



Lito Morillo – Director
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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2020 - 1:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Kaye Davis. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL: (*Chairman, **Vice-Chair, ***Secretary [non-voting])

Present:

Harvey Clowers	Fourth District Consumer
*Kaye Davis	At-Large Care Provider
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
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QUORUM

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was present.

POSTING OF THE BROWN ACT

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

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Guests:

Charles Brown, Investigator, Kern County District Attorney's Office

New Members:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** – The minutes were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)**
M/S/A/O - Clowers/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – Tabled to January 2021 meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

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.

The State is looking at the realignment of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) under the 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.

The Digital Divide project has 25+ individuals being served on a one to one basis. 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.

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.

Michele Gomez reported the following:

Social Service Workers in IHSS are doing their part to help prevent the spread of COVID and are now handling assessments by phone or video conference. They can do some home visits with precautions. They are at about 91% rate of getting all recipients and providers switched over to electronic timesheets. Paper timesheets will be discontinued in 2021. There are approximately 1,500 clients and recipients who are still using paper timesheets. New care providers are being automatically enrolled in electronic timesheets.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – A new ethics training has been scheduled for 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 21, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj