

Kern County Commission On Aging

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

January 27, 2020

Ben Austin Senior Center
1751 McKee Road
Bakersfield, CA 93307

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:12 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, Barbara Goodlow, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Sonia Lopez, Roland Maier, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Devora Gonzalez, Kris Grasty, Jon Johnston, **Stephanie Lynch,
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker and Marti Overfield

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Josh Dhanens, Leslie Wallace, Gayla Hughes, Harvey Clowers, Linda Fuller, Edward Colley, Cynthia Cooper, Peggy Langels, Catherine Vasquez, Yerania Esparza, and Kandi Mosqueda

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Lito Morillo reported a card was received from the AASD Social Committee thanking the COA for the baskets donated for the Holiday Luncheon. The Commission also received two letters from Christmas for Seniors thanking them for the \$500 donation made to the program from COA, and the \$500 donation made in memory of Bob Fowler.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Ben Austin Senior Nutrition staff for the nice lunch and cupcakes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the November 18, 2019 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved with one correction on page 1.

Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed

(M/S/A/O) R. Oswald/Lemucchi/Flucker/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Kristian Besnard introduced Connie Pitkin, who is a tremendous help at the Ben Austin Senior Center. Connie also helps with organizing all of the volunteers at the center, and keeps her apprised of any building issues. They serve 10-25 congregate meals each day at this center. On Thursdays they play BINGO and that makes for their heaviest congregate day. They have sewing every day. Meals are cooked out of the Richard Prado Senior Center and they deliver about 400 meals on wheels between Bakersfield, Arvin, and Lamont. Approximately 550-600 meals are cooked each day out of Richard Prado Senior Center.

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Leslie Wallace reported she appreciates the communication with senior nutrition staff to get building issues resolved. They've recently had some issues with a vendor but they are working through that. Custodial Services has been working with the vendor who takes care of the Ben Austin Senior Center and have taken care of any issues. Reservations for county buildings is going smoothly.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported they are opening an office in Delano to serve residents in north Kern. The office will be located at 455 Lexington Street, Delano, CA, across from the Delano Regional Medical Center, and just west of the Delano Community Center. They are getting out to the community throughout Kern County and will continue to expand.

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 reported they are out informing seniors who are completing their renewals to be sure to provide the packet with their verification of income and all of their resources. Since they introduced their SSI expansion in June 2019, their cases went from 4,000 up to 11,000 cases so they are servicing 7,000 more disabled persons that they weren't servicing before. They currently switched to a new phone service through Amazon in their Call Center so they are working with Amazon to get through some glitches. Gayla can be reached directly at 661-868-8626.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported they received a new grant, Prison to Employment (PTE), working with the parole office to get recently released back into jobs. They also have a new veterans grant. Two of their staff members are working out at the Veteran's office. This grant is for veterans who have disabilities, and also those who are attending college. There is a grant in Ridgecrest for those who were dislocated and lost their job due to the earthquake. They also received an opioid grant through the State to train people to be drug counselors. They are going to Cal State University Bakersfield in an accelerated program and then will be completing their hours with Behavioral Health or Ages and will be working as counselors with drug rehab program. Another program they just started is CalWORKS Education and Training program. This program is for those who are receiving general assistance. They will attend classes to get them work ready at the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF). The goal is to help individuals gain employment and get off of general assistance. They are looking for bigger space for their back to work business center, and also for their youth center. They will be moving their Lake Isabella office into a new building within the next few months. The cafeteria in their office is open to the public. The cafeteria is a training program for Bakersfield Adult School. They have a Chief who came from the Petroleum Club who is training them. The food is delicious, and costs from \$5 to \$10. The cafeteria is open Tuesday through Friday from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Job Squad will be moving to Mondays at 1:30 p.m. effective February 3, 2020. If you know of anyone interested in going through training, send them to their office. There is also a new program where someone can get their high school diploma online in about 18 months. The Census is doing lots of hiring right now. There is an EMT Academy paid training program through Hall Ambulance. They have a new basic computers class that is starting that is open to the public. Fliers were distributed for the jobs with open recruitments.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez introduced Yerania Esparza, the new Housing Rehabilitation Program Supervisor, and Kandi Mosqueda, Housing Rehab Technician. Kandi provided information on the Home Access Grant that is available to low-income, permanently disabled individuals to make the home more accessible. This is a one-time grant and does not need to be paid

back. She also discussed the Home Improvement Loan, which is a zero interest loan to replace or repair any existing items to the home such as painting, roof, plumbing, etc. This program is available to qualified home owners. A lien will be placed on the home. If you know of anyone interested in either of the programs, please refer them to their office.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Harvey Clowers reported there are a lot of things going on right now at ILC. They have independent living skills classes going on. They have a Public Assistance workshop coming up. They also have a housing 101 workshop for landlord/tenant rights. On March 25th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., they will have an Emergency Preparedness training workshop that will cover disasters. The Team Advocacy classes are on the 3rd Monday of each month from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., followed by their Peer Support class from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program is a grant-funded program to assist older individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This program provides training personal training with computers, phones, electronic devices, and more.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal

The President's Federal Budget was signed on December 20, 2019. In early February, the Federal Budget will be given to the California Department on Aging (CDA), CDA will move away from Continuing Resolution (CRs) and cash shortages. Overall there's been a 5% increase in Title III programs and we are not sure how much California will receive at this point. C1 – Congregate Meals funding is going up by \$15 million. C2 – Meals on Wheels is also getting increased funding by \$15 million. III E – National Family Caregiver Support is going up by \$4.75 million. HICAP (known as SHIP – State Health Insurance Assistance Program at Federal level) will be getting a \$3 million increase, which is great considering they were slated for cuts and/or elimination in the last 3 years.

