

Kern County Commission On Aging

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

November 18, 2019

Ridgecrest Senior Center
125 S. Warner Street
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:18 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, Devora Gonzalez, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Sonia Lopez, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Jon Johnston, **Stephanie Lynch, Roland Maier, and Sandy Morris

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Kristian Besnard, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Tracy Chrisman, Senior Nutrition Site Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Valerie Sanchez, Cheryl Gallion, Jenny Rodriguez, Kelly McDonald, Linda Fuller, Catherine Vasquez, and Josh Dhanens

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you letters were sent to the vendors and sponsors of the Senior Celebration.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner R. Oswald thanked the Commission for the birthday card he received.
2. Commissioner Jackson thanked the Ridgecrest Senior Nutrition staff for the good lunch.
3. Commissioner Gonzalez introduced and welcomed new Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance staff member, Valerie Sanchez.
4. Commissioner Barrett introduced and welcomed Cheryl Gallion will be working in the Valley Caregivers Resource Center office in Bakersfield.
5. Chair Prado informed the Commission that she received word this morning that Honorary Commissioner, Bob Fowler, passed away.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the October 21, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved with a couple of corrections on page 5.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed
(M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Lemucchi/None/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:** A motion was made to approve Employee Appreciation day to be held December 5, 2019. Volunteers for this event will be: R. Oswald, L. Oswald, Lemucchi, and Prado.
(M/S/A/O) Snyder/Jackson/Brown/None – Motion carried .
- **APPROVAL OF SPRING ALIVE RESOURCE FAIR:** A motion was made to have the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair on a weekend inside the building of the Rasmussen Senior Center on either April 18, 2020, or April 25, 2020. Commissioner Snyder will Chair the event.
(M/S/A/O) Barrett/R. Oswald/None/None – Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Tracy Chrisman

Tracy Chrisman reported they had some building renovations done to the Ridgecrest Senior Center. Tracy thanked California City Senior Center for helping with the congregate and meals on wheels during the renovation. A huge shout out of thanks was given to Lulu for all

of her help, time, and effort. The center lost a lot of seniors during the renovation so they now serve about 25-30 congregate and 60 meals on wheels each day. The Ridgecrest Senior Center utilizes the help of CalWorks and Work Release individuals. The center isn't doing a lot during the holidays because a lot of seniors will be leaving town during this time. The center just held a rummage sales on November 11th. The seniors enjoy playing BINGO. The Ridgecrest Senior Center has their own Facebook page called "Ridgecrest Senior Center" where they provide upcoming activities, the lunch menu, etc.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported there is a Veterans office in Ridgecrest located at 400 North China Lake Blvd., and is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call the main office in Bakersfield at (661) 868-7300 to schedule an appointment.

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) – Valerie Rangel

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Jenny Rodriguez

Jenny Rodriguez reported she works in the America's Job Center in Ridgecrest. They now have a full-time employee in their Resource Room to help individuals apply for jobs. They are also working with the US Census Bureau, who is trying to hire a lot of people for some very flexible jobs with good pay. The Job Center is hosting the US Census Bureau every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until March 2020. The California Department of Rehabilitation is also located inside their building. This program helps individuals who have a mental or physical disability and is no longer able to continue with their previous career. The program will help train them for a new career. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their office is located next to the DMV at 540 W. Perdew in Ridgecrest.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported their Department receives federal funds through HUD for affordable housing. Catherine shared information on two of their programs, the Home Access Grant, and the Home Improvement Loan program. The Home Access Grant is for low-income, disabled individuals. They can be a home owner or renter, with the homeowner's approval, and is a grant up to \$3,000. They can remove a tub and replace it with a walk-in shower, install grab bars, install a ramp for those wheelchair bound, and other improvements to make getting in and around the home more accessible.

The Home Improvement Loan program is for home owners, low-income households to repair or replace existing items such as plumbing, painting, electrical, roof, etc. A lien will be placed on the house. There is no interest and no monthly payments required. All counties have funds set aside for low-income housing, though they may not utilize the funds as Kern County does.

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

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 announced it 2020 cost of living adjustment. Over 69 million individuals receiving Social Security or SSI will see their benefits increase by 1.6% in 2020. Despite recent House 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 to have it in place by October 2020 is under way. A handout of the CHSS Framework and Goals was distributed to the Commissioners. The State approved the Property Tax Postponement Program which allows homeowners who are seniors (62+), blind, or disabled, to 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 the homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, refinances, dies, or obtains a reverse mortgage. This program will run from October 1, 2019 to 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), and individuals will receive 3 meals a day. Pets and partners will be allowed in separate quarters. No children will be allowed at this particular shelter since the homeless shelter can take those individuals with children. Multiple County departments and organizations (Behavioral Health, Department of Human Services, Animal Services, Aging and Adult Services Department, Veterans, Housing Authority, and California Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) will be part of the center. CAPK will be providing the meals and 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

Jan Lemucchi reported the CSL general session was held the end of October and beginning of November. A paper listing the top 10 CSL State proposals and the top 4 federal legislative proposals was handed out to Commissioners for their review.

Lito Morillo reported a vacancy on CSL exists since Linda Fuller resigned from serving on the CSL. The Joint Rules Committee Chair, John Pointer, is recommending that the current CSL Senior Assemblymember, Jan Lemucchi, to serve as the CSL Senior Senator. The Commission on Aging will have to appoint Commissioner Lemucchi to the Senior Senator position. A vacancy will then exist for the CSL Senior Assemblyperson. If more than one application is received for this position, an election will need to be held. However, if there is only one applicant, the Commission on Aging can appoint that individual to the vacant position.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – Vacant

Chair Prado reported Commissioner Lynch was reappointed. A Chair is needed for the Commissioner Appointment 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 November 6, 2019 to review and discuss the regular meeting agenda, debriefing on the Senior Celebration, and Employee Appreciation.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – A. Flucker

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported her, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner R. Oswald, and Commissioner Barrett, visited the Bella Sera Skilled Nursing and TCRU facility, which is located on the premises of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. Commissioner Jackson reported the capacity is 110 residents. They are currently undergoing modeling so they have 60 residents. The rooms are spacious, with 2 persons to a room. Ombudsman signs were posted. The calendar of daily activities was in large print. Commissioner Barrett reported she talked to the new Administrator of the facility regarding almost all of their residents are wheelchair bound. The Administrator said one of his goals is to have an area for dementia residents only.

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

No report.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

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

No report.

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

Chair Prado reported they met November 13, 2019. The unmet needs for the County hearings are done. There was no one available to talk about TRIP so it will be heard in 2020. The High Speed Rail is going from F Street to Shafter, CA, and then will eventually that will go from Bakersfield to Merced. Will be open for business come 2028. It will not go to Los Angeles or San Francisco. There is a bus, through Kern Regional Transit, that leaves at 5 a.m. off of McKey Road that will take you to Union Station via Santa Clarita for \$5 or \$2.50 for seniors. From there, you can take the Metro Link anywhere in Los Angeles for \$15. They go 7 times each day. In Antelope Valley, they are talking about getting electronic cars, and where to charge these cars. There's currently mobile charging stations in San Diego. There's a car rental program called MILO in Tulare, Wasco, and Arvin where you can rent a vehicle for \$4/hour. They are working on opening a site in Shafter. This RIDE program in Kern County is doing well and has expanded from 25 to 100 individuals. The next meeting will be in February 2020.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

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 by November 27th.

The Aging and Adult Services Department will be closed during the Winter Recess, which is December 26, 27, and 30th. However, the Senior Nutrition congregate and meals on wheels program will remain open during Winter Recess. The entire office, including senior nutrition, will be closed during the normal County holidays of December 24, 25, 31st, and January 1st.

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.

Chair Prado reported a photo of Commissioner Gonzalez was in one of the articles regarding the Master Plan on Aging.

Kelly McDonald, owner of Elder Ready, is seeking government or local sponsorship to get technology workshops or educational seminars for seniors 55 and older. Please let her know if anyone can help.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 8, 2020 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. Bob Fowler Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, January 27, 2020 1:00 p.m. Ben Austin Senior Center 1751 McKee Road Bakersfield, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary