

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
Health Work Group Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2020**

Call to Order: Susan Frederick called the meeting to order at 930 am.

Present: Susan Frederick, Brian O’Toole, Kathie Thompson, Terri Tobey, Fred Adams, Nuru Neemuchwalla, Lenore MacDonald, Nancy Leasure, Fran Smith, Jennifer Doran

Absent: Joanna Kim-Selby, Dennis Yee,

Staff: Anthony Macias

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

- Approve Today’s Agenda – Fred moved to approve agenda, Brian motioned second, unanimously approved.
- No revisions to August 2020 minutes; Adopted as written.

Announcements and Correspondence: Susan Frederick, Chair

- Brian- Changes to CA budget each year; original proposed budget cuts to Medi-Cal as it pertains to seniors; past relaxed rules against going after deceased Medi-Cal recipients’ estates, now change go back to old rules where a lien or claim can be place on the house owned by recipient.

Public Comment

- None

AARP Updates – Nuru Neemuchwalla

- AARP –pushing passage of AB890 critical; allows nurses to practice without supervision; see more information below under Legislative report.
- AARP letter to Post Master General to make sure there are no impediments to ballots during election.
- Social Security protections- Trump abolish payroll tax; AARP are petitioning to protect social security.

Legislative Report - Nancy Leasure

- Bills that we have been following have died in committee; several bills on Governor’s desk not yet signed that pertain to senior health.
- AB 890: Nurse practitioners: scope of practice: practice without standardized procedures. This bill would expand the role of nurse practitioners and allow them to practice independently in some settings, without a supervising physician. Critical shortage to doctors and allowing nurse practitioners would alleviate this shortage.
- SB85 mental health conditions that are medically necessary; SB 855: Health coverage: mental health or substance disorders. This bill would expand the list of mental health conditions considered medically necessary under California's state parity law. That law

seeks to ensure equal levels of care for physical and mental health, and covers only nine mental health conditions and does not include substance use disorder. The bill would require health plans to make decisions about what is covered based on criteria developed by nonprofit clinical specialty associations, rather than permitting them to make those determinations themselves.

- AB685 requires employers notify employees COVID19 in workplace and alert health depts. Of cases; strengthens power of CALOSHA; COVID-19: imminent hazard to employees: exposure: notification: serious violations. This bill would require employers to notify their employees of potential COVID-19 exposures in the workplace. It also requires they alert their health department of outbreaks and it strengthens the power of Cal/OSHA to enforce these rules.
- SB852 State would contract with drug companies to reduce Rx costs. Under this bill, the state would contract with drug manufacturers to produce its own label of low-cost generic drugs for Californians, including insulin.

Dementia/Alzheimer's: Jennifer Doran

- Alzheimer's Association selected as Public Health Center of Excellence: The Alzheimer's Association has been selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction. Through funding awarded by the CDC, the Association will lead a national effort to develop and disseminate public health strategies and resources aimed at reducing the risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

Nursing Homes: Fred Adams

- Dept. of Pub health is and has overhauled regulatory methods by which SNF are inspected;
- 3500 lives lost in CA; 70% of CCC deaths are direct form SNF;
- Deputy director has decreed inspectors safety and infection control are no longer there specifically to provide efficiencies or grade SNF; will now be more in line as consultants; can still provide negative feedback; both arbiter of correct behavior and person that develop the behaviors; inspectors not happy with this; union is opposing;
- Tice Valley Manor care- 92 cases; 17 deaths; 39 staff positive for covid;
- Most Despicable Nursing Home- Magnolia Rehab center in Riverside; chronic staff problems; 32 citations; 12 of 13 nurses did not show or call; place evacuated; patients were attempted to other SNF not accepted as they were in COVID environment; SNF never reopened.

Caregiver Resources: Terri Tobey

- Attended Ombudsman meeting which discussed new regulations
- Regulations are coming from the State; Updates: allow 1 visit per day per facility; Conduct meeting outside to try and resolve problem; test 25 staff per week for at facility; fitted with N95 masks.
- Driver cognition assessment center for family to see if the elder parent is able to drive

Driver Cognition Assessment Center-Bay Area- melanie@DCAC@bayarea.com

- A for profit business.
- Best practice caregiving- Benjamin rose institute @ Benrose.org; lots of programming and guides to caregiving for people with dementia.
- State Ombudsman: Deborah Hanscher 925-285-7353 dhanscher@ccombudsman.org

Public Comment

- Lenore: digital divide is a major issue happening at this time.
- PACE center in Concord construction to be completed by end of September and opening by end of year.

Action Items for Executive Committee?

- None

Future Meetings: Next meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.