State

Governor's Budget Highlights:

\$1.4 billion to address homelessness including paying rents, build more shelters, and provide treatment to those struggling with finding long-term housing.

\$100 million to cover health care for approximately 25,000 non-citizens over the age of 65.

Kim McCoy Wade (CDA Director) provided an overview on the 2020 CDA Draft Strategic Plan. Also, California Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) and Kim briefly discussed the proposal by California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) regarding AAA being under the Human Services umbrella. The C4A Board of Directors will schedule a conference call with Kim to discuss C4A's position and response related to CWDA's proposal sometime in the next week or so.

The additional Senior Nutrition funding that was slated to sunset got extended to July 1 2023, instead of December 1, 2021. So the timeline was moved and guaranteed funding until at least July 1, 2023. We are hoping to reduce some of our waiting lists with this additional nutrition funding.

Fall Prevention Grant is one year now thru the end of June 30, 2021. Only Fresno County declined the Fall Prevention Funding so it will be redistributed to other counties. Each AAA will get at least \$125,000 in funding.

There is a proposal out there currently that is looking at increasing AAA baseline (\$150,000 increase), currently the base for each AAA is \$50,000 (been for over 30 years).

County

IHSS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is happening across the State. Kern will be up and running in the next wave March/April. EVV is designed to get IHSS providers and clients submitting timesheets online (through a State online portal) or through their phones, rather than mailing it to the State. EVV is federally mandated, and CA must complete by this year to avoid fiscal penalties. EVV will allow clients to track their timesheet, payments. It will eliminate the issues clients and providers have getting the mailed timesheets lost in the mail. It will also expedite processing them since they don't have to wait for it to be delivered.

We are trying to establish an Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) here in Kern. AASD and ILC are working together to make this happen. ADRC's are designed to be one-stops for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The County is in budget season now. We are developing our budgets all the way until it passes in August 2020. We are continuing to deal with wage compaction issues as a result of minimum wage increasing.

Renovations at the Department still on going. Hopefully everything will be completed by April 2020.

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 Master Plan for Aging webinars are held Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and are open to the public. The webinars are interactive and informative. If you'd like to receive reminder emails, visit www.engageca.org and sign up. Each webinar has a different topic. There is a toll-free listen in line that you can call 1-888-788-0099.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – Vacant

Lito Morillo reported Commissioner Snyder's reappointment is in process and will be going before the Board of Supervisors on January 28th to represent the COA on the IHSS Advisory Committee. Commissioner R. Oswald's reappointment is also going before the Board to

represent District 4 on the COA. Chair Prado was recently reappointed by AASD and her new term expires September 8, 2021. Commissioner Lynch was reappointed by District 3, and her new term will expire September 22, 2021. Commissioner Snyder was reappointed by NOR, and her new term will expire January 10, 2022. Commissioner Lemucchi was appointed as the CSL Senator, and her term will expire October 21, 2022, which is the existing term date. Commissioner Duquette's term expired September 20, 2019, and a letter has been sent to Supervisor Scrivner's office at the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Gonzalez's term expired November 8, 2019, and a letter was sent to Estela Casas at GBLA. Commissioner Goodlow's term expired December 8, 2019, and a letter was sent to Lili Parker at Bakersfield Senior Center. No terms are soon to expire. There is currently one vacancy for CLS Assemblymember, that existing term will end October 21, 2022. No new applications received.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee met early in December to assemble candy canes with a poem attached to them, and they gave them out to AASD staff.

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

Chair Prado reported the Exec. Committee met January 8, 2020 and discussed Commissioner Lemucchi's appointment to CSL Senator. Applications will be received for CSL Assemblymember. If you would like an application, please contact Laura Juarez.

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

The committee met January 16th. Information discussed there was shared during the Director's report during this meeting.

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

No report.

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 had a low congregated meals attendance likely due to the holidays. The committee will be going out to the senior centers throughout the county that are not on the 2020 meeting schedule. Commissioner Hodge reported visiting senior centers in December. He was not able to visit in January. He was appreciative of Desiree Ingalls' for her help with coordinating the coffee maker to the Greenacres Senior Center that was purchased by COA Foundation.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported she mailed out 4 birthday cards. Chair Prado reported Commissioner Grasty sent a sympathy card to Paul Rozell's wife, Liz Rozell, for the passing of

former AASD Program Director, Paul Rozell.

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

Commissioner L. Oswald sent the TACC report to all Commissioners via email for review. No further report.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee will meet in February 2020. No report.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

Commissioner Brown reported the senior nutrition volunteers will continue to be recognized as they've been doing. No additional report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Commissioner Snyder reported the Marketing & Orientation committee will meet next week with AASD staff to plan the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair that will be held Saturday, April 18, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Rasmussen Senior Center. Please let her know if you have any ideas.

Commissioner Grasty sent an email that \$85.58 has been received from Smile Amazon. This is an increase from last year's earnings. Lito Morillo shared the COA has earned a total of \$130 by simply getting the word out to have them use Smile Amazon and select Kern County Commission on Aging as the charity of their choice. You will need to check the screen says, to make sure it says "Supporting Kern County Commission on Aging" when you log in. A small percentage of proceeds will go to the COA Foundation.

Chair Prado reported there are some Commissioners who are not serving on any committees. She will get together with those Commissioners to assign them to a committee.

Chair Prado thanked Commissioner Lemucchi for the nice tip sheet she distributed on healthy eyes.

NEXT MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE MEETING	REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 5, 2020 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. Bob Fowler Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, February 24, 2020 1:00 p.m. Taft Senior Center 500 Cascade Place Taft, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary