

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1052; (661) 868-1001 FAX



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

February 24, 2020

Taft Senior Center
500 Cascade Place
Bakersfield, CA 93268

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:01 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, Devora Gonzalez, Kris Grasty; Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, Sonia Lopez, **Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Jon Johnston, Roland Maier, Linda Oswald, and Roger Oswald,
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Harley Baker

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Katrecia Short, Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Cheryl Gallon, Catherine Vasquez, Edward Colley, Linda Fuller, Leslie Devitt, Gayla Hughes, and Charles D. Morris

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Lito Morillo reported over 100 letters and fliers for the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair were mailed to potential vendors.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Taft Senior Nutrition staff for the nice lunch. Commissioner Grasty thanked the Taft Senior Nutrition staff for the dessert.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the January 27, 2020 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed
(M/S/A/O) Flucker/Lemucchi/Lynch, Grasty, Gonzalez/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Kristian Besnard

Katrechia Short reported they deliver 95 meals to Taft, Maricopa, Dustin Acres, Valley Acres, Buttonwillow, and the surrounding areas. They also serve 25-30 congregate meals each day at the Taft Senior Center. Westside Park has different activities for seniors in their senior room. They have a pool table, magazines to read, puzzles, TV's, yoga, line dancing for exercise, Zumba, and a lot more activities to keep the seniors and community active, including bowling.

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 reported they have added 5 more agents in their Call Center. This month's stats showed that they serviced approximately 100 more people per day. When seniors return their renewal packets, please make sure they are returning all verification of resources, such as bank statements, vehicles, life insurance packets, and home information to help get those renewals processed faster.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported the Home Access Grant Program is free for anyone that needs modifications to their home, such as a ramp at the door to get in and out of their home, or to take out a bath tub and put in a walk-in shower, grab bars, and hand rails. They also have the Home Access Grant Program that is a mortgage secured as a lien on the property. This program is for home owners only and is used to repair or replace what is existing such as painting, roofing, plumbing, etc. There is no interest or monthly payments on this loan but will need to be paid back when the home is sold or they are no longer living in the home.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Jan Lemucchi

Jan Lemucchi reported ILC is one of the community based organizations here in town that is working with the county for Kern Counts in advising and educating the public on the upcoming US Census. The mailers will be going out mid-March. ILC is reaching out to older adults and people with disabilities and reminding everyone of the importance of replying back to the US Census. This 10th year, we have the opportunity to either return the mailer, calling your answers, or use your computer to reply to the Census. The importance of responding to the Census is that it brings money into the county per person that's counted. Approximately \$20,000 is lost per person every 10 years that is not counted in the household, from infants to older adults. The money that comes in goes to hospitals, road side, to education, and senior centers. If you need assistance completing the Census, you can go to ILC. They have a kiosk available there where they can assist you with completing the Census.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal

There is a deal in place between the House and Senate to pass the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act for 5 years. It's expected to be voted on and passed quickly when Senate returns for recess. The compromised bill is expect to include the increase in authorized funding levels which includes a 7% increase in the first year, with 6 % increases in each subsequent year through FY 2024 (which was proposed in the House). Once the Senate approves, it goes to the House for final approval, and then to the President to sign.

According to Justice in Aging, the President's budget that was released on February 11, 2020 calls for cuts to Medicaid, as a result of decreased federal funding, as well as reductions in Social Security, SSI, and Medicare. It's unclear how the President's proposed budget will impact the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 if at all.

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.

The additional Senior Nutrition funding that was slated to end in December 2021 got extended to July 1, 2023, which guarantees the additional funding until then. We are hoping to reduce some of our waiting lists with this additional funding which will mean more people on the program and more meals served.

Fall Prevention funding is available now through the end of June 30, 2021. Kern received \$143,000 which it will use to contract out with a local provider who is an expert in providing fall prevention classes, as well as in home assessments.

There is currently a proposal looking at increasing the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) baseline to \$150,000. Currently the base for each AAA is \$50,000 (been for over 30 years). Other organizations like Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman and Independent Living Center (ILC) has each a higher base than AAA. Although they are smaller organizations than AAA, the State provides them both with base funding that is over \$100,000 each.

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 for them since they don't have to wait for it being delivered. Also, the County and United Domestic Workers union are currently in mediation for IHSS wages.

As previously shared with this Commission, we are trying to establish an ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center) 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. Currently, there are 8 counties who already have an ADRC, and 10 counties, including Kern County, who are an emerging ADRC. Lito thanked Commissioner Lemucchi for her help with writing the grant for Kern County to become an ADRC with AASD and ILC. This has always been a goal of AASD and we have a strong relationship with ILC, which isn't the case with a lot of other counties. The State is encouraging this so all counties build a relationship with their ILC program.

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

Renovations are still ongoing at AASD and will soon be finished in April 2020. The building looks completely different with more of a modern look.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

Jan Lemucchi reported Senior Rally Day is coming up May 11, 2020 at the State Capitol. Since her appointment to the CSL Senior Senator, the Joint Rules Committee (JRC) Chair appointed Commissioner Lemucchi to the JRC.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris; R. Maier

Commissioner Morris reported there are no reappointments in process. There are no recent reappointments. Commissioner Snyder was appointed to represent the COA on the IHSS Advisory Committee and her new term will expire June 30, 2021. Commissioner R. Oswald was reappointed by Supervisor Couch to represent District 4. His new term will expire September 15, 2021. 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. Appointments soon to expire are Commissioner Johnston (05/04/20), Commissioner Maier (06/17/20), Commissioner Brown (06/17/20), Commissioner Hodge (06/17/20), and Commissioner L. Oswald (06/17/20). Laura Juarez will submit reappointment letters as their term dates near. There is currently one vacancy for CLS Assemblymember, that existing term will end October 21, 2022. Two new applications were received from Gail Lancaster and Llesenia Bonilla.

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

Chair Flucker reported the next Employee Recognition will be in August. No further report.

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

Chair Prado reported the Exec. Committee met February 5, 2020 and discussed the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair, CSL Election, and approved the agenda and speaker for today's Commission meeting. Commissioner Grasty reminded all Commissioners to please respond to Laura's email by the given deadline to RSVP for lunch. There are approximately 4 Commissioners she is having to call each month.

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

Commissioner Snyder reported she attended the January 16, 2020 IHSS Advisory Committee meeting as a guest because she had not yet been appointed to the committee. Though the next meeting is March 19, 2020, she will be attending the IHSS Advisory committee in May 2020.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported they do not have any Skilled Nursing facilities in Taft or a huge Assisted Living. They have one Assisted Living home that used to be an Adult Residential Care Facility but transitioned into a RCFV which is for anybody that is 59 years or older. She and Commissioner Barret visited Westside Senior Care.

Commissioner Barrett reported there were 4 female and 1 male in the home. The home, residents, and bedrooms were clean. There's little to no activity. The explanation given was that residents don't want to do any activities. There is 1 bed available.

MARKETING & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – Y. Prado, D. Duquette, S. Lynch, S. Morris,

Commissioner Snyder reported the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair committee met last week and have accomplished a lot. Commissioner Snyder thanked the COA Foundation for authorizing a budget. A music playlist will play during the Spring Alive Senior Resource. The vendors will be set up inside the Rasmussen Senior Center. There will be 2 rooms to provide health screenings for more privacy. Letters have gone out to over 100 vendors. We are anticipating a good response. There is no charge to vendors. She is working on getting water bottles donated and will work with Margaret Rader on a contact for Sparklett's. They've reached out to mobile home parks around the Rasmussen Senior Center. She will also reach out to the nearby churches.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; J. Johnston; S. Morris

Commissioner Brown reported there are no elections until possibly in May for the California Senior Legislature.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – A. Flucker, B. Goodlow, L. Hodge, A. Johnston, J. Johnston

Commissioner Goodlow reported Commissioner Grasty and Commissioner Jackson will be joining the Senior Center Advisory. All committee members will be dividing up the senior centers that they each be responsible for. Commissioner Hodge reported he visited the 3 senior centers assigned to him, East Niles, Ramsussen, and Greenacres. All seem to be doing well; however, a common concern the leaders of the 3 centers share is there is a lack of attendance and they are not sure why.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported she mailed out 4 birthday cards in February and will be sending 1 in March.

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

No report. The committee is currently in Sacramento for the TACC meeting.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee met and discussed the current Centennial Corridor projects. The 24th Street is 70% complete. The work underground is all taken care of. This week we should expect new changes. They are the first in the nation to acquire Right Away, which means they completed their design, purchased the homes and businesses that needed to be moved before the funding came in. As the \$630 million came in, they already had approval to move on with the project. They are on time and exactly on budget with the project. TRIP started in 2006, and was supposed to be completed in 2020. Information with further details will be sent to all Commissioners via email. The homeless shelter on Golden State Hwy will be open as of late March 2020. They are a low barrier facility and will be open every day. They have staff and quite a lot of volunteers. They have 150 beds and will accept walk-ins. If someone sleeps inside their vehicle, they can park their vehicle there. The City's temporary housing that will be at the Calcot building will be accepted via referrals only. Students going to and from the Bakersfield College will receive free transportation via Kern Transit during the school year. Students must have a valid college ID. There was also discussion about GET offering free transportation to seniors. Details are unknown at this time.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown

Commissioner Brown reported there are no changes to how senior nutrition volunteers are being recognized.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Rasmussen Senior Center.

Applications for CSL Assemblymember will be accepted until March 16, 2020 for those interested in applying. If multiple candidates are approved, elections will take place during the May 18, 2020 COA meeting at the Lamont Senior Center. The JRC Chair, really expressed that it is very critical that candidates are computer literate and have the ability to print documents as they rely on electronic communication. Also, the candidate must be able to walk in and around the Capitol.

Plans are under way for this year's Elder Abuse Prevention Conference which will take place in June 2020 at Hodel's. Details to follow as they become available.

The next in-person Ethics Training will be held March 18, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers. There will be an additional in-person training August 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. also to be held in the Board Chambers. You can also take the 2 hour training online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance. Please be sure to give a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

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, March 4, 2020 1:30 pm Aging and Adult Services Dept. Bob Fowler Conference Room 5343 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA	Monday, March 16, 2020 1:00 p.m. Bakersfield Senior Center 530 4 th Street Bakersfield, CA

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary