counts, and better reporting to map out utilization.
- Lighting install which will replace lighting throughout the building set to begin week of 9/23.
- Acquiring new office space from Pair Marrota sometime December 2019.

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 L. Oswald reported (on behalf of Commissioner Fuller) there were no recent or new appointments. Commissioner Grasty was recently reappointed by Supervisor Perez. Her new term expires June 17, 2021. Commissioner Bodnar was reappointed by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, and her new term will expire August 1, 2021. Commissioner Morris was

appointed by Around the Clock Care, and her term will expire August 7, 2021. Commissioner Maier was appointed by Supervisor Gleason, and his term will expire June 17, 2020. Laura is working on those with expired terms, as well as those whose terms are soon to expire. There are no vacancies, and no new applications received.

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

Commissioner Snyder reported there was an employee appreciation held August 22, 2019 for Aging and Adult Services staff. The Commission bought vegetable and fruit trays, cookies, and broccoli salad in appreciation to staff for all they do for the seniors in our community.

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

Chair Prado reported the Exec. Committee met September 5, 2019 in the new Bob Fowler Conference room to review and discuss the regular meeting agenda, the 2020 COA meeting schedules, Senior Day at the Fair, and the upcoming Senior Celebration.

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 the committee toured Carrington Assisted Living in Shafter, CA. Commissioner Duquette reported the facility has 54 beds occupied and 1 vacant room. They have single and double bed rooms, and some larger rooms. The price is a lot less than a lot of other assisted living facilities. There are lots of activities and daily walks schedules. It is a pet-friendly facility (cat and dog). There are 9 rooms for Hospice care and 8 of those rooms are in use. They have free laundry at the facility. Commissioner Barrett added that she was impressed with the facility.

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 the Bakersfield Senior Center serves approximately 1,200 – 1,300 meals each month. They are having a Tahoe Joe's fundraiser on September 23, 2019. Tickets cost \$20 each. They will be having their Annual Christmas Galla. The center has many fundraisers, activities, and exercise classes.

Commissioner Hodge reported Rasmussen, Greenacres, and E. Niles Senior Centers all seem to be doing well. Greenacres is in need of a new coffee pot.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported she sent out 2 birthday cards in August and 2 in September.

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

No report.

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

Chair Prado provided information regarding Transportation Reimbursement for Individuals Program (TRIP) grant. TRIP is a 2-year grant that provides an incentive for volunteer drivers to assist eligible individuals who are unable to drive or access public transportation by providing necessary, escorted transportation. GET is interested in applying for this grant and requested letter of support be written by the Commission on Aging; however, the deadline for the letters was October 3, 2019.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

The 2020 schedule for the COA Executive meetings was reviewed. Effective October 2019, the Executive meetings were changed to the 1st Wednesday of every month (dark in August and December).

Senior Day at the Kern County Fair is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2019. Commissioner Jackson establish a list of volunteers to greet seniors as they enter the fair.

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 are planning this event with their committee and all is going good. Volunteers will be needed to help serve and cleanup the day of the event. A DJ has been secured. Laura reported 3 vendors have been confirmed.

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 last in-person Ethics training for 2019 will be November 14, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Board Chambers.

Commissioner Duquette volunteered to chair the COA Holiday Luncheon.

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.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There will be free breast cancer screening events from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bessie Owens School on Saturday, September 28, 2019, and again at North Meadow Park on Sunday, September 29, 2019. There is no age limit to participate.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 3, 2019 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. Bob Fowler Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, October 21, 2019 1:00 p.m. Tehachapi Senior Center 500 E "F" Street Tehachapi, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary