

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for September 18, 2019

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 29
Vacancies = 8
Pending = 3

Call to Order: Susan Frederick, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Frederick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Fred Adams	Susan Frederick	Brian O'Toole
Jagjit Bhambra	Gail Garrett	Frances Smith
Deborah Card	Jill Kleiner	Terri Tobey
Jim Donnelly	Shirley Krohn	Ron Tervelt
Kevin Donovan	Steve Lipson	Lorna Van Ackeren
Jennifer Doran	Richard Nahm	Dennis Yee
Rudy Fernandez	Frank Napoli	

Absent: Mary Bruns, Nina Clark, Arthur Kee, Mary Rose, Nuru Neemuchwalla, Summer Selleck, Patricia Welty, Joanna Kim-Selby

Guests: Gerry Richards; Nancy Leasure; Megan Crain (Rep. DeSaulnier's office); Debbie Toth (Choice in Aging); Sean Kearns (Rep. Frazier's office); Verna Haas (Senior Legal Services); Dawn Morrow (Supervisor Burgis office); Lia Bristol (Supervisor Mitchoff's office)

Staff Present: Glenda Pacha, Lisa Ho and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Fred Adams called roll; no quorum established as only 20 members present.

Announcements:

- None

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- No Quorum

Approval of May 2019 Minutes:

- No Quorum

Committee Work Group Reports:

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn/Nancy Leasure (Legislative WG member)

- SB 280 Dignity At Home, SB 228 Master Plan, AB 715 Richard Paul Hemann Parkinson's Disease Program bill all passed both houses and are on the Governor's Desk for signature.
- AB480 Mental Health Bill (*bill would establish within the California Department of Aging State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee*)

mental health services for older adults. The bill would require that position to be funded with administrative funds from the Mental Health Services Fund) was pulled and placed on suspense file . However, the Ideas from this bill will be included in Master Plan on Aging (MPA) work.

- When the California Senior Legislature determines their top 10 proposals, Shirley will move them directly to State legislators which will give legislators a head start.
- First MPA meeting yesterday in Sacramento. This was attended by three ACOA members: Shirley Krohn; Frances Smith; Lorna Van Ackeren.
- Shirley is encouraged because she sees more collaboration in Sacramento than ever before.

Senior Mobility Action Council (SMAC)- Transportation: Lorna Van Ackeren

- CCTA approved the final wording for ballot measure for March 2020. They did include some of the language we wanted; Next step: the language needs to be adopted by majority of cities of the county and BOS.

ACOA 2020 Event update: Jim Donnelly

- Next meeting Monday, Sept. 23rd @ 10:30
- Need rethink program for this event to include master plan on aging.

Planning Committee – Ron Tervelt

- Presentation by Uplift Family Services – program for primary caregivers of another relative's child; most are grandmothers or great-grandmothers.
- 100% of children in the program have a mental health issue.

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Presentation from Lisa Ho of Home Safe; an Adult Protective Services (APS) three year grant for \$750,000 ; Lisa works with APS social workers on funds needed to ensure client can remain safely in their home and has a \$5,000 limit per client and need to have an open APS case.
- Discussion about building new housing not meeting the needs of older adults.
- Cities are beginning to include age friendly requirements in their planning issues.
- Contractors have to be taught about what age friendly is.
- Beginning of conversations to make State sponsored Long Term Care program.

Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – No representative present

- Shirley Krohn communicated that Stamp out Elder abuse postal stamp looking for co-sponsors.

Health Workgroup– Susan Frederick

- Presentation by a Public Health Nurse who talked about her work with seniors
- Brian O'Toole gave a presentation about Medi-Cal.

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson.

- WG began looking at county's Aging and Adult Services websites.
- Presentation by Nhang Luong from Information & Assistance (I&A) and spoke about their tracking of calls, how they identify entry points.
- I&A not tracking website visits

- Not always easy to navigate within county websites.
- Will be doing more research on these websites.
- Anthony connected them to Employment and Human Services Department Information and Media manager who is in charge of managing the AAA and ACOA county website. This person will be attending the October workgroup meeting.

Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran

- The Members of the Nominating Committee have made calls to all ACOA members regarding the 2020 slate of officers, which will be announced at the October meeting.
- Currently, have at least one name for each office except Treasurer.
- Duties of the Treasurer: attends ACOA; collects/maintains, cash disbursement for coffee fund; monthly financial report for Exec Committee.
- Still trying to recruit City Reps for 9 empty city seats.
- Recruitment notice will be in BOS newsletters
- Gerald expressed perhaps contacting City Clerks, Jennifer expressed committee had done this.
- Jim stressed to encourage other members to attend next month – we need a quorum to approve a slate but Richard reminded October is presentation of Slate, but a quorum will be needed in December for the actual vote.

Nutrition Council – Gail Garret

- Gail asked ACOA members to come to one of them many CC Café's in the county to see what the CC Café's are all about.

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

- Master Plan for Aging: A Local Perspective- Choice in Aging, in partnership with the ACOA and the SCAN Foundation reviewed the components of the Master Plan on Aging and the policy perspectives on implementation and impact on the State. Local planning exercises were conducted to document what the key stakeholders in aging services in Contra Costa County wanted to see come to fruition. These local planning exercises will be included in the AAA Area Plan 2020.
- Older Adults Needs Assessment: At this time about 1,500 surveys have been completed, the survey will close October 15th. Senior Town Halls have been scheduled for October in each supervisorial district to capture stakeholder input. The AAA staff has been to all senior centers in the county and has been working at multiple community events to gather as many responses as possible.
- HICAP is fortunate to have a range of expertise from volunteers' previous employment. A retired lawyer who volunteers with HICAP received an amazing casework success in late August. He went to the third level of Medicare appeal for a Medicare Advantage plan denial of nursing home care. The third level of appeal is the first time a beneficiary can make tell their story to a judge. He received a fully favorable decision, saving the elderly client almost \$30,000 in nursing

home costs. Medical bankruptcies still account for 2/3 of all bankruptcies in the US and this client truly did not have the funds to cover this nursing home cost.

- In July, HICAP conducted eight interactive presentations, reaching 138 attendees. There were 359 people counseled and 287 finalized intakes.
- In August, I&A handled 1,346 inbound calls through its integrated phone system. There were 493 calls for IHSS, 276 calls for APS, and 577 calls for I&A. The call count represents selections made by callers from the phone tree menu, which does not always accurately reflect the services provided. For example, a caller may have selected I&A but wants to apply for IHSS.
- The national grantor of SCSEP, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, chose to contract with a regional Bay Area non-profit to provide services in Contra Costa County. Even though EHSD no longer holds that contract, services are still available to participants and host agencies in Contra Costa County.

Presidents Report: Susan Frederick

- Tripple-A Council of California(TACC) TACC represents the 33 Area Agencies on Aging Advisory Councils. The mission of TACC is to promote communication and collaboration among local advisory councils, and key state partners. They meet four times a year and is administered by the California Commission on Aging.
- We Stand With Seniors – a nonpartisan, public awareness and education campaign in 2018 to highlight the need for a statewide, comprehensive Master Plan for Aging. In June 2019 Governor Newsom issued executive order to develop California Master Plan for aging.
- A survey was conducted from July 12-16 wherein 1000 respondents were interviewed using live, professional interviewers about development of the Master Plan.
- Survey revealed voters want immediate state action to:
 - Protect vulnerable, older adults- both physically and financially.
 - Expand access to affordable in-home care and support services.
 - Increase access to affordable housing options for older adults.
 - Support family caregivers including education, affordable home health supports, family leave protections.
 - Increase affordable transportation options.
 - Prepare seniors and their families about importance of financial planning for Long Term Care.
 - Ensure older adults have access to affordable dental care
 - Streamline bureaucracy to improve delivery of services
- Adding long term services to Medi-Gap insurance may not be a good idea for middle income families because it may drive up costs in Medicare.
- Bill HR3853 to double personal needs allowance (PNA) for those in care facilities to increase by \$5. Now it is \$35 in California. This is money out of payment from Medicare payments to care facilities for personal needs such as shampoo, toothpaste, haircuts, etc.
- Reminder to Workgroup/Committee chairs that it is time to do your annual reports.

Consent items:

- No quorum; items tabled for next meeting

Presentation: Contra Costa Senior Legal Services – Verna Haas, Executive Director

- Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLs) provides free legal advice, representation, and education to residents of Contra Costa County ages 60 and older, with an emphasis on seniors who are in the greatest social and economic need.
- Staff includes an Executive Director, three full-time attorneys, one part-time attorneys, a non-practicing (licensed in Argentina) attorney and 3 administrative staff. Two staff members are fluent in Spanish.
- CCSLS has nearly 30 individual volunteers and three corporate legal departments consisting of dozens more volunteers working to improve the lives of older residents of the County.
- Offer free legal clinics allowing seniors to Create an Advanced Health Care Directive; Create Durable Power of Attorney; Do estate planning (available to low income, low wealth seniors).
- Consult-an-Attorney: Brief consultations are available by appointment at senior centers for general legal advice and referrals.
- In-depth services and legal representation available in the Concord office: Elder abuse restraining orders; Tenants' rights issues and eviction defense; Consumer protection; Debt collection defense.
- Last year, CCSLS provided individual assistance to **nearly 1,100** seniors
- Created **175** Advance Health Care Directives or Powers of Attorney.
- Assisted clients with **125** debt collection cases.
- Assisted **over 80** clients with issues related elder abuse.
- Through outreach efforts, educated and informed another **2,200** residents on topics such as preventing financial elder abuse, spotting scams and frauds, elder abuse, and planning for incapacity.

Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth

- Lorna, Shirley, Debbie, Fran visited Sacramento Monday for all day Scan Foundation Master Plan for Aging (MPA) event:
- Representatives from Colorado and Washington discussed their experiences with their Master Plans for Aging
- Advocates from consumers, LGBTQ, disabilities, etc. made presentations
- Advocacy trainings for legislative visits
- Attendees conducted legislative visits to discuss the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and California Senior Legislature to ensure the MPA address all the issues
- All future work with Regional Coalition will be focused to MPA. Debbie, as a Commissioner, will be a direct conduit to the MPA process
- You can call in, attend in person or see recording of the Stakeholder Advisory Meetings on the California Health & Human Services website
- Send thoughts directly to engage@aging.ca.gov

New Business for next month:

- October meeting is last chance to sign up for December Pot Luck

Public Comment:

- Fall Prevention Event at Rossmoor – Sept 23 10:30-3 pm Hillside Room. Topics to include:
 - Physical Therapy
 - Fitness
 - Medical Supply
 - Bone Health Educator
 - Foot Care
- Shirley Krohn – wants to re-establish the Central County Senior Coalition. She will have a meeting to start planning on what kinds of programs, events, activities, presentations, etc. that the Coalition wants to undertake
- Senior Rally Day = May 5, 2020.
- Gerry Richards– rent control bill on Governor’s desk for signature.

Next ACOA Meeting October 16, 2019

Adjourned: at 11:22 am