

**Contra Costa County
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes for March 16, 2022 Meeting
And Public Hearing**

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 31
Vacancies = 7
Pending = 2

Call

to Order: Jim Donnelly, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present:

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| Michelle Berman | Rudy Fernandez | Erin Partridge |
| Jagjit Bhambra | Eric Freitag | Penny Reed |
| Mary Bruns | Gail Garrett | Gerry Richards |
| Rhoda Butler | Jody Iorns | Sutter Selleck |
| Deborah Card | Jill Kleiner | Sara Shafiabady |
| Kacey Carterelliott | Shirley Krohn | Terri Tobey |
| Jim Donnelly | Nancy Leasure | Lorna Van Ackeren |
| Kevin Donovan | Steve Lipson | Michael Wener |
| Jennifer Doran | Nuru Neemuchwalla | Dennis Yee |
| Candace Evans | Brian O'Toole | |

Absent: Martin Aufhauser, Arthur Kee, Francés Smith, Lorna Van Ackeren

Guests: Dale Harrington (Rossmoor), Jason Schwarz (Contra Costa Senior Legal Services), Leah McIntosh (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program), Lynnette Watts (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program), Frank Latchman (Aging and Adult Services), Susan Jamerson (Adult Protective Services), Melissa Anino (Employment and Human Services Department Policy & Planning Division), Debbie Toth (Choice in Aging), Tara Cantu (Choice in Aging), Yolanda (Braxton Lions Center), Elaine Welch (Mobility Matters), Lenore McDonald (Center for Elders Independence), Caitlin Sly (Meals on Wheels Diablo Region), Sara Levin (Contra Costa Health Services), Debra Hanschar (Empowered Aging), Rod (Meals on Wheels West County), Diane Wong (J-Sei), Rob Tufel (Cancer Support Community), Susannah Meyer (Empowered Aging), Bill Pelter (Ability Now), Carolyn Foudy (Aging and Adult Services Deputy Director), Antoinette Harris (Uplift Family Services)

Staff Present: Ana Bagtas, Division Manager, Area Agency on Aging, Jenny Lam, Anthony Macias, Glenda Pacha

Roll Call: Anthony Macias conducted the roll call and noted 27 members present establishing a quorum.

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Add Approval of AAA 2022-23 Area Plan Update as a Consent Item.
- Shirley Krohn made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Michael Wener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACOA President, Jim Donnelly, opened the AAA 2022-23 Area Plan Update Public Hearing

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- Explained the purpose of the Public Hearing and the role of the ACOA in the process.

Anthony Macias reviewed the following rules for the Public Hearing

- Limit questions and comments to two (2) minutes per person.
- Hold all comments until after the presentation has finished.
- Write questions and comments in the Chat box, and they will be read after the presentation.

AAA 2022-23 Area Plan Update – Ana Bagtas, Division Manager, Area Agency on Aging
The Area Plan Update PowerPoint Presentation PDF attached to minutes.

Comments and Questions from the Public Regarding Area Plan Update 2022-23:

Questions raised at the public hearing and the responses provided are as follows:

- How is low-income defined, as it applies to Contra Costa County?
 - The federal Older Americans Act governs the work of the AAA. As such, the federal definition of low-income is used, which is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. Given the higher cost of living in Contra Costa County, the inadequacy of using the federal definition was acknowledged.
- What are the biggest changes from last year to this year?
 - Last year was a bit chaotic due to the pandemic. The AAA received increases in funding with few guidance and unclear reporting requirements. There was an urgency to release the funding to assist our client population immediately while trying to figure out how to implement these new programs we've never done before, such as Great Plates. Thank you to the AAA staff for trying their best under the circumstances, even though they were stretched to the limit. Kudos to everything they did.
- How do we get involved with the Master Plan for Aging subcommittees?
 - The Contra Costa County IMPACT Steering Committee has established some subcommittees and will finalize them at the next meeting and identify players to serve on the subcommittees. Will soon announce a launch event to tell folks about this work and seek community participation.
- How is innovative defined?
 - Anything that is new. Outside of the box thinking. Promising practices that were successful in other communities that can be replicated in Contra Costa.

Other comments provided at the public hearing include the following:

- Thank you for using “persons of color” vs. minority.
- Equity is addressed throughout the document. The tragic lessons learned from the pandemic are clearly documented. Thank you to AAA.
- The Master Plan for Aging implementation process is inclusive, thoughtful, and grassroots. It is a time for hope. We are starting from behind, so we are starting from broken. We will get to a stage of working, then to thriving. The AAA director’s leadership and Aging and Adult Services Bureau director’s commitment make this feel doable.
- Disappointing to still have such a little amount from Older Americans Act funding from the federal level.
- We are not without challenges, but we are in a better place than we have been. Thank you to the AAA team.
- Kudos to the AAA.

