



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

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 21, 2019 - 1:30 P.M.
PUBLIC AUTHORITY OFFICE
5357 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
BOB FOWLER CONFERENCE ROOM**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Lito Morillo. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

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

Present:

Harvey Clowers	Fourth District Consumer
Kaye Davis	At-Large Care Provider
*Aaron Flucker	Commission on Aging
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
**NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

Excused Absences:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
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Michele Gomez confirmed a quorum was not present.

Michele Gomez confirmed the agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Guests:

Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aide, Kern County District Attorney's Office
David Marshall, Investigator, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Laura Reyes, United Domestic Worker's Union

New Members:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2019** – The minutes were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) –
M/S/A/O –Lopez/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 21, 2019** – The minutes were approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Davis/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 21, 2019** – The minutes were approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Davis/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF 2020 IHSS Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule** – The 2020 meeting schedule was approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Mensch/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – No expired terms until 2020. Laura Juarez will prepare the reappointment letters as the term expiration dates near.

STAFF REPORTS:

Michele Gomez reported the following:

Federal

Currently, there is no vision, hearing, or dental coverage in Medicare. There is a bill called the Medicare Dental Act of 2019 (HR 4650) that is moving through the House that is looking at adding dental, vision, and hearing to Medicare Part B. It's expected to go to the House floor for a vote some time in November. If passed it will go to the Senate for their approval.

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

The House took action to approve the Dignity in Aging Act (H.R. 4334), a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). Time is running short to move a bill through the Senate approval process and onto the President's desk by the end of 2019! Congress' remaining days in session are numbered and filled with other pressing matters. It's important to finalize OAA reauthorization now before the end of the year, as there are many challenges with moving a bill during a Presidential election year. So now the bill is in the Senate for passage.

State

Master Plan on Aging workgroups have been formed and the plan in place by October 2020 is under way. Handouts for the CHSS Framework and Goals was distributed to IHSS Advisory Committee at the meeting.

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 annual household income of \$35,500 or less. Any deferred property tax has an interest rate of 7% a year, and becomes due if homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, refinances, dies, or obtains reverse mortgage. This program will run from October 1, 2019 – February 10, 2020.

Kern

A Low Barrier Homeless shelter (150 beds for men and women) is being developed by the County. It will be called the Kern County Navigation Center. It will be located on Golden State Hwy. and O Street directly behind the Kern County Veterans Office. This shelter is being designed to allow for homeless in Bakersfield to congregate there rather than being on the streets and in front of businesses and/or neighborhoods. There will be onsite security staff (along with surveillance cameras), individuals will get 3 meals a day. Pets, partners (separate quarters) will be allowed. No children will be allowed there since the homeless shelter can take those on. Multiple County departments and organizations (BHRS, DHS, Animal Services, AASD, Veterans, Housing Authority, and CAPK – doing the meals) will be on site. The Board of Supervisors approved the plan on October 29, 2019.

The City had a similar proposal it was considering as well. Their shelter (450 beds) was going to be placed where the old Calcott Headquarters is located on Brundage (1900 E. Brundage) and Cottonwood Rd. However after hearing feedback from the local area community members including a church nearby

(Valley Bible), the City Council voted to put it on hold, and asked the City Manager's office to come back with a list of costs associated with the shelter. The City Council will reconvene on January 22, 2020 to discuss the topic further including other sites in Old Town Kern.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Officer elections are due for the July 2019 to July 2020 term. The term is for 1 year with a maximum of 2 continuous terms. Nominations were taken from the floor for Chair and Vice-Chair. Laura Juarez will prepare official ballots for the elections at the January 2020 meeting. Nominations received as follows:

Chair: Harvey Clowers & Kaye Davis

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Lopez

Nominations can still be made up until before the elections.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Some members are due for Ethics Training this year. There are no longer any in-person trainings for 2019 but you can still take the Ethics training online @ www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance
Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.
2. Renovations are going on throughout the building, including the conference rooms where the IHSS Advisory Committee meetings are usually held. Until further notice, the IHSS Advisory Committee meetings will be held in the Bob Fowler Conference Room.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5357 Truxtun Avenue, in the Bob Fowler Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj