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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 16, 2021 - 1:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 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
DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
***Lito Morillo	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

QUORUM

Secretary Morillo confirmed a quorum was present.

POSTING OF THE BROWN ACT

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

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

New Members:

None.

Guests:

Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

Mario Parada, United Domestic Workers Union

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 15, 2021** – The minutes were approved as prepared. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)**
M/S/A/O – Lopez/Freeman/Snyder/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE** – The 2022 meeting schedule was approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **AB 361** – In March 2021, Governor Newsome implemented several exemptions to the Brown Act's teleconferencing rules during the stay-at-home order until September 30, 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsome signed AB 361 into law, which amends the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow for teleconferencing meetings during a state of emergency, including public remote comment, for all local agencies until January 1, 2024.
- **Appointment Report** – on July 20, 2021, the Board of Supervisors, reappointed Judy Snyder to represent the Commission on Aging on the IHSS Advisory Committee. Her new term will expire June 30, 2023. There were no new appointments, no appointments soon to expire, and no resignations. There is one vacancy in District 1, one in District 4, and one in District 5. One new application was received.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Federal News

The week of 9/13, the House Education and Labor Committee introduced its portion of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package.

The package would provide an additional investment of \$1.2 billion in critically needed Older Americans Act (OAA) funding, with a particular focus on workforce and other aging infrastructure issues that support existing programs and services. This bill, should it be enacted into law in its current form, which remains uncertain, would provide the type of direct appropriations that Congress provided in the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)—in other words, it is in addition to regular, annual appropriations, may be spent over several years and does not replace the forthcoming FY 2022 appropriations bill.

- \$655 million for OAA Title III B Home & Community-Based Supportive Services. Title III B funding has been used to fund our Information and Referral as well as HICAP services. We've also used IIIB funding towards nutrition.
- \$140 million for OAA Title III C Nutrition Services to support the modernization of infrastructure and technology, including kitchen equipment and delivery vehicles.
- \$150 million for the OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- \$50 million for OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services to support the modernization of infrastructure and technology including kitchen equipment and delivery vehicles investment for sustainability of food distribution in congregate and home-delivered programs.
- \$50 million for OAA Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP). This is a 48 percent increase to the current level of spending for the LTCOP in this reconciliation bill, clearly a pandemic-influenced decision to improve our nation's protection of nursing home residents.
- \$75 million for the Research, Demonstration and Evaluation Center at the Administration on Aging, established during the 2020 reauthorization of the OAA to improve assessment and promote advancement of the relationship between OAA programs and services and health outcomes.
- \$1 million towards national training and technical assistance centers supported under the OAA—specifically to address social isolation, provide additional support in technical assistance and training, and continue to support a repository for innovations in Aging Network services in the field.

- \$59 million for technical assistance or national resource centers under **OAA Title IV** to support technical assistance and resource development for older individuals who have the greatest social need, including racial and ethnic minority individuals. The package includes an additional \$15 million for technical assistance centers or national resource centers focused on providing services for populations underserved in communities due to sexual orientation or gender identity.
- \$5 million to support multi-generational program and demonstration projects within section 417 of OAA.

State News

Through the state budget process, AASD will receive an additional \$772,400 for senior nutrition services. This will be separate from the additional funding coming as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act.

AASD is receiving \$81,661 from California Department on Aging (CDA) to be used for vaccine outreach or any activity to promote vaccinations.

AASD will receive a \$100,000 increase in its based funding for CDA programs, and the new total base funding for Kern as the AAA will now be \$252,970.

The Fall Prevention program has been extended to March 2022. Zach from Around the Clock states he has been servicing clients from Bakersfield, Delano, Taft, Arvin, Wasco, Lamont, Lake Isabella, Ridgecrest, Frazier Park, and Tehachapi

CDA is doing town halls to promote their hubs and spoke proposal related to organizing AAAs throughout the State and possibly under the jurisdiction of the social services departments. CDA's hubs and spoke proposal looks at reorganizing to either 58 Area Agency on Aging (AAAs) or 40 AAAs. Currently there are 33 AAAs in the state.

County News

Because of the increase number of COVID exposures and employee testing positive for COVID, we reverted to a telework hybrid schedule where staff are in the office every other day.

Rasmussen Senior Center had to temporarily close its congregate dining operation on 9/10/21 because of lack of staffing due to COVID exposures and LOAs. They have been offering pickup of meals and continuing to do Meals on Wheels service. They are expected to be back open today 9/27.

AASD is looking at partnering with GA Foods to provide frozen meals for congregate and our Meals on Wheels clients. Our nutrition program has seen a huge increase in meals served since COVID. This coupled with the cost of cars, food, gas, and staff (or lack thereof) has made running the program very costly. If you factor in COVID exposures and impacts to meals being prepared and delivered, going with GA Foods frozen meals including their delivery service will allow us to sustain services at a more cost effective way based on our funding.

Senior Day at the Fair is Friday, September 24, 2021. Admission and parking is free for seniors 62+ up until 4 p.m. that day.

Booster shots will be available from the County of Kern in the coming month free of charge to anyone eligible.

IHSS REPORT

Michele Gomez reported the IHSS team serves almost 10,000 individuals. Their compliance rate to process applications is 93%. The State mandates them to have a processing rate of 80%. She also shared information about the Electronic Visit Verification. They are currently at a 96-97% conversion rate with Electronic Time Sheets. Approximately 500 people are still using paper timesheets. In July 2022, all wages will be paid via direct deposit. We are hoping to be closer to 100% conversion by next month.

Lito Morillo thanked Michele Gomez for her leadership. She and her team did a great job pulling together to get the percentages up. Being in the 90% percentile is great, and means less time clients need to wait to start receiving services, especially during teleworking.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – The next Ethics training is scheduled for November 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.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 November 18, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj