

Kern County Commission On Aging

Yolanda Prado, Chairperson
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**REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES**

June 20, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Video Meeting via Zoom

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER:

For Chair Prado, Commissioner Grasty called the meeting to order at 1:06 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, Devora Gonzalez, Barbara Goodlow, Kris Grasty, Jan Lemucchi,
Stephanie Lynch, Roland Maier, Sandy Morris, Jeremy Oliver, *Judy Snyder, and Bill Wright

Excused Absences: Doris Duquette, Norma Jackson, Linda Oswald, Roger Oswald, *Yolanda Prado, and Yee Vue.

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Honorary Commission Members Present:

None.

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:

Laura M. Juarez – Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Laura Rodriguez, Lourdes Garcia, Gayla Hughes, Catherine Vasquez, Janelle Capra, and Peggy Langels

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was sent to Dan Pedersen on behalf of the Commission on Aging thanking him for donating the Dodger Tickets package for a fundraiser during the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference.

COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Public Comments:

1. Janelle Capra, of Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County (ADAKC) shared information about their upcoming "Caring for the Caregiver" event on Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at ADAKC, 4203 Buena Vista Road, Bakersfield. This is an open-house style free resource and educational event where they will share information about self-care, shared experiences, and will have music and art therapy.

Commissioner Comments :

1. Commissioner Brown expressed her disappointment that the County of Kern, Aging and Adult Services Department (AASD), and the Commission on Aging did not observe Juneteenth as a Federal Holiday. She was disappointed that the Commission scheduled a meeting on this day and that congregate meals were served. Commissioner Grasty shared that the COA Bylaws state they will hold meetings whenever AASD is open for business. That is something they can review or change in the Bylaws going forward. Jeremy Oliver shared that the observed County holidays are approved through a union negotiated contract with the County. He does not have any control over the scheduled holidays. This could be a topic discussed during their meeting with their appointing Supervisors. Laura Juarez shared that though the County did not receive this day off, Jeremy Oliver sent out an all email to all AASD staff on Friday, June 17, recognizing the importance of Juneteenth, marking June 19 the date some of the last enslaved people in the Confederacy became free. He also asked that staff be sure to take note and observe the Federal holiday.
2. Commissioner Lynch and Commissioner Grasty thanked Jeremy Oliver and his staff for the great job they did on the Elder Abuse Prevention Virtual Conference held June 15, 2022. Jeremy shared the credit with his staff for all of their help with preparing the conference. He also thanked the Commission on Aging Foundation for their donation of door prizes. Commissioner Grasty thanked Commissioner Snyder for all the footwork she did to purchase the gift cards at different local businesses.

ACTION ITEMS

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** for May 16, 2022 Regular Commission on Aging meeting were approved with one change to page 2.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
Lemucchi/Brown/Gonzalez/None - Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF HONORARY COMMISSIONER** – Commissioner Grasty motioned that Aaron Flucker be made an Honorary Commissioner. Mr. Flucker was an active Commissioner for 16 years, serving as the Commission Chair for four years, and having an active role in Senior Celebrations and coordinating the location for the Spring Alive Senior Resource Fair, as well as many other activities.
(M/S/A/O) Grasty/Lynch/None/None - Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS:

GENERAL SERVICES - PARKS AND RECREATION – Leslie Wallace

Not in attendance.

VETERANS SERVICE – Josh Dhanens

Not in attendance but Josh Dhanens excused his absence and informed the COA Secretary that there is nothing new to report at this time.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES – Wendy Jewett

Not in attendance.

KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – Lourdes Garcia

Lourdes Garcia reported they are continuing with their outreach efforts for their Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP), especially with the COVID cases rising again. They are doing health fairs, outreach events, and providing education to the community about mental health issues.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Gayla Hughes

Gayla Hughes reported until the public health emergency has been lifted, they are holding off on taking Medi-Cal action or completing renewals. Currently it is set to end in July 2022 but could be extended until October 2022. Beginning July 1, 2022, the new Medi-Cal asset limit for seniors is increasing to \$130 thousand per individual, \$195 thousand for two individuals, and \$260 thousand for three individuals in the household.

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE (ETR) – Peggy Langels

Peggy Langel reported their Resource Room is open to the public again to job search, take typing tests, and fill out applications. If anyone would like to see a counselor, they must make an appointment. They are holding in-person orientations on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as online. All Resource Rooms in the CalWorks outlying areas (Mojave, Taft, Shafter, and Lamont) are also open for job searching. Delano no longer has a Resource Room. Job Squad is held every Thursday at 9 a.m. on Facebook live on America's Job Center page. The announced jobs are posted on their Facebook page after the live for those who couldn't watch. The Youth Epic Center is having a conference at the Marriot downtown on June 29, 2022, followed by a job fair, for individuals 18-24 looking for work or interested in getting training. They do need to be enrolled to attend the conference. The GED lab is still open at the library. You can also go online at www.ged.com to get more information about the GED program. There is also a new program for web development through the BITWISE program downtown.

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES – Catherine Vasquez

Catherine reported they still have funds available for their Home Access Grant and Home Improvement Loan programs. The Home Access Grant program provides grants up to \$4,500 for low-income, disabled individuals. This grant is to make modifications to their residence to make it safe and easier to move in and around their home, such as door widening, handrails, grab bars, and walk-in showers. This program is available for homeowners and renters, with the homeowner's consent. The Home Improvement Loan program is a deferred payment,

no interest loan for homeowners to replace or repair existing items to their home, such as plumbing, electrical, roof, windows, energy efficient heating and cooling, etc. A lien is placed on the mortgage and the loan is repaid when the property is sold. Kandi Mosqueda is their new Housing Technician and will now be the primary contact for these programs so you can continue sending referrals to her. Kandi can be reached at (661) 862-5024. Going forward, Kandi will be the representative for their Department during COA meetings. Catherine will attend COA meetings in her absence.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC) – Laura Rodriguez

Laura Rodriguez reported ILC is hosting a conference celebrating 32 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Kern County 2022 ADA Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel. Registration cost is \$55/person but they do have vouchers available for people with disabilities who would like to attend. If you know of any person with disabilities who you think would benefit from this conference, please send them their way. The last day to register is July 22, 2022 via Eventbrite. If you register before July 22, you will also be entered in a drawing for a gift basket. They are still accepting sponsors; however, they do not have any room for more vendors. For any questions, please call ILC at (661) 325-1063, or send an email to info@ilcofkerncounty.org.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jeremy Oliver

Jeremy Oliver reported the following:

Federal

Efforts to curb inflation are underway with increases to interest rates. Impacts of rising costs in all areas are impacting all but we know this can be cause a stronger impact on those with fixed incomes such as many of seniors.

President Biden, Governor Newsom and our local Board of Supervisors all made Elder Abuse Awareness Proclamations this month.

State

Pending budget approval process to determine overall funding.

Local

County will receive additional funding through the Older Californians Nutrition Program and Intergenerational Activities. Funding will be targeted to developing partnerships and efforts, including the planning, development, and implementation of intergenerational activities that connect Older CA nutrition program participants with younger generations. Additional funding is being allocated to fall prevention programs and senior legal services.

Elder Abuse Conference was held with over 100 participants active via zoom learning about homeless services related to county efforts and Adult Protective Services Home Safe program. Thank you to the Commission for the donations that contributed to making the event a success.

APS program continues to see an increase in number of referrals but will also be adding additional positions to keep up with the demands.

IHSS program also is seeing an increase in total referrals and will be seeking additional staff to keep up with increase in demand. Effects of expanding Medi-Cal and changes to asset limits will likely result in ongoing increases in cases to this program as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Grasty reported the final draft of the Bylaws will be sent to all Commissioners to review for approval at the July 18, 2022 COA meeting to submit to County Counsel for their review and approval.

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

Commissioner Lemucchi reported some of the CSL proposed Bills that the Assemblymembers and Senators picked up are in Hearings right now. Once the budget is completed, she will announce which Bills were passed.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – S. Morris, R. Maier

Commissioner Maier reported he was reappointed by District 1 and his new term expires 06/17/2024. There were no new appointments. There was one resignation (Loron Hodge). Expired terms are Gloria Brown, and Linda Oswald. Laura sent a letter to their appointing Supervisors. They can continue serving until their reappointment. There are no terms soon to expire, and there are three vacancies: CSL Senior Assemblymember, District 1, and District 5. No new applications were received. Laura is working on the recruitment flyer. Commissioner Morris suggested sending the recruitment flyer to all the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference (EAPC) attendees.

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

Commissioner Snyder reported the committee met June 1, 2022. They discussed today's agenda,

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

The committee had a brief meeting May 19, 2022. Jeremy Oliver and Michele Gomez provided updates during their reports. They are also recruiting for more Board Members. The current vacancies are for consumers. It was suggested to also send this recruitment flyer with the COA recruitment flyer to the EAPC attendees.

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

Commissioner Gonzalez reported the Office of Patient Representative will start August 2022. Kern County will not have a local office. Each representative will be assigned a series of counties. Within time, each county might have a representative in their county. The Office of Patient Representative will make medical decisions for those “unbefriended residents” residing in nursing homes who do not have the capacity to make their own decisions, and do not have a family member or conservator to make decisions on their behalf. They have three new staff members who are in training. They are hoping to receive a grant for one-time funding for emergency disaster preparedness. If granted, another staff member would be hired and be assigned to work with the Office of Emergency Services to look into fire preparedness the facilities have. They also have a private funder who is interested in funding for a Family Counsel Specialist who would promoting, training and sustaining family counsel starting in nursing homes to advocate for their loved ones. Kern County is the leading Ombudsman program in the state of California who witnessed more Medical Powers of Attorney (Advanced Healthcare Directives). They promote this form to avoid having unbefriended individuals. They process 100's of these forms each year, where other counties in the state might process 20 each year.

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

Commissioner Snyder reported she and Chair Prado are continuing with orientation and will need to schedule an orientation for Commissioner Vue. A meeting will be scheduled with the Committee in July to discuss the upcoming Senior Celebration and Resource Fair. She is finalizing the letter to send to vendors and is creating an outline. They are looking at hiring a caterer for refreshments. She will keep the Commission apprised of what's going on in the coming months. The planning for this event is designed in the manner where they can quickly pull it, if needed, due to the pandemic.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - G. Brown; N. Jackson

No report.

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

Commissioner Goodlow reported the Bakersfield Senior Center is having a “Jazz Under the Stars” fundraiser on Sunday, July 3, 2022, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bakersfield Community House. Tickets cost \$40 each. There will be fun, dancing, and food. To RSVP, call 661-325-1113. Commissioner Brown asked when will the COA return to in-person meetings at Senior Centers. This item will be added to the agenda for discussion during the COA Executive meeting.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette

No report.

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

Commissioner Wright reported they meet quarterly so he has nothing to report at this time.

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado, J. Lemucchi

Commissioner Lemucchi reported the Committee met June 9, 2022. They are working on upgrading their fleet systems from fuel powered to electric. There has been some huge glitches with transferring out fuel to electric, so they are working out those technicalities. The next meeting in August 2022 will be a virtual training meeting.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – G. Brown; R. Maier

Commissioner Brown suggested that while we continue to meet virtually, we should recognize the senior nutrition volunteers throughout the county. Commissioner Grasty shared that Commissioner Goodlow and Laura Juarez are working on that and certificates will be sent out soon. We have all the names of the volunteers and certificates will be created when we know the date certificates will be delivered.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

- Senior Celebration is scheduled for October 22, 2022 from 1-4 p.m. at the Rasmussen Senior Center.
- 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, July 6, 2022 1:30 pm Via Zoom If interested in attending via Zoom, please contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052.	Monday, July 18, 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 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver
Secretary