

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**

May 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Video Meeting via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Prado called the meeting to order at 1:02 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, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Loron Hodge, Norma Jackson, Jan Lemucchi, **Stephanie Lynch, Roland Maier, Jeremy Oliver, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald
*Yolanda Prado, ***Judy Snyder, Yee Vue, and Bill Wright

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette, Devora Gonzalez, and Sandy Morris

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura M. Juarez – Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Skippy Sumner, Anna Mindess, Pat Thron, Joseph Anderson, April Uribe, Kaye Davis, Lourdes Garcia, Gayla Hughes, and Kandi Mosqueda

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

1. Skippy Sumner, Outreach Specialist for the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP), shared information (via ASL interpreters, Pat Thron and Anna Mindess) about their program. CTAP is a State-mandated regulated program mandated by the California Utilities Commission funded through a sur-charge on all telephone bills, cell phone and landlines. The goal of the CTAP program is to give special phone equipment to people who have difficulties hearing, seeing, speaking, remembering, or moving. You would receive either a free cell phone or landline with phone service. These devices make it easier to hear, dial, and call. There is no age or income limit. You can apply online on their website at www.CaliforniaPhones.org. Skippy Sumner can be reached via email at ssumner@ccaf.us. He can also give presentations to organizations. You can contact their Fresno office at (559) 478-2755, toll-free (800) 806-1191. They offer services in Spanish at (800) 949-5650, and other languages are available too. If you have difficulties using a phone, CTAP also offers Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) where you can bring your own device and they will offer Smartphone Training. For this training program, contact (866) 271-1540 or visit their website at smartphonetraining@ccaf.us
2. Joseph Anderson announced that the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP) is moving into their new building located at 501 40th Street, Bakersfield. BAIHP is starting a nutrition class and invites anyone interested in learning about nutrition to join them. They have collaborated with Aging and Adult Services SNAP-Ed program to come out at least once each month to provide nutrition education to elders. They are planning to add three classes each week to focus on diabetes education, and more.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Chair Prado welcomed our newest Commissioner, Yee Vue, appointed by Valley Caregiver Resource Center.
2. Commissioner Hodge announced that this is his last meeting attending as a Commissioner. His term will expire June 17, 2022 and he is not seeking reappointment. He expressed a few words of thanks to the Commission for their support for the last six years. Commissioners shared some words thanking Commissioner Hodge for all his dedicated work throughout his term as a Commissioner.
3. Commissioner Bodnar thanked Chair Prado and Jeremy Oliver for allowing her to attend the C4A Conference held May 11-13, 2022 in Glendale, CA. She had a good time, learned a lot, and she will apply what she learned to her job there in Ridgecrest. Chair Prado added that following the C4A meeting, there was a California Commission on Aging Hearing where their focus was on work force development. The Master Plan for Aging has 132 initiatives. They shared best practices going on throughout the state, new ways of using funding, how to make sure there's still caregivers, Alzheimer's matters, housing, and talk about implementing a new statewide I&R system. She also attended a meeting about Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and the "No Wrong Door" system.

4. Commissioner Grasty reported she is planning a lunch with Lito and Commissioners to thank Lito for his commitment to the seniors in Kern County. She also displayed the gift that will be presented to him during lunch.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for April 18, 2022 Regular Commission on Aging meeting were approved as prepared.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Brown/Grasty/None/None - Motion carried.
- **CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) ELECTIONS 2021-2024** – The two applicants ran unopposed for Senior Senator and Senior Assemblymember; therefore, a vote is not necessary, and per instructions from CSL, Chair Prado declared by acclamation that the following candidates were elected to the CSL:
 - **Senior Senator:** Jan Lemucchi
 - **Senior Assemblymember:** Judy Snyder

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Josh Dhanens reported there has been another delay on the new VA outpatient clinic that will hopefully get resolved quickly. In order to make the best use out of the space at the new clinic, they will not have a walk-up pharmacy in the clinic. Most veterans receive their medications through the VA via mail order and so they will continue to receive their medications in that manner. There will be a pharmacist on on-site to discuss drug interactions but there will not be a way to pick up medications at the VA clinic. They are trying to find ways for veterans who are homeless or transitioning. Josh thanked Commissioner Snyder for letting them know about phone issues/glitches they had and they were able to get that issue resolved. May 21st is Armed Forces Day. The Blue Stars Moms are planning a Home Town Heroes event here that day at 10:00 a.m. in Bakersfield at the Amtrak train station. The National Cemetery is holding their memorial event at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 28, 2022. There will be flags placed. On Memorial Day, May 30, local cemeteries will hold their memorial services at Union Cemetery at 9 a.m., Greenlawn Southwest at 10 a.m., and Hillcrest at 11 a.m. The California City American Legion is hosting their 1st annual Stand down on June 4, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. The Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council just started up their monthly collaborative meetings. Please contact Josh if you have any questions or comments.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Wendy Jewett

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported May is Mental Health month for their Department and they have many different events going on throughout the month, including Art in the Park, featuring local artists, a resource fair in Lamont hosted by Clinica Sierra Vista. Another event by NAMI on May 19th, a Gala on the 21st, and their Department Inspiration Awards Ceremony and donation giveaway at the end of the month. The Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) has been doing outreach and hoping to join the East Bakersfield Festival. They are trying to reach more seniors. Their team is going through some changes. Liliana Galvan will no longer be the supervisor over their program. Laura Juarez added that Behavioral Health also attended and presented during the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project's Indigenous Wellness Center Open House on May 6th. Information about VSOP and WISE was shared with the elders in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported about the new Medi-Cal asset limit increasing to \$140 thousand per individual in July 2022. It is currently \$2,500 per individual. The monthly income limit based on a single individual to qualify for Medi-Cal is \$1,564, or \$2,106 per couple. Medi-Cal renewal packets will be mailed in October and they will start processing their first Medi-Cal renewals in almost three years beginning in December 2022. They have to be notified by the State within 60 days if the dates will extend the Public Health Emergency out further. If they get a new update, she will share that information next month.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Not in attendance.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Kandi Mosqueda

Kandi Mosqueda shared information about their Home Access Grant program is for accessibility improvements, such as widen doorways, building ramps, installing grab rails, putting in higher toilets, remove a tub and replace it with a walk-in shower and anything to make the home more assessable to low-income, permanently disabled individuals who live within County jurisdiction. This free grant is available to homeowners and renters, with homeowner's consent. To apply, call Kandi at (661) 862-5024.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) –

Brooke is no longer with ILC. Laura will contact Jimmie Soto to request a replacement.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

FEDERAL

Biden Administration announced new initiatives to implement the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and bring free access to high-speed internet to more low-income households. The ACP, enacted as part of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, provides people with limited income up to a \$30 discount on their internet bill (\$75 for households on Tribal

lands) and up to \$100 off the purchase of a computer or tablet. The Administration has recently reached agreements with internet service providers serving more than 80% of the country to make high-speed plans available at no cost to people using their ACP benefit. Senate bill to increase asset limits for SSI from \$2,000/person to \$10,000/person and appears to have bipartisan support.

STATE

Governor Newsom unveiled his May Revise plan which will still require approval by June 15 deadline of state legislature, to meet July 1 budget, included in his proposed budget release:

January minimum wage increase to \$15.50/hour.

\$400 rebate per registered vehicle capped at 2 cars a person (max of \$800/person).

\$750 million to encourage public transit agencies to offer 3 months of free rides.

Seeks to lower Insulin costs for Californians through investment in manufacturing and low-cost biosimilar insulin.

Funds CARE Courts, which are an effort to engage persons with severe mental illness and homelessness. \$10 million General Fund ongoing to the Department of Aging for the CARE Court Supporter Program to help the participant understand, consider, and communicate decisions by providing the tools to make self-directed choices to the greatest extent possible.

Allocates Opioid settlement funds to address the ongoing Opioid Crisis.

\$36.3 million General Fund in 2022-23 and ongoing funding to continue the implementation of the Master Plan for Aging. The May Revision proposes investments in the following programs to further support home and community living:

- Community Living Fund—\$10 million one-time General Fund available for three years for the Community Living Fund, administered by the Department of Rehabilitation, which will assist non-Medi-Cal eligible older adults and persons with disabilities, including older adults, in transitioning from nursing homes to independent living.
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Infrastructure Planning and Development—\$4 million one-time General Fund to develop a statewide roadmap for the Department of Aging, in partnership with the Department of Health Care Services, and to support the development of home and community-based services for individuals regardless of income in underserved areas.
- Caregiver Resource Centers—The May Revision transfers \$14.9 million ongoing General Fund and oversight of California's Caregiver Resource Center program from the Department of Health Care Services to the Department of Aging and includes an additional \$545,000 ongoing General Fund for statewide training and technical assistance. California's 11 Caregiver Resource Centers provide critical services to family caregivers including counseling, training, care planning, and respite.

- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Outreach Campaign—\$3.5 million one-time General Fund to support a Long-Term Care Ombudsman outreach campaign to raise awareness of the resources available to residents and families in skilled nursing, assisted living, and other residential facilities.

- Aging and Disability Institute of Learning and Innovation—\$682,000 ongoing General Fund to establish the Aging and Disability Institute of Learning and Innovation (Institute), which will develop a comprehensive adult learning management system to support local network leaders, home and community care providers, volunteers, and the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The Institute will create a platform to develop content and improve training to further quality, efficiency, and access to services for older adults.

- Emergency Preparedness and Response—\$400,000 ongoing General Fund to develop strategies, tools, and resources to help older adults, individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, and local partners prepare for and respond to state emergencies and natural disasters.

\$19 billion (\$6.5 billion General Fund) for the IHSS program in 2022-23. Average monthly caseload in this program is estimated to be 601,000 recipients in 2022-23. IHSS Permanent Back-up Provider System—\$34.4 million (\$15.4 million General Fund) ongoing to establish a permanent back-up provider system for IHSS recipients to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to an immediate need or emergency. Implementation to occur in October.

Homeless funding continues and expands including 92.5 Million to Home Safe Program, which is administered by APS program to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Implements the SMARTER Plan in response to the ongoing COVID Pandemic, which includes testing, monitoring, vaccines, and medication.

Locally

Older Americans Month Proclamation issued by the Board of Supervisors for the month of May theme is "Age My Way". June is Elder Abuse Awareness month and the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled for June 15th in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Grasty reported the final revised Bylaws would be sent to all Commissioners to review prior to the July 18th COA meeting. Please provide any suggested revisions to her, Commissioner L. Oswald, or Laura Juarez.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported CSL training is coming up May 19th. Laura Juarez will send the CSL Elections results to CSL immediately following this meeting.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, R. Maier

Commissioner Maier reported there are no recent reappointments, there is one new appointment, Yee Vue, representing Valley Caregiver Resource Center. Terms soon to be expired are Roland Maier, Gloria Brown, and Linda Oswald. Laura will send reappointment letters as needed. We have three resignations, Aaron Flucker effective April 26, 2022, Tawny Rocha, effective April 30, 2022, and Loron Hodge, effective June 17, 2022. There are three vacancies: CSL Senior Assemblymember, District 1, and District 5. One new application received from Misty Newton.

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

No report.

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

Chair Prado reported the committee met May 4, 2022. They discussed today's agenda, and meeting with the Commissioner Appointees.

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

The next meeting is May 19, 2022. She will have more information to share during next month's meeting.

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

The committee will need to get orientation scheduled for Commissioner Vue.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – G. Brown; N. Jackson

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported she received all senior nutrition volunteer names and is just waiting for word on when to get them printed and distributed.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TACC) – Wright, Vacant (Alternate)

Commissioner Wright reported he has not received any information from TACC. Both, Commissioner L. Oswald, and Laura Juarez have sent emails to TACC informing them of Commissioner Wright's appointment.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, J. Lemucchi

No report.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; R. Maier

No report.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- Elder Abuse Prevention Virtual Conference – June 15, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Registration deadline is June 13, 2022.
- 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, June 1, 2022 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, June 20, 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 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary