

**Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Housing Work Group  
Meeting Minutes - Monday, March 21, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Gerald Richards (Chair; ACOA); Lenore McDonald (Co-Chair; Center for Elders' Independence); Jim Donnelly, Kacey Carterelliott (ACOA); Victoria Snyder (Contra Costa Senior Legal Services); Caitlin Sly (Meals on Wheels Diablo Region); Clara Fuchshuber (Front Porch-Home Match); Claude Battaglia (Independent Living Resources); Elizabeth Verdin (The Hume Center); and Nhang Luong (Staff Support; Area Agency on Aging)

**Introductions**

**Agenda and minutes review** – Agenda and minutes approved unanimously.

**Presentation:** Independent Living Resources (ILR) of Solano & Contra Costa Counties – Claude Battaglia, Independent Living Specialist

ILR services include the following:

- Budgeting services to help clients set realistic expectations about housing and determine what they can afford. Assistance with Season of Sharing (SOS) application and refers to St. Vincent de Paul to help with utilities and rent.
- Independent living skills training, peer support, advocacy, budget planning, and assistance with getting on subsidized housing wait lists.
- Assistive Devices Program; computer lab in Concord office; benefits counseling; assistance transitioning people from skilled nursing facilities back to the community; works with Interfaith Coalition to help furnish apartments.

**Update:** Front Porch's Home Match Program - Clara Fuchshuber, Program Manager

Front Porch hired five new staff members in the past month and in the process of hiring another person to address staffing shortages in their Home Match Program throughout the Bay Area.

Most homeowners are asking for \$900-\$1,000 a room and prefer employed renters.. Home Match also tries to connect people for shared interests/compatibility.

**Update:** Housing Work Group Co-Chair Nominations – Gerald Richards, Chair

Lenore McDonald announced her retirement from Centers for Elders' Independence (CEI) and stepped down as Co-Chair of the Housing Work Group.

Housing Work Group now accepting nominations for the Co-Chair position to fill behind Lenore.

Gerald Richards presented a Certificate of Recognition from Supervisor John Gioia to Lenore.

Uche Uwaheum hired by CEI to succeed Lenore.

**Discuss:** Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – Gerald Richards, Chair  
California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) approved ABAG Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan.

RHNA is the process for identifying total number of housing units, separated into four affordability levels that cities and unincorporated jurisdictions must plan to accommodate for the period from 2023 to 2031. The Plan is on ABAG's website.

**Announcements/Information Sharing:**

Renters have until the end of March to submit applications for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 18, 2022, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Presenter suggestions for future meetings: Contra Costa Inter-faith Coalition and Eden Housing

**Meeting adjourned 10:46 a.m.**