

Contra Costa County  
Advisory Council on Aging

Minutes for March 15, 2023 Meeting

**ACOA MEMBERSHIP**

Active Members = 30  
Vacancies = 4  
Pending = 6

Call to Order: Jill Kleiner, President, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Present: Mike Awadalla, Swamini Bajpai, Michelle Berman, Jagjit Bhambra, Deborah Card, James Donnelly, Kevin Donovan, Jennifer Doran, Candace Evans, Carol Kehoe, Jill Kleiner, George Lee, Steve Lipson, Nuru Neemuchwalla, Brian O'Toole, Erin Partridge, Michael Rigsby, Sam Sakai-Miller, Sara Shafiabady, Michael Wener, Dennis Yee

Absent: Mary Bruns, Kacey Carterelliott, Eric Freitag, Jody Iorns, Shirley Krohn, Ramapriya Raju, Terri Tobey, Lorna Van Ackeren

Remote: Marty Aufhauser, Rudy Fernandez

Guests: Tracy Murray, Director, Aging and Adult Services  
Elaine Welch, Mobility Matters  
Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging  
Tara Cantu, Choice in Aging  
Caitlin Sly, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region  
Lidia Gutierrez, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region  
Deanna Perry, Tri Delta Transit  
Leah McIntosh, HICAP  
Lynnette Watts, HICAP  
Tim Phillips, St. Matthews  
Mary Serrano, John Muir Community Health Fund  
Irma Guillen, Presidio Village  
Deanna Perry, Tri Delta Transit  
Devynn Darner, City of Concord  
Jeanne Polk, Senior Nutrition Services  
Caroline Miller, Contra Costa Health, Housing, Homeless Services  
Susannah Meyer, Empowered Aging  
Vee Chick, San Ramon Senior Advisory Council  
Michelle Hayes, Prospective ACOA member  
Marilyn Fowler, Prospective ACOA member  
Cate Burkhart, Prospective ACOA member

Staff Present: Ana Bagtas, Jenny Lam, and Glenda Pacha

ACOA meeting as was closed at 9:39 am.

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Public Hearing began at 9:40 am. Ana Bagtas, Program Manager of the Area Agency on Aging presented the draft 2023-24 Area Plan Update.

Comments at Public Hearing:

Erin Partridge – Super excited about all these goals. They are powerful and inspiring. Urge us to person first language. “Hot spots” and “targeting” is not OK language.

Michelle Hayes – Regarding the metrics used to determine low income. Being Cal Fresh, you have to have a certain amount of income. A lot of people want to apply but do not qualify so they aren’t included in numbers.

Sam Sakai-Miller – Thanks for all thoughtful work on this presentation. Request copy of slides to ACOA. Encouraged the use of the full 10% (from funding sources) allotted for staffing on staffing. Workload expectations should not be extraordinary high.

Jim Donnelly – “Are you ready for the next year?”

Ana Bagtas - The State is doing a Needs assessment for the State by county. We want to add questions to the survey to address questions for our county.

Deborah Card – Super excited that we have come this far. We started this in the mid 90s. State said silver tsunami was coming. We have had several false starts. Now we have funding. It feels wonderful.

Vee Chick – Senior Advisory Committee, San Ramon

Debbie Toth – I want to address comments. Thank you Jim and to Jill. Jill is great. To address Erin’s comments about language – much due to dated Federal language. Person first language – people have different preferences.

Elaine Welch – Huge Thank You to your department and the County. One of my major challenges with Master Plan for Aging is that it did not address transportation. Delighted to serve on IMPACCT Committee and that the first RFP for Measure X funding was for transportation. The County has courage to walk the talk.

Closed the Public Hearing 10:34 am.

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Reopened ACOA meeting 10:47 am

Roll Call: Glenda Pacha conducted the roll call and noted 21 members present establishing a quorum.

#### Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Jim made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approval of February 2023 Minutes:

- Swamini made a motion to approve the February 2023 minutes as amended. Jagjit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager's Report – Ana Bagtas, AAA Program Manager

- RFP out (actually 4) look forward to seeing new contractors for III D and III E programs. For Measure X RFP, we have a couple of new applicants.
- Measure X doing well, Collaborative Consulting is gathering data and meeting with individual IMPACCT members. Next, sub committees will be formed. They will help us structure our work addressing MPA.

#### Committee and Work Group Reports:

New Planning Committee Chair – Michelle Berman. Kevin will stay on and Chair Housing.

#### Membership Committee – Jagjit Bhambra

- Waiting for Board of Supervisors approval of Michelle Hayes, Mike Awadalla, Ramapriya Raju, George Lee.
- San Pablo, Pinole, Brentwood, Nutrition Council seats are still open.

#### Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- RFP review process is continuing.
- Discussed how ACOA members needed to support RFP reviews.
- Further discussion about other RFP reviews – OCB, Health Promotion & FCSP.
- Interested in being a reviewer? Contact committee or staff.
- Thank you to other committee members for their assistance with the review of APU Goals & Objectives.

#### Health Workgroup – Jennifer Doran

- Sarah, Michelle, Jennifer presented first draft of Aging in Place brochure.
- Contra Costa Senior Legal Services presented.
- Contra Costa Mental Health at next meeting.

#### Legislative Workgroup – no report

#### Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Thank you to Kevin for his work with the committee as he steps off to the Housing Workgroup
- ACOA website – how can we provide info to the community?
- New attendance requirements effect on general workgroups and committees, AAA staff workload.

- Educational opportunities in general.
- How work with health services to help seniors access technology?

#### Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC) Transportation Workgroup- Jim Donnelly

- Will discuss the Coordinated Transportation bill (AB540) which was introduced by Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks.
- Meeting time changing to 10 -12 starting in April.

#### Housing Workgroup- Kevin Donovan

- Through interaction with housing service providers, housing advocates and a number of other groups involved with housing for seniors struggling to find affordable housing, develop advocacy strategies to identify potential solutions.
- Complete the housing "White Paper", update and distribute the "No Place Like Home" info graphic and create a presentation deck to be utilized in describing key housing issues to local decision makers and our communities within the County.
- During Work Group meetings have leading housing advocacy groups make presentations so that members will become more aware of pending issues in promoting the creation of affordable housing. Additionally legislation will be tracked and bills advocating affordable housing supported.
- Continue monitoring the affordable housing component of the Concord Naval Base development.
- Assist in the implementation of the County's Master Plan for Aging efforts and the IMPACCT Committee's strategies as they affect housing.
- Housing is a key area of focus for the ACOA and I would like to leave you with two facts to consider:
  - 12,585 is the number of adults 62 years or older who are on waitlists for subsidized housing.
  - 33% of homeless in the County are 55 years or older.

#### ACOA President's Report: Jill Kleiner

- Form 700 due by April 1<sup>st</sup>
- We are sending a survey out to determine whether or not to change the start time of ACOA meetings that normally start at 9:30 to 10 am. Please respond to the survey.
- Return to in-person meetings - Legally we are not allowed to go against County/State guidance.
- SB 411 – introduced last month provided teleconference abilities introduced. Jill is watching the bill and will let folks know the status.
- Mileage reimbursement is available for travel to ACOA activities.
- Food at meetings – a sign-up sheet is going around to gather volunteers to bring food for meetings.
- Donations for food will start being collected next month.

#### Consent Item:

- Jim made the motion to approve draft 23-24 Area Plan Update for submission to the California Department of Aging. Debbie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. 20 Ayes/0 Nay/1 abstention.

Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth or Lorna Van Ackeren

- No report

Public Comment

- Suggested evening/late afternoon meetings.
- West County Outreach Worker being hired by Meals on Wheels Diablo Region.

New Business for Next Meeting:

- April 19, 2023 location TBD
- Continue ACOA self-introductions

Jill adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.