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

MINUTES

**Thursday, May 20, 2021 - 1:30 P.M.
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 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:

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

Excused Absences:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
Harvey Clowers	Fourth District Consumer

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
Michele Timmerman, Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

New Members:

DeAnna Lewis – appointed by the Board of Supervisors as an At-Large Consumer. Her term expires June 30, 2023

Guests:

Maria Felix, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Mary DeGeare, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Veronica Alvarez, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2021** – The minutes were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)**
M/S/A/O - Snyder/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Meeting in Person** – Evelyn Lopez asked if the committee will meet in person soon. Lito Morillo shared that it is an option for the committee if they choose to do so. We can also hold a hybrid meeting where those who wish to attend in person can, and those who want to attend virtually can still do so.
- **Appointment Report** – Nickole Renee Mensch was reappointed and her new term will expire June 30, 2023. There was one new appointment, DeAnna Lewis. Her term expires June 30, 2023. Appointments soon to expire on June 30, 2021 are Gail Lancaster, Robin Freeman, Evelyn Lopez, and Judy Snyder. Michele Timmerman sent letters for reappointment. There were no resignations. There are two vacancies, Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5. We did not receive any new applications.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

State News

The May Revision proposes:

- Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will receive \$2 million annually in 2021-22 and 2022-23. This funding will allow for three positions at California Department on Aging (CDA) to develop, implement, and lead

HICAP modernization efforts and local assistance funding to allow local HICAPs to hire one full-time Volunteer Coordinator.

- Medi-Cal Coverage to Undocumented Older Adults. This will expand Medi-Cal, including In-Home Supportive Services, to undocumented adults aged 60 and older effective no sooner than May 1, 2022.
- Older Adult Recovery and Resiliency (CDA) - The May Revision proposes a one-time General Fund investment of \$106 million, available over three years, to strengthen older adults' recovery and resiliency from the severe isolation and health impacts from staying at home for over a year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This investment will facilitate older adults' reengagement with in-person community activities and services, through the network of aging and disability services provided locally by Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The investments include \$2.1 million one-time for the Behavioral Health Warmline; \$17 million one-time for Digital Connections; \$1 million one-time for Elder and Disability Abuse Prevention; \$20 million one-time for Legal Services; \$17 million one-time for Employment Opportunities; \$2.8 million one-time for Family Caregiving for services provided by unpaid family caregivers of older adults and grandparents, or other older relatives, with primary caregiving responsibilities for a child; and \$6 million one-time for State and Local Leadership and Oversight.
- CalFresh Expansion Older Adult Outreach—The May Revision includes \$2 million ongoing for the Department of Aging to continue CalFresh Expansion outreach efforts to older adults.
- Office of Long-Term Care Patient Representative—An April 1 proposal included \$4 million Public Health Licensing & Certification funding ongoing for the Department of Aging to provide public patient representatives to nursing facility residents who lack capacity to make their own health care decisions and who do not have a family member or friend who can act as a patient representative.
- Alzheimer's funding of \$12.5 million General Fund one-time to address Alzheimer's in California. These investments include \$5 million for public awareness, \$2.5 million for standards of care, and \$5 million for geriatric workforce development.
- Fall Prevention/Home Modification - \$5 million General Fund re-appropriation from FY 2019-20 until 06/30/2022. The Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program was established in 2019-20 with a one-time \$5 million. Also as part of May revise there is an additional \$10 million one-time for Fall Prevention and Home Modification
- Home Safe - the May Revision includes \$100 million General Fund in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 for the Home Safe program for access to health, safety, and

housing supports for individuals involved in or at risk of involvement in Adult Protective Services. Kern currently receives \$56,666 a year in funding for this project. It is also supposed to decrease the required match for counties from 50% county to 25%.

- Housing and Disability Advocacy Program—The May Revision includes \$175 million General fund annually through 2023-24 to assist disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

