

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA)
Health Workgroup Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023**

Call to Order: Jennifer Doran called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Present (in-person)	Jim Donnelly, Jennifer Doran, Brian O’Toole, Dennis Yee
Virtual (Just Cause)	
Virtual (Emergency)	
Virtual	Susan Frederick, Carol Kehoe, Thomas Lang, Sara Shafiabady, Caitlin Sly, Lorna van Ackeren
Absent	
Leave of Absence	Terri Tobey
AAA Staff	Lynnette Watts, Glenda Pacha

Approval of Today’s Agenda:

Jim made a motion to approve the agenda. Dennis seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of June 2023 Minutes:

Dennis made a motion to approve the June 2023 minutes. Jim seconded the motion. The June 2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation: Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) – Lynnette Watts, Program Manager

- See attached slides & brochure.

Elder Abuse Presentations in West County:

- Presentations were made at Bay Point on 6/16 and San Pablo on 6/29

Aging in Place Brochure:

- Continuing to tweak the brochure to make it more readable.
- Next step: outside reviewers – suggestions for reviewers: PACE, Lorna Van Ackeren, MOWDR, Choice Aging
- Thanks to Sara and Jennifer for their work on the brochure.

Health Workgroup membership

- Membership has changed tremendously since the hybrid meetings requirements. Several members (Eric, Nuru, Marty) of this Workgroup have resigned from the ACOA.
- Terri Tobey on leave, moving to Membership Committee.
- Hopefully no more departures.

Elder Abuse Prevention – Mike Wener

- No report (Mike absent).

Nursing Home Update – Susan Frederick

- Calif. Dept of Public Health (DPH) issued a memorandum clarifying the criteria for substantiating a complaint filed against a nursing home. CANHR received reports that some DPH investigators were saying they could not substantiate complaints or take enforcement action unless there was evidence from at least two of the times observed. The CPH clarified...There is no requirement to have evidence as stated above. Rather complaints are substantiated when it is more likely than not that a regulatory violation occurred when all of the evidence is taken together. DCM also stated that ombudsmen are reliable sources of information and their observations should be considered evidence.
- Nursing homes substantially underreported falls and bedsores for the report used in star rating system making the system unreliable.
- In June the Superior Court delivered a victory for residents residing in state run Medicaid funded Nursing homes. If the home violates rights conferred upon residents by the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 (FNHRA). The Supreme Court held that FNHRA explicitly confers certain rights on Nursing home residents including the right to be free from chemical restraints and not to be subjected to illegal discharges.

Nutrition – Caitlin Sly

- Closed out FY as of 6/30/2023 – 700,000 meals distributed by MOWDR
- Commended AAA on the transition of Senior Nutrition from the County Health Department to the AAA.
- Meals provided expected to continue to increase over the next year.
- Need more Volunteers and staff.
- Volunteers dropped off during COVID.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities – Dennis Yee

- From CDC website: 2021 disability status % of older adults (65+) that self reported:
White 41%
Black 45%
Hispanic 49%
Asian 42%
No information about causes of disabilities.

Public Comment:

- MediCal asset limit scheduled to disappear as of January 1,2024. Will affect programs serving seniors.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 10:00 am, location TBD
- Presentation: Cancer Support Community

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 pm.