

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

## Minutes for June 16, 2021 Public Hearing and Meeting

### ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 34  
Vacancies = 6  
Pending = 0

Call to Order: Jim Donnelly, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### Present:

Martin Aufhauser	Susan Frederick	Nuru Neemuchwalla
Jagjit Bhambra	Gail Garrett	Brian O'Toole
Mary Bruns	Michelle Hernandez	Erin Partridge
Deborah Card	Arthur Kee	Gerry Richards
Megan Casey	Joanna Kim-Selby	Sam Sakai-Miller
Jim Donnelly	Jill Kleiner	Sara Shafiabady
Kevin Donovan	Shirley Krohn	Frances Smith
Jennifer Doran	Nancy Leasure	Terri Tobey
Candace Evans	Steve Lipson	Lorna Van Ackeren
Rudy Fernandez	Sue Metzler	Dennis Yee

Absent: Penny Reed (LOA), Summer Selleck

Guests: Dale Harrington, council applicant, Walnut Creek; Mike Awadalla, Care Patrol; Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging; Caitin Sly, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region; Rhoda Butler council applicant, Antioch; Kasey Carterelliott, council applicant, Pittsburg; Dom Pruett, Supervisor Andersen's Office; Lillian Roselin, John Muir Community Health Fund.

Staff Present: Tracy Murray, Director of Aging and Adult Services, Ana Bagtas, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging, Glenda Pacha and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Anthony Macias called roll; quorum established as 30 members present.

#### Announcements:

- None

#### Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Approval of meeting agenda motioned by Lorna Van Ackeren, motioned second by Arthur Kee. Motioned carried.

#### Approval of May 2021 Minutes:

- Approval of March 2021 minutes, motioned by Gerald Richards, motioned second by Shirley Krohn, with correction that Joanna Kim Selby was present at May meeting. Motion carried.

## Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager's Report –

Tracy Murray, Director Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Bureau

- Acknowledged ACOA, Community Partners and AAA staff for work during this difficult time
- Tracy introduced new AAA Program Manager- Ana Bagtas
- Tracy will appear at ACOA meetings every 3-4 months.
- Ana introduced herself and her background
- Jim: How much longer will ACOA be on zoom? Tracy: Public lobbies and buildings are open as of yesterday. Finalizing staff schedules. The Brown Act waiver that allows Zoom meetings continues for several more months. Possibility for in person meetings in a few months based on wishes of the ACOA.

Ana Bagtas, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging

- Reopening
  - Mask wearing for vaccinated people lifted in California. However, EHSD employees will continue to wear a mask while working because the section on COVID-19 Prevention in the California Code of Regulation that pertains to mask wearing not updated yet. Until then, EHSD will continue with face covering practices.
  - County/EHSD lobbies and buildings are open to the public starting June 15.
- **AAA Staffing**
  - Ruth Atkins, HICAP director, retired. Going through the internal process to fill the position.
  - Another position opened up from Lisa Ho's resignation effective June 15.
- **Program Updates**
  - Staff have done a remarkable job being nimble and creative during the pandemic and the many changes and challenges it brought.
  - Kudos to Anthony, Glenda, Nhang and I&A team, and Ruth and the HICAP team.
    - All contracts for FY 2021-22 completed by AAA staff; now going through various stages of County review and approval process.
    - During COVID, with Family Caregiver Alliance and John Muir Community Health Fund, established a monthly Provider call to share current info. Will use this group for larger MPA and ADRC activities.
    - The Great Plates Delivered Program is ending on Friday July 9, 2021. By then, the County will have served approximately **297,265 meals to 411 participants** since the program started on May 29, 2020.
    - 75-80% of calls that came through the I&A line are answered within 30 seconds or less
    - HICAP worked nonstop fielding inquiries and counseling Medicare beneficiaries. The program has 40 counselors and a few new counselors are currently being on-boarded.
      - HICAP is gearing up to conduct outreach and education in preparation for open enrollment in the fall.
      - Watching closely the opening of senior center and other places where we have done outreach in the past.
      - Survey of counselors indicate that most are willing and ready to conduct trainings and counseling in person.
- **Other reports:**

- **June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month**
- Contra Costa Elder Abuse Prevention Project virtual events for the entire month of June.  
Next webinars:
- June 17th • **Elder Justice Lunch & Learn: Bringing Light To Elder Abuse**  
Paul Greenwood, Retired District Attorney • San Diego District Attorney's Office
- June 24th • **Coming out of COVID-19 — Connecting After Isolation**  
Panel • Contra Costa Agencies (various)
- **June is Pride month** – lots of event in the community. Seminars sponsored by the Administration for Community Living/National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults
  - June 22 Serving LGBTQ Older Adults: Innovative Approaches to Help LGBTQ Older Adults Engaged
- **Funding updates and State Updates**
  - Ana attended the C4A Members meeting yesterday (6/15). Three sources are anticipated this year (FFY and SFY) that will provide additional funding to AAAs:
    - Federal HCBS funding.
    - Federal American Rescue Plan funding: can augment OAA. Good for 3 years to 2024.
    - State General Funds approx. \$35 million for:
      - Nutrition programs
      - Increasing AAA baseline funding by \$100k
      - ADRC
      - Fall prevention
    - Governor is negotiating changes to State budget. The sticking point is ongoing funding for these programs. Trailer bill language and allocation language may be amended. May see a resolution by July.
  - Local AAA/programs role:
    - Demonstrate ROI from the additional funding through data and testimonials.
    - Spend the money to show the need is there.
- **Staying cool**
  - Heat wave anticipated through Friday.
  - EHSD lobbies are available as cooling centers.
  - EHSD has a list of cooling centers throughout the County and AAS prepared a fact sheet on how to stay cool during a heat wave. Staff has shared the cooling center list and fact sheet to services providers for dissemination to community members.

### **Committee and Work Group Reports:**

#### **Membership Committee** – Jennifer Doran

- Michele Berman is now the city of Clayton council representative.
- Walnut Creek not officially filled but city has selected its representative.
- Waiting for Pittsburg city to be filled soon as that city is making its selection.
- Concord, Martinez, Pinole, San Pablo still open – tell your friends to apply with city clerk.
- During the August ACOA meeting, we will caucus by supervisorial district to nominate a representative to the Nominating Committee. That person will need to attend the Membership

meeting that is directly after the ACOA meeting. The Nominating Committee's task is to nominate officers for 2022.

#### Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Last meeting: presentations from Ombudsman and Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLs)
- Ombudsman advocates for SNF residents. They visit 15 sites per day and starting to increase now. Looking for volunteers for their friendly visitor program. They also conduct a CNA career pathways program
- CCSLS – provides legal services for 60+, served 1,081 during 2018-19. Dropped to 919 in 2019-20. Issues include debt, evictions, financial abuse. They are also seeking volunteers.
- The Planning Committee will be very involved in the Master Plan and Local Playbook activities.

#### Health Workgroup– Jennifer Doran

- Susan Frederick thanked Jennifer for covering for her as workgroup chair.
- No recent public presentations from outside organizations.
- Fred Adams, committee member wants to start a project related to long-term care (LTC) – help people to make the decisions they need when placing someone in a LTC facility – they will concentrate on Skilled Nursing Facilities.

#### Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- Several letters in support of individual bills have gone out during this legislative term.
- Shirley submitted a transportation proposal to Sacramento. A huge endeavor. Lorna is co-author.
- Debbie is one of the main people that reminded the State that MPA leaves off transportation as an issue.
- Shirley will testify at Senate Health Committee for her Mental Health bill.
- Nuru asked about SB650, which would provide transparent nursing home financial reporting. AARP is supporting– members are asked to send individual letters because ACOA will not be meeting in time to get an ACOA letter out.
- Mary – what is in the transportation bill? Shirley: Everything – accessible trans, get funding, etc.
- Nuru – can AARP help you with transportation bill? Shirley: Has to get thru California Senior Legislature (CSL) first.

#### Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC) Transportation Workgroup- Mary Bruns

- Debbie Toth presented at last meeting.
- Next meeting will hear from John Cunningham about Measure X – accessible transportation not covered by MPA
- July 28 is Measure X meeting re Transportation Issues
- Re-opening of transportation program – Mobility Matters/Lafayette Spirit Van – need more volunteer drivers

#### Nutrition – Gail Garrett

- Some senior centers plan to open in July.

- Meals donations rate may go up.
- Support Meals on Wheels, it makes such a difference in people's lives.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> cafe meals delivered were reduced from 7 meals weekly to 5; those on MOW home delivered meals continue to receive 7 weekly meals.
- Need volunteer drivers to deliver meals.

#### Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Tracy Powell, community service department of Front Porch (formerly COVIA) speaking at next meeting.
- Victoria from Contra Costa Senior Legal Services reported on eviction process in Contra Costa.

#### Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Terri Tobey

- Debra Hanschar, Ombudsman Services reported at last meeting.
- Decline in reporting during COVID, abuse rooted in family conflict, self-neglect, financial crimes up, clients sometimes are placed on a 5150 hold in facility (involuntary psych holds).
- Next month: June 22, Zach Williams, sheriff detective to present on how they address issues, how they investigate

#### Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Test run of ACOA webpage with Google docs form entry from tech program with Center for Elders Independence.
- Thanks to Sam Sakai-Miller for her work on updates to ACOA webpage.
- Discussed 3 pieces of legislation to preserve Zoom as a way to meet after the pandemic is over
  - Assembly Bill 703 – Continues Option for Virtual Meetings
  - Assembly Bill 361 – Virtual Meetings for Declared Emergencies Only
  - Assembly Bill 339 – Mandatory Virtual Meetings with Translation Services
 Summary of the remote access/Zoom legislation <https://www.bbklaw.com/news-events/insights/2021/legal-alerts/03/are-virtual-public-meetings-here-to-stay>.

#### ACOA President's Report – Jim Donnelly

- TACC meeting statewide meeting of all ACOA reps – homelessness was the top issue.
- Master Plan for Aging event on June 24, please attend.

#### Presentation: Adult Protective Services Elder Abuse Awareness- Stefany Martinez, APS Social Worker and Margueriette Williams, APS Senior Staff Assistant

- Power Point of presentation is attached to minutes.

#### Announcements and Correspondence- Jim Donnelly

- none

#### Consent Items -

- Approve Rhoda Butler to fill MAL#3
  - Motion to approve the consent item, motioned by Kevin Donovan, seconded by Fran Smith. Motion carried.

#### Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth

- Regional Coalition is a partnership of Choice in Aging and ACOA.
- The Regional Coalition was first involved with the development of the Master Plan for Aging.
- Now we are in the implementation stage – beginning planning for this with June 24 MPA event
  - What does Contra Costa need?
  - Purpose to learn about MPA, structure, hear from Aronson – ageism and why now is the time for MPA and how we deliver services for aging.
  - We need to change policy and budget.
  - Breakout groups to talk about each goal area to come up with three areas to work on within this year – assign tasks to ACOA committees/workgroups.
- Sara: lack of funding for transition out of SNFs – Debbie: Federal and State looking at the issue.
- Fran: participated in a caravan with CARA supporting health care 4 all in Sacramento.

Public Comment

- None

New Business for Next Month's Meeting:

- July is recess month – ACOA and most committees and workgroup do not meet.
- No Executive Committee in July

Next ACOA Meeting August 18, 2021.

Jim adjourned meeting at 11:29am.