- IHSS State and County Sharing Ratio will remain 65% state and 35% county. This was previously going to be flip-flopped where the county would pay the larger share for any local negotiated wage. The state cap remains at \$1.10.
- Long Term Care Career Pathways—The May Revision includes \$200 million one-time General Fund to incentivize, support, and fund career pathways for IHSS providers, allowing these workers to build on their experience to obtain a higher-level job in the home care and/or health care industry.
- IHSS 7 Percent Suspension—The May Revision proposes to eliminate the IHSS 7 percent reduction in service hours.
- Permanent In-Home Support Services Back-Up Provider System - The May Revision includes \$11.1 million General Fund onetime in 2021-22 to support a permanent back-up provider system for severely impaired In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) recipients to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to emergencies.
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) “No Wrong Door” (CDA) (Local Assistance: \$7.5 million General Fund in 2021-22 and \$10 million General Fund ongoing); The May Revision builds on the Governor’s Budget and proposes to remove the ADRC program suspensions to provide local assistance funding of \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and \$10 million ongoing for the ADRC Infrastructure Grants program. Additionally, an April 1st Budget Change Proposal includes \$2 million ongoing to support 13.0 permanent positions for CDA to support the ADRC program. There are currently six designated and 11 emerging ADRC programs in the state and this funding will enable the establishment of ADRC programs throughout the state. CDA will also work to establish the administrative capacity for the ADRC program to draw down federal funding through Medicaid Administrative Claiming. In addition, the Older Adult Recovery and Resiliency proposal (see above) includes \$9.4 million General Fund one-time for ADRC.
- As proposed in the January Governor’s Budget, the Governor aims to appoint a Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer’s to advance cross-Cabinet initiatives and partnerships between government, the private sector, and philanthropy, such as closing the digital divide, transportation options beyond driving, and caregiving workforce solutions, for Californians of all ages.

- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for State Supplemental Payment (SSP) will bring payments to \$990 from \$955, and for couples \$1,636 (previously \$1,598) in 2022.

- Senior Nutrition: Home Delivered Meals and Community Center Meals (CDA) (\$17.5 million General Fund ongoing) - The May Revision builds on the Governor's Budget and proposes to remove the Senior Nutrition program suspensions to provide local assistance funding of \$17.5 million ongoing. The Senior Nutrition Program provides both home-delivered and congregate meals at community and senior centers, as well as nutrition education and nutrition-risk screening to individuals aged 60 or older. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a record number of meals have been delivered to older adults at home, due to increased federal, state, and local funds. In addition, the Older Adult Recovery and Resiliency proposal (see above) includes \$20.7 million General Fund one-time for the Senior Nutrition Program.

California will phase out and ban oil fracking by January 2024. This will definitely impact Kern County revenue in the coming years if oil extraction is phased out and ultimately completely prohibited by 2045 as Governor Newsome is proposing.

County News

Effective May 3, 2021, Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department (AASD) went back to an 8am-5pm office hours schedule. Previously it was 8am-4pm. We will still be closed from 12 noon to 1pm, and will still have by appointment only scheduling.

AASD is looking at reopening senior centers on June 16, 2021. We will ease into the opening using all safety protocols similar to restaurants. With the exception of California City, we will initially open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until possibly July 2021. This is primarily due to staffing and being able to administer all the safety protocols. California City stated they could manage opening Monday-Friday for an hour each day for dine in. There will be no activities initially during the senior nutrition program operation.

Additional shelf stable meals were provided to California City on May 7th, which will be distributed to their seniors on Meals on Wheels.

On April 27, 2021, a pipe burst in the kitchen ceiling and flooded the Richard Prado Senior Center. Meals are currently being prepared out of the Ben Austin Senior Center for the time being. Damages are around in upwards of \$150,000, and renovation is estimated to be 2-3 months.

Luanne Jones was rehired as a retiree. She is filling in for Kristian Besnard who will be off on a leave.

Laura Juarez will be returning to AASD on May 24, 2021. Lito thanked Michele Timmerman for her help on the IHSS Advisory Committee.

Judy Snyder thanked Lito for all of his work and remarkable leadership he has demonstrated throughout this pandemic and with the Master Plan on Aging.

IHSS REPORT – Michele Gomez

We will resume in person orientation for providers in Bakersfield on June 16, 2021. Additional locations will be open as the other places we usually go to reopens. The IHSS orientation presentation is also available online through REVA. Classes will be open to about 20 participants to allow for social distancing.

We continue to enroll recipients and providers in the Electronic Time Sheet (ETS) so they can utilize the portal for self-service needs. Kern's adoption rate is about 93%. We are signing up providers for ETS when they come in for orientation. Social Workers sign up recipients at the initial intake.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – The next Ethics training is scheduled for June 4, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. County Counsel is hoping to have an in person training in the near future. You can also take the training online anytime at www.cq-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 July 15, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Michele Timmerman at 661-868-1054 for the link to join the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj