

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1054; (661) 868-1001 FAX



**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

February 28, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Video Meeting via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:09 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:

Susan Bodnar, Gloria Brown, Doris Duquette, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, **Stephanie Lynch, Roland Maier, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald *Yolanda Prado, and ***Judy Snyder

Excused Absences: Aaron Flucker, Devora Gonzalez, Sandy Morris, Tawny Rocha, and Bill Wright

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura M. Juarez – Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Jens Blum, Lourdes Garcia, Peggy Langels, Chelsea Palmer, Brooke Whitehead-Tolles, Joseph Anderson, Gayla Hughes,

AGENDA POSTING:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

1. Joseph Anderson, of Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP), shared that their organization is offering free home COVID tests kits. The tests will go out to a lab and have about a 48-hours turnaround time for results. He also shared information about a new project, BINGOcize, which is a 10-week course, offered Tuesdays and Thursdays where they play BINGO and incorporate physical activity. They tailored their 10-week program around preventing falls. Though this project is currently offered only to the 55 and older Native population, if anyone is interested in seeing how the program works, they can contact him at 661-327-4030 to schedule a time when they can come out. They now have a Nurse Practitioner and masseuse onsite to provide services to their native clients. They also have started a community gardening project at their new building, located at 501 40th Street, Bakersfield, CA. They are in the renovation process and are expected to move in within the next couple of months. Joseph will notify the Commission when they have a date scheduled for their open house/tour.
2. Laura Juarez shared that the Elections Department is looking to add members to its Kern County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee meetings quarterly and consists of both, Elections staff, and representatives from within the community. If you are interested in participating or for more information, please email KCVAAC@kerncounty.com or call 661-868-3590.

Commissioner Comments:

1. Commissioner Hodge reported he was at the County building today and learned that facemasks are no longer being required.
2. Vice-Chair Lynch shared that her distribution list of the DEAR Newsletter has grown. People are excited about receiving the newsletter. Leslie DeVitt said she could add individuals to her main email distribution list for the DEAR Newsletter.
3. Chair Prado asked if anyone is attending Linda Fuller's Celebration of Life, please let her know, as she would like to rideshare.
4. Chair Prado shared that applications for the California Senior Legislature Senior Senator and Senior Assemblymember are due to Laura Juarez by March 31, 2022.
5. Chair Prado shared that County Counsel has provided the attached memo containing information on their next Ethics Training scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. This will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. If you are due to take Ethics training this year, you might want to take advantage of this training. Otherwise, you can take the training online @ <http://www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance>. Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

6. Chair Prado reported there was a nice ad in the newspaper on February 20, 2022 about Valley Caregiver Resource Center (VCRC). The ad included that Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department provides the funding for VCRC.
7. Chair Prado reminded Commissioners to please let Laura know whether or not you will be attending meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for January 24, 2022 Regular Commission on Aging meeting were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed(M/S/A/O)**
Grasty/Brown/None/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported Veterans Services is expanding their staffing and will be able to go out into the community, including veteran's homes, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities, to help the elderly veterans or their surviving spouses. If you know of anyone needing these services, they can call their office at 661-868-7300. There was a news article about the Veterans Association (VA) outpatient clinic scheduled to be built within the next few years, and how it will be lacking a pharmacy. The VA is making a concerted effort to make the best use of the space of this new clinic and are trying to address the concerns of not having a pharmacy in the clinic.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Wendy Jewett

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported they are slowly getting back into the routine of sending out and collecting Medi-Cal renewals packets. No adverse action will be taken at this time if they are not turned in on time and their Medi-Cal will still continue. Lito Morillo thanked Gayla and her team for their help with a constituent.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langels reported ETR is back in the office full time and fully staffed at the America's Job Center of California (AJCC). They are still open by appointment only. They have been working with the County on the small-business micro-grant program, which is a COVID-19 relief grant loan for \$2,500 for eligible Kern County micro-businesses. To qualify for this grant, they must have zero to four full-time employees, be operational prior to December 2019, must have a physical presence in Kern County, and currently active in operating with a clear plan, and have less than 50,000 in revenue in the 2019 taxable year. There's a one-page

application they must complete and can apply at Community Action Partnership of Kern, Cal State Bakersfield's Small Business Development Center, Kern Economic Development Foundation, or the Women's Business Center in Bakersfield. Their virtual workshops, put on by EDD, are available online on their website: <https://www.americasjobcenterofkern.com/>. Their Expungement Workshop is held on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in learning how to clear their record, they can call 661-336-6912 to register on CalJobs. Job Squad is done virtually on Facebook Live every Thursday at 9 a.m. Jobs will be posted on their Facebook page when the live is over. They also have a virtual veteran's workshop on Tuesdays from 1400-1500 hours (2:00 -3:00 p.m.). General Education (GED) testing is still going on at the Beale Library. There are many jobs out there if anyone is looking for work. The High School District is working on remodeling the cafeteria downstairs and hoping to have the restaurant open again in the spring. Hall Ambulance is starting their paid-training academy. The deadline to apply is March 18, 2022. Training will start in May 2022. Applicants must be at least 20 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, be able to lift 75 pounds, and must have a valid class C driver's license. Applications are online at: <https://www.hallambcareers.com/emtacademy/>.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine Vasquez shared information about the Home Access Grant program, which is for accessibility improvements to residences for homeowners or tenants, with homeowner's permission, to make modifications to the residence for ramps, grab bars, handrails, and widening doorways. The applicant has to be permanently disabled and low-income. The Home Improvement Loan program is for homeowners to apply to repair or replace existing plumbing, electrical, roof, and painting. It is a mortgage secured as a lien on the home. There is no interest or monthly payments. The loan is paid when the property is sold. Interested persons can call their office at 661-862-5024 to apply.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Brooke Whitehead-Tolles

Not in attendance.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Department News:

There have been many staffing changes within the Department. Administrative Services Officer, Fidel Campos, left the Department to go work at Behavioral Health. He was replaced with Staci Ciscneros, who is familiar with the County and submitting claims from the California Department of Social Services. She came on board at the end of January 2022. Senior Nutrition Coordinator, Kristian Besnard, promoted to Behavioral Health in early February. She was replaced with Angela Domingos, who was promoted within the Department and is already familiar with the senior nutrition program. Fiscal Support Supervisor, Leslee Joseph, will be retiring at the end of March 2022 after 31 years working in the County. Roseann Jones was hired as her replacement and is on staff now training with Leslee.

The Richard Prado Senior Center has gone through some renovations in the dining hall and kitchen. They repainted and installed stainless steel cabinets. They're looking at putting in new flooring outside of the dining hall, as well as in the staff offices. There has to be an asbestos abatement testing process concluded before they can actual replace the flooring. The staff offices will also receive new furniture.

We are going through Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for our frozen meals programs to gage general interest from various vendors to see who would want to participate to be a vendor for our frozen meals project. We are going to launch the program this year and will pilot it with our new Meals on Wheels clients, then will phase it out to existing clients.

State News:

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) annual conference had been suspended for a couple of years due to COVID, but will be resuming May 11-13, 2022, and will likely be held in Glendale, CA, which is where they held the last conference. We would like to send two Commissioners to this conference. Registration and lodging will be covered by AASD. During the conference, there will be a lot of talk about homelessness, senior nutrition, HICAP, and other programs that impact seniors in general.

"Hubs and Spokes" is a model used by the California Department on Aging (CDA), centered around how Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) organizations, like AASD, are structured, whether or not they are under the County umbrella, or whether or not they're structured under the DHS umbrella. CDA contracted out with Sacramento State as a consultation firm to develop a plan /to make recommendations. They anticipate releasing their report in April 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – L. Oswald, K. Grasty, B. Goodlow

Commissioner L. Oswald shared that having the Bylaws available online has been convenient and makes it easier for searching purposes. The Standing Rules will also be added to the COA website with their own link once they are complete and approved by the Commissioners. Chair Prado asked Commissioners to continue reviewing the Bylaws and submit any suggested changes to the Bylaws Committee.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported CSL Elections are coming up in May 2022. Eight of the ten State proposals they submitted during their annual session this last fall were sponsored and authored by State Legislatures (Assembly and Senate).

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, R. Maier

Commissioner Maier reported District 2 reappointed Doris Duquette. Her new term expires 09/29/2023. Devora Gonzalez was reappointed by GBLA. Her new term expires 11/08/2023. Barbara Goodlow was reappointed by Bakersfield Senior Center. Her new term expires 12/08/2023. North of the River reappointed Judy Snyder and her new term expires 01/10/2024. There were no new appointments, expired terms, and none soon to expire, no new applications. We have two vacancies: CSL Senior Assemblymember, and District 1.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker, S. Lynch; K. Grasty

No report.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee met February 9, 2022. They discussed adding language to the COA Bylaws to address Commissioner absences in more detail. They also discussed new Commissioner orientation.

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

Parliamentarian Snyder reported the committee meets bi-monthly and will be meeting next on March 17, 2022.

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

No report.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee last met February 27, 2022. She and Parliamentarian Snyder facilitated the new Commissioner orientation on February 23, 2022 with Commissioner Rocha. The next orientation will be with Commissioner Wright, who was ill and not able to attend the previous orientation. Parliamentarian Snyder added that the orientation went well and we do have a very good process in place and will be polished with every opportunity.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; N. Jackson; B. Goodlow

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center has been having a lot of issues with water. A pipe burst and the nurse's station and janitor's room was flooded. Activities have been very limited. They continue to serve drive-thru meals, but not in the cafeteria. They had a Valentine's activity outside. The Black History celebration was canceled. They are looking at finding another building.

Commissioner Hodge reported he had not been able to visit any senior centers due to centers being closed to congregate meals. Now that senior centers are open, he will be visiting his senior centers.

Parliamentarian Snyder shared that things are picking up at Rasmussen Senior Center. They are very busy. AARP is there providing free tax preparation and to answer questions. This service is also open to other seniors who need this help. They are looking into getting Tai Chi at the senior center and exploring getting a fall prevention demonstration/guidance from an expert. She and Desiree Ingalls discussed the possibility of playing BINGO during the senior celebration that is scheduled there October 19, 2022.

Chair Prado shared information about the Richard Prado Senior Center. There is an increase in seniors at the center on karaoke days. They had a Valentine's Day celebration and played games. They had at least 50 in attendance. Their Tai Chi instructor just returned and is there every Monday. A Zumba instructor will be out once/month. They are working on plans to keep seniors occupied when they are there at the center.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

Commissioner Duquette reported she mailed birthday cards, a bereavement card, and get-well card in February. She will be sending out the birthday cards for March, and will send out another get-well card to Commissioner Morris.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – B. Wright, Vacant (alternate)

Commissioner Wright volunteered to serve as the primary representative on the TACC committee.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; J. Lemucchi

Chair Prado reported she was not able to attend the meeting on February 9, 2022 due to COA Executive meeting that day, but she received notes from another member who attended. They discussed the Thomas Road Improvement Program (TRIP) pending projects. The Rosedale widening project between Calloway and Verdugo is still pending. The Centennial Corridor is expected to be completed in 2023. There are more projects in design. One project in design is the beautifying the Westside Parkway landscaping. Golden Empire Transit (GET) is schedule to take over North of the River (NOR) Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) services as of July 1, 2022. NOR will continue to operate CTSA through June 30, 2022. The door to door service currently being provided by CTSA will not be provided when GET takes over due to the high amount of injuries the drivers sustained pushing wheelchairs, etc., which translated to high level of worker's compensation cases. Riders who require assistance will be permitted to have a second rider that can provide the assistance free of charge. GET will adopt the same service area that NOR is currently covering but fares will not remain the same. They will look into discounts for frequent riders going to dialysis or chemo appointments. The next meeting is in April and will have GET share more information at that time.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; R. Maier

Commissioner Brown suggested recognizing the senior nutrition volunteers at senior centers with certificates of appreciation. Chair Prado asked that the committee meet and come up with a couple of ideas to share with the Commission and they can discuss it during the March COA Executive meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- CSL Elections – Applications for CSL Senator and Assemblymember will need to be submitted to Laura Juarez at AASD no later than 5 p.m. on March 31, 2022. Elections will take place during the May 16, 2022 COA Regular Meeting.

- 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
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, March 21, 2022 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 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary