

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for May 15, 2019

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 29
Vacancies = 9
Pending = 2

Call to Order: Susan Frederick, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Frederick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Fred Adams	Arthur Kee	Brian O'Toole
Jagjit Bhambra	Joanna Kim-Selby	Mary Rose
Nina Clark	Jill Kleiner	Summer Selleck
Jim Donnelly	Shirley Krohn	Frances Smith
Kevin Donovan	Steve Lipson	Lorna Van Ackeren
Jennifer Doran	Jatin Mehta	Patricia Welty
Rudy Fernandez	Richard Nahm	Dennis Yee
Susan Frederick	Frank Napoli	
Gail Garrett	Nuru Neemuchwalla	

Absent: Mary Bruns, Deborah Card, Branin Cook, Ron Tervelt, Rita Xavier

Guests: Megan Crain (Rep. DeSaulnier office), Tara Cantu-Nishimoto (Choice in Aging), Debbie Toth (Choice in Aging), Lenore McDonald (Center for Elder Independence), Nancy Leasure, Kathie Thompson

Staff Present: Tracy Murray, Laura Cepoi, Brandy Walker (APS) and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Fred Adams called roll; quorum established with 24 members present.

Announcements:

- Guest introductions and welcome from ACOA president.
- Susan Frederick introduced new council member Frank Napoli.

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Arthur Kee moved for agenda approval, Jagjit Bhambra motioned 2nd, council unanimously approved.

Approval of April Minutes:

- Arthur Kee moved for approval of the April minutes, Patricia Welty motioned 2nd: Mary Rose asked for a revision in the minutes regarding reports made on behalf of the Elder Abuse Workgroup concerning the placement of the ACOA logo on the Elder Abuse Prevention Project website and discussion about provisions of the Brown Act being followed. After discussion by the council on the content of minutes solely, vote was taken for approval of April minutes without changes as follows: Twenty Yes; Three No, and Two Abstained.

Committee Work Group Reports:

- Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn reported that the ACOA Housing work group reviewed the Fall Safe Housing bill SB 280. Senior Rally day was the best that it has been in over 5 years. There was a panel

on the upcoming Aging Platform; Shirley will forward schedule of event to those who did not attend and are interested.

- Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC)- No report. Lorna asked members to attend next week's meeting, which will include the 2020 Event planning.
- Planning Committee – Susan Frederick reported that Jewish Family and Community Services made a presentation at the last meeting; the committee will be on recess in July.
- Housing Workgroup – No report, as there no current chair for this workgroup.
- Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Mary Rose reported that she made a financial abuse prevention presentation on 4/17 at the El Cerrito Senior Center; about 20 participants attended. She is concerned that many people do not have proper legal protections regarding their property.
- Health Workgroup– Susan reported on Trump's proposed budget reducing funding for HICAP and Caregivers; Jennifer reported on the "Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's" Act passed in 2017 at the Federal level to improve treatment of Alzheimer's care (send document to council). Jennifer will be following this and SB 880/HR 1873; the next meeting will have a presentation on MediCal.
- Technology Workgroup – Steve will examine how seniors are accessing information electronically; there will be an assessment of on-line senior resources in other counties. The first meeting of the Technology workgroup will take place on June 3rd.
- Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran reported on the need of cities to participate on the ACOA and possible recruitment strategies to fill vacant city seats.
- Nutrition Council – Gail Garret reported that some cities get two daily meals instead of one; the Contra Costa County wait list is short and people receive services within 2 weeks; as people age and retire, more services will be needed. Gail also reported that donations are up at the cafes.

Presidents Report: Susan Frederick

- Reminder: ACOA brochures are available for members to take and distribute in community.
- Kevin Donovan visited with Supervisor Anderson.
- There will be no meeting in July.
- The Senior Rally Day on May 7th was very positive, a Master Plan on Aging will be acted upon within one year.
- Overcoming ageism in our society was one of the key points of Senior Rally Day. Not everyone will be a victim of racism or sexism but all will have the opportunity to be a victim of ageism.
- There is a need to examine federal policy programs through the lens of ageism. Failure to renew and fund the Older American Act is one example, failure to fund the Master Plan on aging could be another. The ongoing transition from a young to an old society and the pessimism about the inevitability of age related decline held by some of our policy makers and even some of the scientific community directs attention away from the likelihood that longer lives lived well will improve quality of life for all ages.
- The presence of substantial numbers of older people offer society a resource that has never existed before, millions of experienced older citizens who are healthier and better educated than previous generations.

Consent Items:

- Letter of Support For AB568 – California Care Corps: Move to approve by Richard Nahm, 2nd motion by Arthur Kee, unanimous approval to forward letter of support for AB568 to Board of Supervisors.
- Approval of Ms. Terri Tobey to fill vacant Member-At-Large Seat #10 was unanimous.

Center for Elders Independence(CEI) – Lenore McDonald

- The Center for Elders’ Independence provides high quality, affordable, integrated health care services to the elderly, which promote autonomy, quality of life and the ability of individuals to live in their communities.
- Model of care is the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
- Site based services, include: transportation services to PACE centers and medical appointments and nutrition services.
- In-home care services, include: personal care, light housekeeping and meal delivery.
- Medical services offered, include: social services, family services, and logistical services.
- In 2019 opened Adult Day Health Care at the former Guardian center in El Sobrante.
- PACE Center in Concord to open in 2020.
- Website: <https://cei.elders.org/>

Regional Coalition Updates- Debbie Toth, Executive Director, Choice in Aging

- Senior Rally day: East and West County had strong rates of participation at the rally. Marco Meach spoke at the afternoon panel and asked to be held accountable for implementing an aging agenda. There is funding for work on the Master Plan and a local event on Master Plan strategy will take place in the next few months.

AAA Program Manager’s Report –Laura Cepoi

- The Administration released a budget in March to set policy agenda, there is a 12% reduction to Health and Human Services budget; the National Institute on Health got the largest reduction within Health and Human Services budget.
- Older Americans Act funding to remain mostly flat, there is a proposal of a 25% reduction to Title III E (family caregiver) and a reduction of 25% to the State Health Insurance and Counseling Program (SHIP).
- On June 1st, SSI recipients will be eligible to receive CalFresh (must apply for this benefit) as a Cash-Out program. Previously, SSI recipients had been excluded from Food Stamps (now CalFresh). Approximately 7,000 Contra Costa County residents will now be eligible for CalFresh benefits.
- The RFI for Title III D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services was awarded to Meals on Wheels Diablo Region.

Public Comment: Richard alerted members about a Social Security Scam.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am

<https://cei.elders.org/>

Next ACOA Meeting June 19, 2019