Public Hearing ends.

Resumption of ACOA portion of meeting

Jim Donnelly welcomed newest ACOA member Jody Iorns, representing City of Martinez.

Approval of February 2022 Minutes:

- Gerald Richards made a motion to approve the February 2022 minutes. Shirley Krohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Division Manager’s Report – Ana Bagtas, AAA Program Manager

- The next step for the Area Plan Update is ACOA approval. After this, it will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval, and then submit to California Department of Aging (CDA) by May 1. The Area Plan Update is not final until CDA approves..
- The Implementing the Master Plan for Aging in California Together (IMPACT) Steering Committee is being very thoughtful to be inclusive and in forming subcommittees. Thank you to the members of IMPACT.
- The AAA received the CDA Monitoring packet yesterday. The monitoring of the AAA by CDA begins on June 13 and conducted virtually. CDA may contact some of our providers as part of the process. Choice in Aging offered virtual tour of their programs.
- The CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) program will also be monitored beginning on June 27.
- Awaiting responses to the III B Request for Proposals (RFP).

ACOA Committee and Work Group Reports:

Membership Committee – Jill Kleiner

- Welcome new member Jody Iorns. She will be the Martinez representative. Dennis Yee will be Jody's new member "Buddy".
- Jill reviewed the ACOA Leave of Absence (LOA) process.
- Current ACOA vacancies are City seats for Concord, El Cerrito, Pinole, San Pablo, San Ramon, Senior Nutrition Program representative and two Alternates.
- There are no Member-at-large (MAL) vacancies.

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- The Planning Committee's primary first quarter responsibility focusing on reviewing and providing guidance to possible revisions to the 2022-2023 Area Plan Update has been met.
- At the April 5 meeting, the committee will pivot to monitoring of the AAA contracts. Ana will lead a training session to prepare committee members for this new role, which includes on-site contract monitoring as part of the overall review of AAA contracts.

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- At last Tuesday's meeting, the committee went over the process for reviewing pending legislation.
- Many of the pieces of legislation relate to health services. Nancy Leasure will present them to the Health Workgroup to determine which to bills to support.
- Shirley revised the "Adopt-a-Bill" process.

Health Workgroup – Jennifer Doran

- The workgroup finalized and approved the Nursing Home informational brochure. The final draft will be sent to EHSD media department for graphic design.
- Well Connected presented at the March meeting. They provide 100 programs/activities a week.
- Mom's Meals, a nutritional service used by Contra Costa Hospitals and medical providers, will present at the April workgroup meeting.

Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC) Transportation Workgroup- Mary Bruns

- John Cunningham of the Contra Costa Dept. of Conservation and Development has asked SMAC to shine a light on transportation at the state level through the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC). Join John and SMAC members at the March 28 SMAC meeting to help develop a plan.
- Tim Haile, Executive Director of Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) presented at the February meeting.

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- The workgroup meets on Monday March 21. The guest speaker is Claude Battaglia, from Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties.

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Kevin Donovan provided a brief report on the Bay Area Digital Inclusion Coalition as well as some background on the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

- Sam Sakai Miller presented a summary of how the ACOA web page will grow, improve, and present content. . As a result, members of the tech work group will be working with workgroup chairs in the next couple of weeks to gather information.

ACOA President's Report – Jim Donnelly

- Consent Item- Approve 2022-2023 Area Plan Update.
Kevin Donovan made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Area Plan Update. Gerald Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Reminded ACOA members about the requirement to attend the monthly ACOA meetings and to join at least one workgroup or committee.

Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth

- May 3, 2022 is Senior Rally Day. The Regional Coalitions work with California Senior Legislature to advocate for attention and services for older adults in California. Contra Costa historically has the most in attendance at this event.
- May 4, 2022 is Advocacy Day with members of the state legislature. There will be virtual legislative visits scheduled. ACOA members Jim, Shirley, Fran, and Lorna will attend. Please join if you are interested.
- Regional Coalition is finalizing the top priorities and budget agendas for Senior Rally Day.
- Debbie will share registration dates when available

Public Comment

- Lenore McDonald – announced her retirement. Thanked the ACOA for their efforts and for Jim's leadership She expressed gratitude for working with the ACOA over the last several years.

Next ACOA Meeting is on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 11:29 am