

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for June 17, 2020

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 27
Vacancies = 11
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 and asked guests to introduce themselves.

Present:

Martin Aufhauser	Gail Garrett	Erin Partridge
Jagjit Bhambra	Arthur Kee	Gerry Richards
Mary Bruns	Joanna Kim Selby	Mary Rose
Deborah Card	Jill Kleiner	Frances Smith
Jim Donnelly	Shirley Krohn	Summer Selleck
Kevin Donovan	Steve Lipson	Terri Tobey
Jennifer Doran	Frank Napoli	Ron Tervelt
Rudy Fernandez	Nuru Neemuchwalla	Lorna VanAckeren
Susan Frederick	Brian O'Toole	

Absent: Richard Nahm; Kathie Thompson; Dennis Yee

Guests: Nancy Leasure; Greg Wanket; Sara Shafiabaday; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman De Saulnier; Mike Awadalla, Care Patrol of Walnut Creek; Carlyn Obringer, City of Concord; Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging

Staff Present: Laura Cepoi, Glenda Pacha and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Anthony Macias called roll; quorum established as 25 members present.

Announcements:

- None.

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Approval of meeting agenda motioned by Ron Tervelt, Arthur Kee motioned second, agenda approved without changes.

Approval of February 2020 Minutes: accepted as corrected (no motion)

- Page 2 - Correct spelling of the word "requesting" to requesting in Legislative Advocacy Work Group report.
- Page 4 – Correct last bullet point of Presidents' report, change to "spreading/shedding" and strike the "the" in front of experienced.
- Page 5 – Correct the spelling of Francis Smith's name to Frances.

Committee Work Group Reports:

Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran

- There remain two Member-At-Large (MAL) vacancies, and seven local seat (city) vacancies.
- Martin Aufhauser approved to represent the city of Moraga at the Board of Supervisors meeting held yesterday.
- Nancy Leasure is scheduled to be approved at the June 23 Board of Supervisors meeting to fill MAL#8.
- Greg Wanket has applied with the city of Martinez to fill their local seat.
- Committee to interview Sara Shafiabady for a vacant MAL seat.

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Committee has not met since Shelter-In-Place was established. Last met in March 2020.
- Will be scheduling a meeting in July.
- Will continue to review contractors and their services. With a focus on services are for all three county regions.
- The Committee may revise their strategy going forward.

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Held a meeting on Monday with presentation from Season of Sharing program. This program has been around for 40 yrs.; funding from The Chronicle Foundation as of June 3, 2020. Bay Area wide, \$470k aid to people for rent. \$98k in Contra Costa alone. The funds paid directly to property owners or property management companies.
- Presentation from Mariana Moore, Ensuring Opportunity – regarding a sales tax initiative on the Nov ballot to increase county general fund.
- Next meeting will be on July 20, 2020.

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson.

- Met for first time this month since March 2020.
- Discussion regarding how pandemic has affected social isolation on older adults.
- Older adults not up to speed without resources are profoundly affected. Looking at ways to have volunteers reach out to provide interaction with clients, need volunteers to be background checked

Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Mary Rose

- Due to Shelter-In-Place all scheduled presentations since March were cancelled.
- Some members of workgroup attended presentation on Social Isolation (on Zoom). Social Isolation is dangerous and can lead to death is what was presented. Connection to others leads to prevention of social isolation.
- There has been as spike in financial abuse, and report of new types of frauds.
- APS doing check-ins with at risk older adults.
- Clients not coming to Adult Day Care so staff unable to see if there are sign of elder abuse.
- Taking Fair Housing training in July.

- In contact with Margueriette Walker, of Adult Protective Services, to explore different ideas on ways to get message of elder abuse prevention out to public.

Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC) - Transportation: Mary Bruns

- SMAC last met on May 18 via Zoom and will be meeting on June 22, using Zoom.
- The speaker will be Jeanne Krieg of Tri Delta discussion: Transportation during Covid19 – Impact and Solutions; Future Trends in Transportation.
- Planning logistics for a Town Hall: Corona Virus: Impact on programs; people, resources, information, needs, solutions.

Health Workgroup– Susan Frederick

- Meals on Discharge project meeting with Caitlyn Sly, MOWDR and Bob Sessler, consultant to CCHP cancelled due to pandemic Shelter-In-Place (SIP).
- At West County Senior Coalition, Supervisor Gioia spoke about county budget.
- Susan does not see county funding for the Meals on Discharge project.
- Next Health WG meeting to be in July using Zoom.
- Are non-ACOA members on mailing list for WG and Committee meeting notices?
Anthony replied yes, but in review of question as written above, the answer is no. Non-ACOA members only receive meeting notices for general ACOA monthly meeting.
- Susan is asking Older Adults Mental Health representative to come to health workgroup.

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- No meetings this year or rest of the year, legislature has been quiet and all energy focused on budget – no report.

Nutrition Council – Gail Garret

- No report today.

ACOA 2020 Event update: Jim Donnelly

- Event rescheduled to Spring/Summer of 2021 due to COVID19 pandemic. More details to come.

Treasurer's Report – Richard Nahm (absent)

- \$86 currently in treasury since last ACOA meeting in February 2020.

Area Agency on Aging Program Manager's Report – Laura Cepoi

- Federal funding received from Families First Act for COVID -19 Relief and we are awaiting \$2.5 million from CARES Act funding. We anticipate receipt of these funds shortly. We have not received direction on how to use these funds. We know that \$1.2 million is for Senior Nutrition programs.
- CA is facing a revenue shortfall. The May revise budget reflects an overall reduction in baseline of 24%. However, with the additional COVID-19 Funding the reduction is 15% to overall budget.

- The May revise proposes the elimination of the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP). The state legislature has rejected these proposed cuts. We will know the final effect of this in October due to timing of Federal and State budget process.
- Senior Nutrition Program has had a 38% increase in participants and meals delivered, the peak was in April and now we see a levelling off on the demand. The program is delivering 5 frozen meals weekly. Contra Costa has implemented Great Plates Delivered Program, currently there are two restaurant providers serving 150 participants three meals per day. This program will continue through July 10, 2020.
- Information & Assistance (I&A) call center has been impacted by callers seeking nutrition services and saw a 45% increase in calls last month.
- Social distancing and SIP has affected the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, as typical venues to provide community education on Medicare are closed (senior centers/libraries). Last month a Zoom event was scheduled and only six people participated. We have concerns about the upcoming open enrollment period in October.
- In July an RFP for Fall Prevention- Dignity at Home to select a non-profit who will be able to provide in-home assessment, equipment and minor home modifications to prevent fall injuries.
- Upcoming Public Hearing on Monday, July 13, 2020 for the AAA 2020 Four-Year Plan.

ACOA President's Report – Susan Frederick

- During the SIP order there was a discussion in the community regarding having meetings to look at the food issue for seniors. The Employment and Human Services Department volunteered to be responsible for these meetings. Many members of the community were included in the meetings and the opportunity for groups that serve seniors other than with food issues were able to discuss needs and observations. These meeting have been so successful that it was decided in the last meeting that these meetings should continue as zoom meetings once a month.
- Health Services will provide congregate meals to city of Antioch for senior nutrition program July 1 through September 30, with automatic three month extension. If approved at the BOS meeting.

Regional Coalition Update: - Debbie Toth

- All Choice in Aging programs are open and operating but in different ways due to pandemic.
- Partnership with ACOA and Choice in Aging thru Scan Foundation grant.
- Partnership was designed to coordinate funding/care delivery Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) but then Contra Costa was not chosen as a CCI county.
- The Partnership changed to address how to design wrap around services to support seniors to stay in their homes with outside the box thinking.
- The Partnership discovered BOS legislative priority document did not have aging issues. Developed an aging platform for Contra Costa.
- The Partnership organizes an Advocacy day on the Capitol (not senior rally day).
- Shirley Krohn, Lorna Van Ackeren and Debbie represent Contra Costa.
- The Partnership will have an advocacy day on aging in July using Zoom.

- May Revision of the Governor's budget includes several cuts or program eliminations (MSSP and CBAS – which are the Adult Day Care Centers), cuts to Independent Living Centers and IHSS
- Elimination of ADHC, MSSP means Choice in Aging will lose 80% of their funding and have to close.
- Statewide these eliminations will cut services for 50,000 frail elders in the State. ADHC serves 37,000 people with same staffing as a Skilled Nursing Facility, MSSP in home and telephonic complex case management program 65+, at skilled nursing level of care keeps them out of SNF (Nurse and Social Worker team) are at greatest risk of placement to a Skilled Nursing Facility and COVID
- Assembly and Senate joint budget replaced those funds, Governor signaled he is considering re-including Medi-Cal expansion, IHSS in the budget but hasn't commented on MSSP and CBAS
- Choice in Aging has been providing programs for 70 years
- BOS sent letter of opposition to ADHC and MSSP cuts
- Jim Donnelly asked, what is the status of the Master Plan for Aging?
- The Stakeholder advisory committee resumed meeting two weeks ago.
- They have been providing guidance to the state on the effect of COVID on seniors.
- Long Term Services Support report released on Aging.ca report submitted to Governor's office.

Consent items:

- 1) Final CAO approved changes to ACOA Bylaws
 - Jill question in section 6.9 standing committee & workgroups need to add elder abuse prevention & technology workgroups and remove marketing committee.
 - Gerald stated that the current changes for bylaws has been in process for over 2 yrs. and are specifically to add "alternate" members and reducing to one VP instead of two.
 - Arthur motioned to approve bylaws and Jim motioned second. All voting members of council voted to changes to the bylaws. The Board of Supervisors will need to approve these next.
- 2) Letter to BOS opposing placement of COVID19 patients in Assisted Living Facilities
 - Greg corrected the typo at end of second sentence, "wrong thing to do".
 - Jim motioned to approve letter, Steve motioned second to approve the corrected version. All voting members of approved.

New Business for next meeting:

- Approval of the Area Plan
- Status of Bylaw change presented to BOS

Public Comment

- Jim - reminder this is Elder Abuse Prevention month. Since COVID19, reporting of adult abuse has decreased. Per county statistics, 50% of allegations of abuse are financial, 40% are physical/mental, and 10% are isolation/neglect.

- A bank recently questioned Fran, as well as Susan on another occasion, about a financial transaction. The institution wanted to protect them from financial abuse.
- Susan reported that there have been three murders of elderly residents in western part of county.
- Gerald reported an elderly friend committed suicide due to isolation during pandemic.

Next ACOA Meeting July 15, 2020

Susan adjourned meeting at 11:00 am.