

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 25, 2021**

Present: Terri Tobey, Gerald Richards, Jim Donnelly, Jill Kleiner, Marty Aufhauser, Margueriette Williams, John Philson, Polly Cortez and Sue Meltzer

Guests: Debra Hanschar, Lead Regional Supervisor from Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano County

Staff: Margueriette Williams (temporarily standing in until secretary takes over)

Announcements –

Terri shared that Margueriette and Stefany from APS are presenting with her on Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention at 3:00pm to the Rossmoor Financial Forum Senior group via Zoom. She invited the workgroup to join the presentation.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

- Approval of Today's Agenda –Jill approved agenda. Jim and Marty motioned.
- Approval of April Minutes – Everyone approved.

Presentation: Debra Hanschar, Lead Regional Supervisor from Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano County

- Ombudsman has a team of 45 staff that include trained volunteers that visit 600 long-term care facilities and advocate for 29,000 residents in the region for Contra Costa, Solano and Alameda Counties.
- Ombudsman is a non-profit agency and federal program that investigates suspected elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect cases for those who are living in Long-Term Care facilities like Assistant Livings, Licensed Board & Care Homes and Nursing Homes.
- There has been a decline in reporting, especially for those who are isolated during Covid.
- Call the Ombudsman office to make a report.
- A lot of the abuse is rooted in family conflict.
- Financial abuse has been a huge contributor to family conflict.
- Neglected care is another contributor to reports.
- When a resident shares a concern, the Ombudsman investigates and comes up with a plan to address the concerns.
- The Ombudsman also helps the residents understand their rights and the Ombudsman tries to see the concerns from the residents' perspective. The Ombudsman would also help the staff and caregivers.

- Terri asked Debra if the Long-Term Care facilities are open to the public now. The residents were able to get their Covid-19 vaccines, so the Long-Term Care facilities are open now, but with some restrictions.
- Sometimes APS will cross-report to Ombudsman or vise-versa.
- Ombudsman cross-reports to Law Enforcement when there has been a crime.
- Sometimes the clients are 51/50 by Law Enforcement in order to place them in a facility
- Ombudsman doesn't assist with placement but provides resources
- Ombudsman doesn't accept Medi-Cal
- Everyone thanked Debra for presenting to the workgroup

Terri mentioned that her staff will join one of the meetings to discuss elder abuse cases they assisted with.

Set Topics for next meeting, June 22.2021: Zachary Williams, Elder Abuse Detective from the Sherriff's Office will present on their program and how they address elder abuse. The team will schedule presentations to facilitate throughout Contra Costa among the senior population.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 11:15am