

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**

July 20, 2020

Video Meeting via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:06 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:

Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Aaron Flucker, Barbara Goodlow, Devora Gonzalez, Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Jan Lemucchi, Roland Maier, Sandy Morris, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Chris Barrett, Susan Bodnar, Norma Jackson, Sonia Lopez, and **Stephanie Lynch

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Jens Blum, Peggy Langels, Josh Dhanens, Michelle Pearl-Krizo, and Yerania Esparza

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Lito Morillo reported letters of thanks were sent to businesses and organizations who helped with senior needs during COVID-19.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Grasty presented a gift Honorary Commissioner, Jon Johnston, for his many years of service on the Commission on Aging.

Commissioner Morris reported she elected to pass on gift card donations from the Commission on Aging as the program will not be able to operate Christmas for Seniors this year, and get everything done with only 10 people in a room at one time. Also, most of the volunteers are elderly and it's just not safe for them to be out. If any employees have a senior truly in need, they will be adopted one-on-one.

Chair Prado reported if you are due for driver's license renewal from March 2020 to December 2020, you can visit the DMV website to see if you qualify for a renewal extension. If eligible, the length of your extension depends on your age and class of license.

Chair Prado reported the Kern Senior Living Health Care Directory, sponsored by Bakersfield Family Medical Center/Heritage Physician Network, is now available.

Lito Morillo reported Cooling Centers are open and the attendance is still about the same as in years past. The East Niles Senior Center was not designated as a Cooling Center this year to avoid any unnecessary congregation due to COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the June 15, 2020 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed
(M/S/A/O) Snyder/R. Oswald/None/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported services are being offered by phone appointments and email. Documents can be dropped off at the Bakersfield office through their mail drop-slot. For

questions, vets can email them at kervets@kerncounty.com. Their office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment only. Their phone lines are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Calls are being returned in the order in which they were received. There are a couple of groups in Kern County charging veterans to help with their Aid and Attendance (A&A). If you know of anyone needing help with A&A, please let them know the Veterans Department does this for free. It is not legal to charge veterans for help with A&A paperwork so if you hear of any of these agencies asking for payment to help with A&A, please let Josh know.

Commissioner Morris expressed her appreciation to the Veterans Services and Honor Flight for the presentation they did for her father's funeral service. Josh said he would pass on the kind words to the staff responsible for that.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Jens Blum

Jens Blum reported Behavioral Health is still alternating schedules weekly. They continue to offer services for the Voluntary Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) to help provide early prevention and support to those seniors who may be isolated and having depression and/or anxiety. Their services are limited to only over the phone at this time. VSOP is having an event July 23, 2020 at 2 p.m. Anyone interested in joining can email him at jblum@kernbhhs.org to sign up.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Michelle Pearl Krizo reported Kern County failed the State's metric for COVID-19 for 3 consecutive days and is on the Governor's watch list. After the 3 days, if still on the Governor's list, the county will go on the State Monitoring list. The State has 2 metrics for measuring virus testing. When a county has more 100 new cases for 100,000 residents in 14-day period, or more than 25 new cases per 100 residents in a 7-day period, and the positivity rate is above 8%. The positivity rate is the total number of positive tests divided by the total tests. We accumulated almost 1,700 new cases over a 3-day period. The County health officials contribute this to a back log of testing. Non-essential businesses (i.e. gyms, salons, places of worship, etc.) will not be able to operate again unless the businesses are modified to operate outside or by curbside pickup. There will be no school sports this fall. All high school fall sports will be delayed until winter/spring. As a reminder, you can stay up to date on COVID-19 news by visiting the Kern County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard at https://kernpublichealth.com/covid-19_dashboard/.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Valerie Rangel

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported their staff are rotating every other week. ETR is open by appointment only and they must provide proof of their appointment. They must have their temperature checked and wear masks before entering the building. Intakes, orientations, and appointments are all being done remotely. A lot of their training programs are shut down because of the small limit of people you can have in class. COVID-19 has really affected their services. CalJobs is still posting jobs continuously on America's Job Center of California website. They have a lot of employers looking for a lot of people to work.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Yerania Esparza

Yerania Esparza reported their programs have not stopped. The Home Access Grant is available to improve the home to make it more handicap assessable. The grant total increased from \$3,500 to \$4,000 max per residence. An application and doctor's application indicating the person is disabled must be submitted, as well as proof of income and list all persons in the household. This is a free program for renters and home owners. The home improvement grant is for owners only. It is 0% interest deferred loan. This grant is used to repair or replace any existing items such as roof, painting, plumbing, etc. The work must be completed by a licensed and insured contractor. A lien is placed on the home so it will be repaid when the home is sold or the homeowner is no longer residing in the home. There must be equity on the home and the loan must be current. The owner must also have fire and flood insurance while in the program. The loan is reviewed every 5 years to make sure they still qualify for this program.

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:

State

We are waiting to see what the federal government does with the stimulus package. There are two pending stimulus packages. The first is the "HEROs Act" for hospital repairs, and another that is currently in the Senate for additional funding for employers, to individuals with varying income levels, and the assistance with different states to fill some of their budget gaps. At the state level, California is anticipating to receive \$14 billion of this stimulus package. If the State does not receive that portion of the stimulus package, there are some triggered cuts in the State's budget that will impact local services. The State and County is definitely affected by the federal budget. State income taxes were postponed to July 15th so this did not allow them to capture an exact amount of tax revenue. They have a projection of this amount but it is unknown if their projections is going to come in as projected, which could also cause some issues if the amount projected comes in lower.

County

The County is projecting this year's budget cuts to be steep. The budget cuts will highly affect Fiscal Year 2021-22. Projections are fairly low compared to years past. AASD, along with other county Departments, are dealing with budget cuts. AASD has seen an overall increase in services, in particular to senior nutrition program which had a growth from 20% to close to 40% in meals for seniors as a result of COVID-19. We have established services we never had before. We have approximately 30 clients on the grocery shopping program. As many seniors are having to stay home, there are a lot of seniors that do not have the technological capacity or devices to bridge the digital divide. AASD is working with Pacifica on a pilot program to get tablets to a few residents to help bridge this digital divide. The

Department has been struggling with staff and office operation coverage. We currently have a hiring freeze which impacts staffing to a large degree, along with staff having to be quarantined up to 14 days if exposed to COVID-19. Separate from COVID-19, kids not being able to return to school, also affects staffing levels.

We did receive additional funding from the federal government for COVID-19 that we will be able to utilize to backfill some of our deficits, and also look at supporting our grocery delivery program and looking at how to bridge that digital divide.

The County of Kern contracted through Community Action Partnership to do a food box delivery program for seniors 65 years and old to have a 70-75 lb. box of food delivered once each month for 6 months. To register for the program, seniors would need to call 2-1-1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Commissioner L. Oswald asked if anyone has suggestions that might be needed for By-law change, please let her, Commissioner Grasty, or Commissioner Goodlow know via phone or email.

CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – J. Lemucchi, Vacant

Commissioner Lemucchi reported the next CSL Joint Rules Committee meeting is coming up in July and has to be set up at a public location. CSL JRC asked her if she could be at a public location so she will be AASD to attend this meeting via Zoom.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, R. Maier

Commissioner Morris reported Roland Maier was reappointed by District 1 with a new term ending 06/17/2022. Linda Oswald was reappointed by District 4 with a new term ending June 17, 2022. Gloria Brown was reappointed by District 2 with a new term ending June 17, 2022. There are no new appointments. There are no expired terms. Aaron Flucker's term will expire August 18, 2020. Laura will send a reappointment letter as the date nears. There are two vacancies, 1 for CSL Senior Assemblymember, which will not be filled at this time, and District 1, replacing Jon Johnston. There were no new applications received this month.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, S. Lynch

Commissioner Flucker reported they will be working on an employee appreciation in August 2020. Chair Prado will price some items, possible cups, for the employees, including those in the outlying areas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – B. Goodlow, K. Grasty, J. Lemucchi, S. Lynch, L. Oswald, Y. Prado, J. Snyder

Chair Prado reported the committee met June 3, 2020 via Zoom to discuss today's meeting agenda, among other items already discussed in this meeting.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – J. Snyder

No report.

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

Commissioner Duquette reported GBLA has a new employee, Colleen McGauley, and she has been doing a good job getting everyone connected on Zoom for meetings.

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

No report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; N. Jackson

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported The Volunteer Center held a virtual fan drive in June. She contacted the Rasmussen, Bakersfield Senior Center, and E. Niles Senior Center to let them know about the fan drive. There was a lot of participation from those three centers.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported she 3 birthday cards in July and 3 will be sent in August. She sent sympathy card to Commissioner Morris. Commissioner Flucker, Commissioner Hodge and Commissioner Snyder thanked the Commission for the cards they received.

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

Commissioner L. Oswald reported TAAC will have a virtual meeting this week.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado

Chair Prado reported the committee will meet next month.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; R. Maier

No senior nutrition volunteers have been recognized since the senior centers have been closed. Recognition will continue whenever the senior centers are reopened.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Ethics Training - The next Ethics training is scheduled for August 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. It is likely the training will be held virtually. You can also take the two hour training online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance. Please be sure to give a copy of your signed certificate to Laura Juarez.

Smile Amazon - 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, September 2, 2020 (dark in August) 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, September 21, 2020 (dark in August) 1:00 p.m. Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary