



Contra Costa County
Advisory Council on Aging
Health Workgroup

MINUTES
Second Thursday
June 10, 2021
9:30 to 11:30

Join Zoom link:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/96353466330?pwd=WTNUYk4rNFVtT2hiMVYyUmVZZ1NIZz09>

Telephone: USA (214) 765 0478

Password: 017220 Conference code: 445291

MINUTES

- I. At 9:30 the meeting was called to order and chaired by Jennifer Doran (Chair Susan Frederick, absent.)
- II. Attendance: Members present (ACOA members in bold) - **Jennifer Doran, Fred Adams, Jim Donnelly, Nancy Leasure, Nuru Neemuchwalla, Brian O'Toole, Sara Shafiabady, Terri Tobey, Dennis Yee, Joanna Kim-Selby**, Caitlin Sly (MOWDR), and Melanie Smith (EHSD Staff.)
- III. Approve Today's Agenda
Motion by Nancy Leasure, second by Fred Adams to accept the agenda as presented; Vote unanimous.
- IV. Approve May 13, 2021 draft minutes
Motion by Fred Adams to approve the minutes with the correction of the spelling of Caitlin Sly's name, second by Terri Tobey; Vote unanimous.
- V. Announcements - none
- VI. Consideration of a new Project for the ACOA Health Workgroup - Regarding Long Term Care issues in Contra Costa.

The Health Workgroup will begin targeting Long Term Care (LTC) issues that affect potential patients, families, and caregivers. A lively discussion took place with many potential avenues to delve into. What are the numbers? How many LTC MediCal beneficiaries are there in Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)? We can request these numbers from the County. The most vulnerable population is the SNF. We will begin exploring the various issues and seeking out information from the field including Ombudsman, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform CANHR 415-974-5171 (Jennifer will find the contact), Melanie will ask for EHSD/MediCal (stats and overview.) Other topics include In Home Supportive Services, Placement agencies, Social Workers at Hospitals for placements and Discharge Planners.

How do people move from the hospital to a nursing home? Lorna Van Ackerman may be able to help with this. Sara used to do placement and mentioned other organizations that may have information about placements. Sara shared her thoughts on the charges and cost for placement. A Place for Mom is an example of a placement service; Carequest is as well. The Workgroup will begin researching the issues and will look for information and presentations to further guide the process. First step may be requesting a presentation from Nicole Howell or CANHR for the August Meeting. Melanie will work to get the stats from Ombudsman and the MediCal placements from Dana Wargo in EHSD. Terri will also investigate leads she may know. Terri will work on the hospital aspect. Sara will work on the placement professionals. Sara may speak on NAIPC. Jennifer has something in mind for a September presentation. CANHR will present for September unless the go first in August.

VII. Members Reports - time permitting (please e-mail staff any report details you would like included in the minutes immediately after the meeting - msmith1@ehsd.cccounty.us)

A. Nursing Homes - Fred Adams (taken out of order on the agenda) Proactive health consumer program – for basic info and theoretically for making informed choices. CANHR – what to look for in a nursing home; how to choose a facility with extensive info on MediCal eligibility for nursing homes and real estate location.

1. Fred shared the following articles:

a. Proactive Health Consumer – Making Health Happen

www.prochange.com/proactive-health-consumer

b. AMA Journal of Ethics New Roles Assuring High Quality Care

www.journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/new-roles-patients-and-consumers-assuring-high-quality-care/2004-06

c. National Institute on Aging How to Choose a Nursing Home

www.nia.nih.gov/health/how-choose-nursing-home

2. Sara shared the following website resource for references, inspection history, and yelp reviews, www.medicare.gov/care-compare/#search.

B. AARP - Nuru Neemuchwalla - on the lighter side, American Association of Retired Persons has free movies to share on Zoom. He encourages us to watch these movies. SB650 is among the legislation that AARP is pushing (along with other bills.) The question is why did so many facilities not have protocols in place to handle the pandemic? SB650 incorporates transparency in nursing care by requiring more information to be tracked and submission of financial reports. AARP representatives are going to visit all state assembly members with the goal of spending more money on the patient's care and less on profits.

[SB 650 Skilled Nursing Facilities:

This bill would require an organization that operates, conducts, owns, manages, or maintains a skilled nursing facility or facilities to prepare and file with the office an annual consolidated financial report that includes data from

all operating entities, license holders, and related parties in which the organization has an ownership or control interest of 5% or more and that provides any service, facility, or supply to the skilled nursing facility. The bill would also require management companies and property companies that are not related by ownership or control to one of those organizations, but that contract with, or have entered into leases with, one of those organizations, to file an annual consolidated financial report. The bill would require the office to post those reports and related documents to its internet website.]

Jennifer asked Nancy to volunteer to draft a sample letter of support for individuals to send to their representatives.

C. Legislative - Nancy Leasure provided the following updates:

- AB 323. Health is following according to the Legislative Workgroup - Updates long-term care facilities citation penalties and standards for negligent care to safeguard nursing home and long-term care facility residents.
- AB 570. Enables persons to enroll dependent parents in their health insurance coverage.
- AB 849. Clarifies that nursing homes that violate the rights of their residents are liable for \$500 per violation. Previously that was the total maximum.
- SB 48. Internists, general practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical social workers need to complete at least 4 hours continuing education for re-licensing.
- SB 56. Allows MediCal for everyone eligible regardless of immigration status.
- SB 107. Allows CalFresh applications to be made by phone.
- SB 281. Helps people transition from nursing homes to their own homes.

D. Dementia/Alzheimer's – Jennifer Doran – There is a new drug the FDA just approved which is called Aduhelm is a monthly IV transfusion attacks the amyloid and reduces them. 2 studies contradict each other. People are so desperate for a drug to work and they want to take this medication which is 56k a year. They are conducting a long term phase 4 study but many people do not want to participate in the study because they may receive a placebo. 40% have brain swelling and breathing. To be launched quickly with over 600 sites in the United States, but there is a lack of neurologist to administer the medicine. “Prevention is what it is all about guys.”

E. Nursing Homes – Fred Adam's report moved to item A. above.

F. Caregiver Resources – Terri Tobey shared an article from Leeza Gibbons called Care Connection for those caring for a loved one with dementia. Terri described Leeza’s mission to advocate for educate, training, and support caregivers. There are mental health issues becoming more prominent for caregivers. <https://leezacareconnection.org>

G. Senior Mental Health – Susan Frederick; no report this month.

H. Nutrition – Caitlyn Sly – Meals On Wheels Diablo Region (MOWDR) still delivering a weeks worth of frozen meals. MOWDR is focusing splitting up the routes that during the pandemic were covered by buses; they now will need to double the number of volunteers. For now it will be a hybrid of city sites opening one day a week and then ramping up to 5 days a week. Each city is working through a reopening plan because the logistics are quite extensive.

I. Racial/Ethnic Disparities – Dennis Yee

COVID19 has put the topic of Health Disparities in the spotlight as statistics have shown across the United States. Future possible presentation may be the Equity Officer of CCC HSD. The Ombudsman did a Lunch and Learn on this topic.

J. Staff Reports - none

VIII. Discussion - Jim Donnelly reminded members to start thinking about what recommendations we want to make in the annual report of the ACOA to the Board of Supervisors.

IX. Public Comment

X. 11:30 Adjournment

No meeting in July, next meeting Thursday August 12, 2021 9:30 to 11:30

The ACOA meets currently on Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 11:30am and recesses in July, and November. Work Group and Committees: SMAC, Elder Abuse Prevention, Health, Housing, Legislative, Membership, Nutrition, Planning, and Technology.

The Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging and its committees will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disability planning to attend the above noticed meeting if the call 925-602-4172 and ask for Anthony Macias at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the Area Agency on Aging on all matters related to the development and administration of the annual Area Agency Plan and operations conducted thereunder, in accordance with mandates from the Older Americans Act. Any comments or recommendations made by the council or its individual members do not represent the official position of the County or any of its officers.