

Kern County Commission On Aging

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

October 21, 2019

Tehachapi Senior Center
500 E. "F" Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:00 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, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, **Stephanie Lynch, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Devora Gonzalez, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, Jan Lemucchi, Sonia Lopez, Roland Maier, and Sandy Morris

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Marti Overfield

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Kristian Besnard, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Olivia Cuellar, Gayla Hughes, Karolyn Santos, and Alma Beltran

AGENDA POSTING:

Michele Gomez, reporting on behalf of 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 Tehachapi Senior Center Nutrition staff for the great lunch.

Commissioner Lynch extended a thank you to Martin Reynoso, AAA Area Planner, for his work on the survey to learn the needs of the seniors in Kern County.

Commissioner Bodnar reported on the earthquakes in Ridgecrest this past July. Overall, the community did really well. The hospital had the most damage to the newer portion of the building, and the older side was ok. The hospital should be reopening this week. Everyone evacuated the hospital for the first 2 days. A lot was learned during this experience. Everyone is just trying to be prepared. Commissioner Snyder shared that there is a new free app called "My Shake". This app provides early earthquake warnings before you even feel them.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the September 16, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved with corrections.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed
(M/S/A/O) Grasty/R. Oswald/None/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Katrechia Short

Kristian Besnard reported the Senior Center Scoop newsletter is published every month. The newsletter lists all the activities for the month. Kristian introduced Mr. Brown, the President of the Tehachapi Senior group. The Tehachapi Center is very active. They have yoga, stretch line dancing, wood carving, knitting, fundraisers. They have a monthly dinner fundraiser. They serve approximately 30 congregate meals at the center on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Mondays and Wednesdays, they serve about 15 meals. They have two routes for Meals on Wheels. The first route delivers to 14 seniors. The second route delivers meals to 18 seniors. The drivers are all volunteers. Six seniors are currently on the waiting list.

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 – Lilliana Galvan

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes distributed a flyer detailing how you can apply for the different program benefits. Gayla shared info about the CalFresh SSI Expansion. Persons on SSI previously not eligible for CalFresh may now be eligible because of the SSI expansion. In January, persons aged 19-26 will be eligible for Medi-Cal regardless of their immigration status.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Alma Beltran

Alma Beltran shared information about the Fair Housing program. This program is designed to help those who are experiencing discrimination when renting, buying, or leasing property. Alma also shared information about the Home Access Grant, which is a program that help make it more accessible for the disabled person to make it easier for them to move in and around the home, and 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.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michele Gomez, on behalf of Lito Morillo

Michele Gomez reported the following:

Federal

The House Education and Labor Committee approved a version of Older Americans Act (OAA) which funds all of our CA. Department of Aging programs. The House version of OAA proposes increase in funding for many of the OAA programs and reauthorizes the act for 5 more years. As far as next steps, this version of OAA will go before the entire House for vote and approval. On the Senate side, they are also working on a version of OAA, however the big barrier on the Senate side is funding, many want to keep it status quo. If approved on the Senate side, both the House and Senate will get together to refine the final version.

The Social Security Administration announces the 2020 cost of living adjustment. Over 69 million individuals receiving Social Security or SSI will see their benefits increase by 1.6% in 2020.

State

The State approved the Property Tax Postponement Program which allows homeowners who are seniors (62+), blind, or disabled defer current-year property taxes on the principal residence (including mobile homes or manufactured homes). Homeowners have to meet the eligibility criteria which includes having 40% equity in the home, and an annual household income of \$35,500 or less. Any deferred property tax has an interest rate of 7% a year, and becomes due if the homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, refinances, dies, or obtains reverse mortgage. This program will run from October 1, 2019 through February 10, 2020.

Kern

Aging and Adult Services In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Quality Assurance had an audit. The Department did well and received favorable results on the audit.

Kern Regional Center is looking for seniors aged 55+ for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program. Those interested in volunteering 15-40 hours per week receive the following: Tax exempt stipend (that doesn't affect benefits like Social Security), transportation reimbursement, daily meal reimbursement, paid holidays, annual leave time, annual physical, training, field trips, recognition events, and socialization.

A Low Barrier Homeless shelter is being developed by the County. It will be on Golden State Highway and O Street, directly behind the Kern County Veterans Office. This shelter is being designed to allow for the homeless in Bakersfield to congregate there rather than being on the streets and in front of businesses and/or neighborhoods. The Board of Supervisors will receive a presentation on this on October 29, 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 – Vacant

In light of Linda Fuller resigning from the Commission on Aging, this committee is vacant. It was suggested to appoint Commissioner Maier to this committee since he has not been assigned to a committee as of yet. Chair Prado will talk with Commissioner Maier about serving on this committee.

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

Chair Prado reported the Exec. Committee met October 2, 2019 to review and discuss the regular meeting agenda. The Senior Celebration was discussed. There was a brief discussion about the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. Desiree Ingalls offered to host the event at the Rasmussen Senior Center and have it during the week rather than on the weekend. There was a brief discussion about a food distribution list in the County. This could possibly be a project for Marketing and Orientation Committee.

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 Barrett reported there are three Assisted Living facilities – 1 in Bear Valley, and 2 in Tehachapi. Commissioner Jackson reported there are six residents in their residential care 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 will be having their Annual Christmas Galla on December 8, 2019 at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$80/person.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

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

Commissioner L. Oswald reported that the TACC report was emailed to all Commissioners prior to the meeting for their review. Everyone in Sacramento seems to be optimistic about what's going on within the State for seniors.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee will meet again in November.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Jackson recapped on this year's Senior Day at the Kern County Fair which took place Friday, September 20, 2019. Everything went well. Commissioner Jackson thanked Commissioner Goodlow, Commissioner Flucker, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris for volunteering to be there early to greet the seniors as they entered the fair. She noticed a lot of seniors visited the Aging and Adult Services vendor table.

Chair Prado reported there was a meeting with Senator Hurtado and Secretary of HHS Ghaly at Aging and Adult Services Department on September 20, 2019. Lito Morillo shared information about the 17 senior centers in Kern County. There was also a roundtable discussion about what is going good. There was a lot of good feedback regarding helping seniors and persons with disabilities maintain their independence, the partnership Lito created between DHS and AASD with clients signing up for Medi-Cal to help expedite the eligibility process for IHSS for clients, and why Advanced Directives can't be done when persons renew their license.

The west Kern Senior Celebration took place Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delano Community Center. The seniors had a great time dancing. The food was delicious, and there was a lot of door prizes given out. Special thanks given to Commissioner L. Oswald and Commissioner R. Oswald for all their hard work and time vested in planning this great event. Commissioner R. Oswald even got lots of oranges and seniors were able to take some as they left the event. One of the vendors suggested having a senior celebration out in Buttonwillow for the seniors in the Taft and McKittrick area.

Commissioner Duquette made reservations for the COA Holiday Luncheon will take place Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Wool Grower's. The price is \$25/person. Please sign up with Laura Juarez.

Will need to start planning the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair. More details to follow as they become available.

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.

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, November 6, 2019 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. Bob Fowler Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, November 18, 2019 1:00 p.m. Ridgecrest Senior Center 125 S. Warner Street Ridgecrest, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary