

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**

November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Video Meeting via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:05 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, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty; Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, **Stephanie Lynch, Jan Lemucchi, Roland Maier, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Susan Bodnar, Aaron Flucker, and Sandy Morris

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

Linda Fuller

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Lourdes Garcia, Janelle Capra, Michelle Pearl Krizo, Kaye Davis, and Catherine Vasquez

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments :

Commissioner Grasty welcomed Janelle Capra, of Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County (ADAKC) to the meeting. Ms. Capra reported ADACK is working on their appointment of a representative to serve on the COA. She also expressed that she is happy to join today's COA meeting and looks forward to attending more meetings in the future.

Commissioner Jackson commented that she misses having congregate meals with the seniors.

Chair Prado announced County Counsel has opened another date to take the Ethics training, which will be done virtually on December 11, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Please email murcid@kerncounty.com to reserve and obtain the link to join the training. You can also take the training online at www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance. Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

Chair Prado also provided positive feedback about AASD Program Tech., Eddy Herrera, who has been a tremendous help working with seniors on the Digital Divide program. Ltio shared that the Digital Divide project has assisted 25+ individuals on a one to one basis learning how to use their laptop, tablet, and/or smart phone. We are slowly moving to group online discussions in hopes to build communities and networks among those participating in the project. The program is free to seniors and we have received lots of positive feedback about the program.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the October 19, 2020 Regular Commission on Aging meeting was approved as prepared.

Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed

(M/S/A/O) Hodge/Snyder/Jackson/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens was not able to attend today's meeting, and prior to the meeting, he asked Lito to inform the Commission that there isn't anything new to report regarding Veterans Services. He also asked thanked the Commission for the condolences card he received.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Michelle Pearl Krizo

Michelle Pearl Krizo provided an update on the COVID cases in Kern County and shared information from the Kern County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard. Kern County is back in the purple tier which means hair and personal care businesses are open for outdoor services only. Malls can only be open to 25% individuals. Food courts are closed. Churches and places of worship can only be open outdoors. It will be up to the school district if they choose to open schools. There's a new therapeutic treatment option for persons diagnosed with COVID-19 called Bamlanivimab. This outpatient treatment is only for those who are high risk and showing mild to moderate COVID symptoms. Clinical trials are completed for the COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna, and is waiting to be approved by the FDA for distribution, which should happen quickly. This is a two-part vaccination. Individuals will have to return for a second shot 28 days after the initial shot was administered. We are encouraged to continue wearing a face mask, wash our hands, social distance, and stay home if you are sick.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported the Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) continues to help seniors who are struggling with social distancing, staying home, etc. Most individuals will not seek help themselves so she is asking if you know of anyone who could benefit from their services, please refer them to her. They make weekly contacts with clients, and they receive additional contact from their volunteers.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez reported their Department is still operating fully and are taking all necessary safety precautions. Catherine shared information about the Home Access Grant, which is available for persons who are low-income and have a permanent disability. This program is intended to help disabled persons move in and around the home safely by installing ramps, walk-in showers, grab bars, etc. The Home Improvement program is for homeowners only to repair or replace existing items such as roof, paint, plumbing, electrical, etc. These programs are only offered for those residing within County limits.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Harvey Clowers

Harvey Clowers reported they are caught up and finalized their 3rd quarter State reports. They are currently working on getting out the 2nd quarter calendar for ILC classes, which will be available in January and February of 2021. Their Assistive Technology (AT) program is still doing good. They are collecting donations of power chairs and other such equipment. If

anyone has these items to donate, please call their AT department at 661-325-1063 to schedule a time for pickup. Clients are being seen by appointment only.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal

Right before elections, the Senate released the FY 2021 funding bills to jumpstart negotiations with the House. In the funding bills released by the Senate, there is no change to Older Americans Act funding.

State

Kern more than likely moving back into the purple tier, which is more restrictive than our current tier red.

At the last meeting, Commissioner Lemucchi asked a question regarding realignment of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) under County umbrella. This was a recommendation made by California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) that is under consideration within the Master Plan for Aging. For many AAAs, particularly those that are not part of the county, this has been a difficult and challenging process. The recommendation from CWDA is that AAAs and its responsibilities be put under each County's social services (i.e. Welfare Dept.). It's unclear what the Master Plan will issue as far as formal recommendation, but this topic has been discussed by both CWDA, California State Association for Counties (CSAC), and California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A).

County

The Library project, "Feed the Read," is continuing and getting positive comments from those participating. Thanks given to Michele Gomez and her team for their part in this program. Currently we have 20 participants in this pilot program. Next year, we will be looking at expanding the program to other cities.

Fall Prevention project is active and looking for referrals of individuals either 60 + or have a disability, and make under \$39,150. We've contracted with Around the Clock (ATC) to do free in home assessments of the individuals referred. These referrals could result in ATC purchasing durable medical equipment (i.e. bed rails, shower chairs, walkers) to making minor home repairs in the home in an effort to prevent the individual from falling. At this time, funding is for the Bakersfield area only, but if funding permits, we will branch out to other areas.

Cal City and their wonderful volunteers will be receiving shelf stable meals from AASD November 17, 2020 to distribute to Cal City Seniors before Thanksgiving.

ADAKC has reopened their facility with all necessary precautions.

There are still no senior centers open for congregate meals. We have not received any guidelines from the State about reopening them.

Medicare Open enrollment is still going on and will go through December 7, 2020.

A \$25 gift card will be given to those who get a COVID test at a Federal test site. This is to help raise the metrics to get businesses opened back up. There are only 12,000 gift cards so first come, first serve. These gift cards are paid for through the County's Cares Act funding.

Senior nutrition received a \$5,000 grant for Meals on Wheels from UPS. Lito thanked the Commission on Aging and Michele Timmerman for their help in getting this grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Commissioner L. Oswald reported the committee is working on the Standing Orders and will request to place this matter on the Executive Committee agenda to discuss this further.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported they are working to push legislature for the Master Plan on Aging. She has scheduled appointments with 4 Assemblymembers in Kern and Fresno Counties, and will next make appointments to speak with Senators. Rally Days will be planned for 2021 on a virtual setting. Chair Prado thanked Commissioner Lemucchi for continuing to share CSL and COVID-19 information with the Commission on Aging.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, R. Maier

Commissioner Maier reported Commissioner Aaron Flucker was reappointed by District 5. His new term will expire August 18 2022. There are no new or expired appointments. Commissioner Norma Jackson's term will expire February 1, 2021. Laura Juarez will work with appointing entity for reappointment. There are two vacancies, 1 for CSL Senior Assemblymember, which will not be filled at this time, District 1, replacing Jon Johnston, and Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County, replacing Sonia Lopez. No new applications received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, S. Lynch

No report.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee met on November 4, 2020 and discussed the agenda for today's meeting. Also discussed sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors thanking them for the task force consultant they set up to help control the spread of COVID in Senior Nursing Facilities (SNF).

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

Commissioner Snyder reported the next IHSS Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported she has received a lot of support from the SNF task force assembled by the Board of Supervisors. They have given a lot of great oversight in helping to control/stabilize COVID within the Long Term Care facilities. They are currently testing one time each week, but now that we're going back to the purple tier, they'll be required to test twice each week. They have nine new Ombudsmen in training. Public Health released a new regulation that all nursing homes must have a full time Infection Control Specialist. Facility staff ensured that residents were not only informed, but also assisted them with the forms for completing their absentee voting ballot. She indicated many residents voted.

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

The committee met on October 20th and November 3rd to discuss updating the Systems of Systems brochures that will be included in the Christmas for Seniors bags. Lupe Garcia and her team copied and folded the brochures. We are working on laminating another 500 brochures that will go out to Meals on Wheels clients. Commissioner Synder is looking into getting 500 more vials of life.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; N. Jackson

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Cen

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette continues to send out cards for birthdays, illness, or condolences.

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

No report.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado

Chair Prado reported the committee will meet December 9, 2020.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; R. Maier

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

COA Holiday Luncheon – This year's Commission on Aging Holiday Luncheon has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Aging and Adult Services Closed – The office will be closed for Winter Recess December 24, 2020 through January 1st for County holidays and Winter Recess. The nutrition program will operate through Winter Recess days of December 28, 29, and 30th.

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, January 6, 2021 (Dark in December) 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, January 25, 2021 (Due to holiday 1/18/21) (Dark in December) 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 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary