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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2019 - 1:30 P.M.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY OFFICE

5353 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

GOLDEN GENERATION CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Robin Freeman. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL: (*Chairman, **Vice-Chair, ***Secretary [non-voting])

Present:

Kaye Davis
Robin Freeman
Evelyn Lopez

At-Large Care Provider
Private Industry Representative
Individual Provider Representative

Excused Absences:

*Aaron Flucker
Alex Alva
Harvey Clowers
**NickoleRenee Mensch

Commission on Aging
County Administration Office Representative
Fourth District Consumer
Second District Consumer Representative

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was not present.

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

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Guests:

Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aide, Kern County District Attorney's Office

New Members:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2019** – Tabled to May 16, 2019 meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – There were no new appointments to the IHSS Advisory Committee. Vacancies currently exist in Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5 for Consumers, and one vacancy for an At-Large Consumer. There is an active recruitment for this committee. A flyer for recruitment is posted on the IHSS Advisory Committee website. There is also a link on the website to access an online application to serve on the IHSS Advisory Committee website. Laura Juarez will work on reappointments as needed.

STAFF REPORTS:

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal News

President Trump released his proposed budget for federal fiscal year 19-20. The proposal presents a 5% across the board-funding cut for non-defense discretionary programs. Here are the highlights:

- The proposal includes a general provision to extend flexibility for Older Americans Act (OAA) funding which includes nutrition and other support services.
- Calls for level funding for senior nutrition programs at \$907 million.
- Elimination of Block Grants such as Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Some of these grants in some counties pay for their respective senior nutrition program. These grants have been subject to elimination in the previous budget the President proposed.
- Elimination of, or reduction to USDA Programs, which for some includes Meals on Wheel and Commodity Supplemental Food Program which serves 700,000 seniors annually would be eliminated.

- Reduce State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) funding by 25% (\$13 million). Last year's proposal proposed to eliminate the program.
- Elimination of additional programs serving seniors such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Senior Employment.
- President's proposal also proposed deep cuts to Medicaid in the form of states flexibility to enact block grants. It also cuts Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and disability programs, and continues to roll back the Affordable Care Act.

There's a Social Security Act that was introduced both in the House and in Senate. Here are some key points to the act:

- 1) Increase Social Security across the board by 2%
- 2) Raise cost of living adjustment to reflect things like health care costs
- 3) Cut federal income taxes on Social Security benefits for about 12 million middle-income people, while raising taxes elsewhere.
- 4) The payroll tax rate would rise to 14.8% over the next 24 years, from 12.4%. Currently, Americans with incomes below \$132,000 pay Social Security taxes on all of their income. However, Americans with incomes above that threshold only pay those taxes on the portion of their income that fall below the threshold. This bill would require these individuals to begin paying the Social Security tax again on income over \$400,000. Oddly, earnings between \$132,000-\$400,000 would not be taxed, and considered a doughnut hole.
- 5) Current actuaries claim that Social Security funds will be depleted by 2034 if no changes are made. This act would make it solvent for 75 years and possibly longer

State News

Since the late 70's, in California, individuals on SSI have always been ineligible for Cal Fresh (Food Stamps). However, under Assembly bill 1811 (called Reverse SSI cash out), beginning June 1, 2019, all SSI recipients will be eligible for Cal Fresh (i.e. food stamps). It's expected to impact 369,000 SSI recipients, the majority being seniors 60 years or older (about 54%). For households currently receiving Cal Fresh, adding the new SSI person should result in an increase in CalFresh benefits to the household. There will be no impact to the SSI client's monthly SSI benefit if and when they become eligible for CalFresh.

IHSS Budget News

Gov. Budget puts in additional State general fund revenue to offset increase Maintenance of Effort (MOE) that counties would have paid in the coming years.

The 7% restoration in IHSS hours to continue. It was expected to expire June 1, 2019. This means IHSS clients will not have their hours cut across the board by 7%.

Kern County News

Kern County applied for a Home Safe Grant and was awarded \$170,000 for 3 years. Kern was 1 of 25 counties that were awarded. Home Safe is designed to assist APS clients if they are homeless or at risk of being homeless. For this pilot project, CA provided for \$15 million over a 3-year period. It was a competitive bid process and over 36 counties applied for the grant but only 25 were awarded.

Currently VITA is in our office on Tuesdays to do your taxes for you free of charge.

In the process of acquiring additional space (Pair Marrota Gym) due to growth in IHSS and LPS Conservatorship.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Aging and Adult Services is hosting a "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John Missionary Baptist Church.
2. The Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hodel's. Early registration up to May 15th is \$30/person. Regular registration is \$45 up to the registration deadline of June 1, 2019. This year's topic will focus on Estate Planning and Financial Exploitation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. 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 Kern County Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. You can also take the Ethics training online @ www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5353 Truxtun Avenue, in the Golden Generation Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj