



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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 18, 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:**

|                     |                                             |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Alex Alva           | County Administration Office Representative |
| *Kaye Davis         | At-Large Care Provider                      |
| Robin Freeman       | Private Industry Representative             |
| **Evelyn Lopez      | Individual Provider Representative          |
| NickoleRenee Mensch | Second District Consumer Representative     |
| ***Lito Morillo     | Aging and Adult Services                    |
| Judy Snyder         | Commission on Aging                         |

**Excused Absences:**

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Gail Lancaster | Third District Consumer Representative |
| DeAnna Lewis   | At-Large Consumer                      |

**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:

None.

## ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021** – The minutes were approved as prepared. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) M/S/A/O – Snyder/Freeman/None/None – Motion carried.**

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

## COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – Supervisorial District 3 reappointed Gail Lancaster. Her new term expires June 30, 2023. The Board of Supervisors reappointed Evelyn Lopez and Robin Freeman. Their new terms 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. We received one new application.

## STAFF REPORTS:

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo**

#### **Federal**

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9 percent in 2022. It's estimated to increase Social Security Beneficiaries check by an average of \$92 each.

The Build Back Better spending package of \$1.75 trillion is up for a vote in the House and if approved, it will go to President Biden for final approval. Under this bill, funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) is expected to be \$1.2 billion and will be in addition to the regular annual appropriations.

- The Senate proposed \$500 million for OAA Title III B Home & Community-Based Supportive Services, which is \$50 million short of the House bill but represents an increase of \$107 million above the FY 2021 level

- \$1.045 billion for OAA Title III C Nutrition Services with \$468.9 million in congregate meals.
- \$230 million for OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- \$80.8 million for OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services
- \$26.3 million for OAA Title III D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.
- \$34.9 million for OAA Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Other Programs
- Expand Medicare to cover hearing benefits. Only 30% of seniors over the age of 70 who could benefit from hearing aids have ever used them. The Build Back Better framework will expand Medicare to cover hearing services, so that older Americans can access the affordable care they need.

### **State**

Beginning May 1, 2022, Medi-Cal full scope benefits will be provided to all individuals **50 or older** regardless of immigration status who meet Medi-Cal financial eligibility requirements.

CDA has informed Kern that we will be receiving \$2,541,453 for CA Department of Aging related programs here is the breakdown:

- Title IIIB Supportive Services- \$830,580
- Title IIIC 1 Congregate - \$541,683
- Title IIIC 2 Home Delivered - \$812,524
- Title IIID Preventive Services/Health Promotions- \$79,447
- Title IIIE Family Caregiver - \$259,149
- Title VII Ombudsman - \$18,070

This is in addition to the previous Consolidated Appropriations Act, where Kern received \$314,950 for nutrition home delivered meals and \$9,116 for the Ombudsman program.

### **County**

North of the River (NOR) will no longer operate Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) as of June 30, 2022. Golden Empire Transit (GET) will take it over by July 1, 2022. This is good news for the thousands of users and

riders of this vital transportation service of our seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Using American Rescue Plan Act funds, the County passed an \$8.3 million dollar homeless package designed to have more law enforcement and mental health staff deal with the homeless population in Kern, in particularly Bakersfield initially and eventually all of Kern. For AASD, we will be adding 1 Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) conservator to join the Regional Outreach and Engagement Model (ROEM) teams of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) to help deal with the homeless population who are appropriate for conservatorship. As part of this agenda item that was approved, they are set to pass an ordinance that will allow prohibit encampments, sleeping on sidewalks, in front of businesses, etc. A hearing to pass the ordinance is set for November 9, 2021.

Medicare Open Enrollment is now open through December 7, 2021 and AASD's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is here to help with Medicare questions you may have.

AASD has acquired another suite located at 5251 Office Park Drive Suite 130. We have moved our SNAP-Ed team, which is led by Martin Reynoso to the new suite, which is a little over 900 square feet. This will free up needed space in our main building as we continue to outgrow our current space.

We are in the process of testing frozen meals for the Richard Prado and Ben Austin Senior Centers. Results have been positive for the most part. Frozen meals are an alternative to our current model where we prepare meals at designated senior centers for distribution throughout Kern County, as a way to cut costs and continue to add seniors to the program. We will be addressing box weight, cooking temperatures, and microwave issues in the coming months as we transition from hot to frozen meals.

Public Health is offering COVID vaccinations/boosters, and flu vaccine shots Tuesday – Friday from 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the Kern County Fairgrounds. The entrance to the clinic is Gate 40 via Ming Ave.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**OPERATIONAL ISSUES:**

Ethics Training – If you missed the November 4, 2021 Ethics training via Microsoft Teams by County Counsel, you can take the training online anytime at [www.cq-ilg.org/abc123compliance](http://www.cq-ilg.org/abc123compliance). Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022, 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 2:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj