

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
Technology Group Minutes
Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Call to Order: Steve Lipson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Meeting conducted using the Zoom meeting platform.

Present: Steve Lipson, Kevin Donovan, Erin Partridge, Jim Donnelly, Sam Sakai-Miller, Penny Reed, Sara Shafiabady, Candace Evans

Absent : Gail Garrett, Jill Kleiner,

Staff: Anthony Macias

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

- Approval of Today's Agenda – Jim motioned to approve; Erin motioned second; agenda approved by all present.
- Approve March 2021 minutes- Kevin moved to approve minutes as amended; Penny motioned second; approved as amended by all.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: None.

Technology Corner: Steve Lipson

- WYZE is low-cost, Bluetooth technology with home security cameras, thermostats, Door cameras, watches, sprinkler system for home networks.
- Very low cost (\$20 cameras); Apple Watch type of watch but much cheaper, no speakers, but much of the same uses.
- Less expensive; good products; monitor by phone. Wyze.com is site to visit for these products

Overview: Danville Buzz Session - Sarah Shafiabady

- Next week session will discuss experiences during COVID pandemic;
- And connections made through Zoom.
- Past sessions have been about medical and non-medical resources; Planning for quality of life, particularly in time of pandemic.

Discussion: CSL Senior Rally Day

- Candace reported out on the event;
- very enlightening; very engaged; listened to MPA; budget forum; many speakers and advocates.
- Nothing proposed or advocated for technology for seniors.
- Met legislative members Wolf and Warren via Zoom and discussed MPA and senior rally day.
- Also senior housing was a hot topic.

Overview: Digital Divide Outreach/Networking: Kevin Donovan

- Kevin has been interested in the digital divide and reached out the School of Social Welfare at the University of California Berkeley.
- received two responses, one from a professor emeritus which has not yet generated any information (Andrew Scharlach, Ph.D.) and one to a relatively new faculty member who was recruited to campus to head a study center (Em Chuang Ph.D.).
- Arranged a conference call with Steve and Kevin and spoke about a symposium on Digital Divide and seniors in July.
- Bay Area Social Science Consortium (BASSC) is a collaboration of the heads of the Bay Area's nine counties departments of aging services and the social welfare schools of the four Bay Area CSU campuses. This group will be focusing on the digital divide and seniors this summer where we will be given access to information developed and "best practices" proposed.
- Manager of the Social Welfare School, Jennifer Monahan, referred us to an article "Aging Connected" composed by Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and the Humana Foundation.
- The "Aging Connected" article referenced earlier provides an excellent overview of the state of the digital divide and seniors referencing recent PEW surveys and the work of the OATS staff. Supported by the Humana Foundation this publication describes the impact of poor connectivity on the senior community in many ways.
- OATS is based in Brooklyn; senior planners- local groups that reach out to seniors on tech relevant issues and any skill issues, programs; Human Foundation is a funding source for this.
- OATS has 6 local facilities (each location known as a "Senior Planet") across the US promoting digital literacy to the senior community, the closest being Palo Alto.
- Reached out to the Palo Alto regional director (Ryan Kawamoto) who in addition to managing the Palo Alto Senior Planet location is a strong advocate for seniors within the Santa Clara County community. Working on "White paper" on needs of seniors in Santa Clara county.
- Recent edition of USC alumni magazine the focus was on the role of caregivers and the senior community and the needs of this largely overlooked critical group within our healthcare system.
- Reached out to the VP of Programing at The Scan Foundation ("Gretchen Alkeman Ph.D.) who in turn emailed me with an offer to provide any assistance she could. She further stated she was very encouraged to see that Contra Costa County was investigating this area of need..
- Steve- BASSC meeting/symposium; not invited to attend but will get access to materials afterwards; the counties are sharing information (about 12 are in this group).

Justin Lola:

- Andrea in Alameda county is looking to connect with CCC on the digital divide.
- Number of seniors that have internet is about 10%.
- Training program and getting seniors broadband is needed.
- "American Rescue Plan" may be a way to find funding for these programs.
- Pilot program at CEI is going well.

Erin: MIT/media lab study look at social robots in communities and will have findings of this study. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8703390>

Discussion: Legislation/AB-14 - Internet For All

- workgroup will take a wait and see approach.
- Too late to write a letter for this bill.

ACOA Website Review/Google Form Discussion

- ACOA Website Review/Google Form + Workflow Discussion
- Review of google form and updated content
- Discussion
- Steve will present at E-C meeting

Website Content Pilot: Content/County/Workgroups Determinations

- Technology and Transportation workgroups

Action Items for Executive Committee:

- None

Future Meetings:

- Next meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.