

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

## Minutes for January 20, 2021

### ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 33  
Vacancies = 7  
Pending = 0

#### Oath of Office for 2021 ACOA Officers:

President: Jim Donnelly  
Vice President: Jill Kleiner  
Secretary/Treasurer: Dennis Yee

Call to Order: Jim Donnelly, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

#### Present:

Martin Aufhauser	Gail Garrett	Penny Reed
Jagjit Bhambra	Arthur Kee	Gerry Richards
Mary Bruns	Jill Kleiner	Sam Sakai-Miller
Deborah Card	Shirley Krohn	Sara Shafiabady
Jim Donnelly	Nancy Leasure	Terri Tobey
Kevin Donovan	Steve Lipson	Ron Tervelt
Jennifer Doran	Frank Napoli	Lorna VanAckeren
Rudy Fernandez	Nuru Neemuchwalla	Greg Wanket
Susan Frederick	Brian O'Toole	Dennis Yee

Absent: Megan Casey, Joanna Kim Selby, Erin Partridge, Frances Smith, Summer Selleck.  
Kathie Thompson

Guests: Mike Awadalla, Care Patrol; Tara Kopp, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's Office; Caitlin Sly, MOWDR; Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging

Staff Present: Tracy Murray, Director of Aging and Adult Services, Glenda Pacha and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Anthony Macias called roll; quorum established as 27 members present.

#### Announcements:

- None

#### Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Approval of meeting agenda motioned by Marty Aufhauser, Greg Wanket motioned second, agenda approved by all.

#### Approval of December 2020 Minutes:

- Approval of December minutes motioned by Arthur Kee, Rudy Fernandez motioned second, motion carried. Minutes approved as written.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager's Report – Tracy Murray, Director Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Bureau

- Job description for Program Manager approved by Personnel. Tracy will review again to summarize most important skills before recruitment begins. She anticipates the posting the position in the next month.
- Master Plan for Aging & Playbook issued by the State.
  - It contains 5 goals and 100+ objectives
  - Likely changes to IHSS
  - increased funding for Medi-Cal and Medicare programs
- Waiting to hear about One-Time-Only (OTO) funding within the next week or so (during the meeting, we heard from CDA that we will receive budget funding by January 29)
  - Working to streamline amendment process internally.
  - HICAP had an increase of \$5,600. Use of funds being decided but possibly used to buy devices for volunteers to use in the field
- New Program Manager will work with community, agencies, ACOA, and Tracy on how to implement with the Master Plan for Aging in Contra Costa.
- Discussion of vaccines for homebound seniors.
  - Reaching remote or homebound seniors for vaccines.
  - How at risk are they?
  - Shirley working with Caitlin & Mobility Matters. She wants to recruit retired medical professionals and other volunteers to do shots.
  - Lorna – Public Health and Choice in Aging are currently going to board and care homes to reach those seniors.
  - Perhaps we could next move to those homebound.
  - Tracy – Public Health are good people trying to do their best.
- Tracy is updating Area Plan, which is due to California Department of Aging on May. The update will be on the ACOA agenda for February and ACOA will do a final approval at the Public Hearing in March.
- Tracy: CDA just notified us that they expect to release our amended contract and budget by January 29.

ACOA 2021 Committee and Workgroup Chairs (attachment)

- Attachment shared with workgroup and committee chairs for this year.

**Committee and Work Group Reports:**

Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran

- Currently two Member-at-large (MAL) vacancies that are in process of filling.
- City vacancies - Concord, Orinda, Pinole, Pitts, San Pablo, and Clayton
- New Mentors/Mentees – Jim Donnelly/Greg Wanket, Terri Tobey/Penny Reed

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Tracy Murray, Director of Aging and Adult Services, joined us at the last meeting.
- Reaffirmed committee duties and responsibilities.
- Next meeting reviewing Area Plan Update and providing comments

- Committee spends time with contractors, learning how they serve the community, who the contractors are, funding amounts, etc.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb 2 @ 9:30-11:30-Join Us!

#### Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Mariana Moore began facilitation on implementation of things the committee wants to accomplish this year. They did not finish the discussion so Gerry will do a fuller report at next meeting
- Next Meeting: Monday, February 8th

#### Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Continuing to work on ACOA website.
- Will upload revised welcome letter from new president, Jim Donnelly, to website.
- Workgroup would like to make it easier to find the website by creating a URL that would be easy to remember.
- New technologies reviewed and how they can help do ACOA work & how to better connect with older adults.
- Looked at digital internet connection funding from latest stimulus package.
- Will add speakers in coming months.
- Meetings occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 1:30 pm.

#### Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Jim Donnelly

- Two members of Elder Abuse Prevention Project (Meals on Wheels Diablo Region and Family Justice Center) are presenting at the next meeting
- Office of Emergency Service funding for Elder Abuse Prevention Project was re-approved
- Thank you Greg Wanket for agreeing to take minutes at the next meeting.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 10 am.

#### Health Workgroup– Susan Frederick

- Debbie Card gave us a very thorough and interesting report on the Community Connect Program.
- Discussed AARP priorities for COVID 19.
- Discussed how COVID19 may effect older people with memory problems.
- Nursing Homes still having illegal transfers and discharges. What can we do?
- Nicole Howell will be presenting at next HWG meeting and we will ask her.
- Nicole Howell, Ombudsman Services, presenting at next meeting.
- New topic of Older Adult Mental Health at next meeting.

#### Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- First meeting on Tuesday, Feb 9, 9:30am.
- Work with elected officials to support legislation that supports our seniors.
- Aggressively looking for committee members, let Anthony know if you are interested.
- Anthony just distributed the County’s Legislative Platform

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

- Submitted request to Public Health to speak to SMAC about COVID and vaccines.
- No speaker this month – Monday, Jan 25 at 10 am, just report out from various transportation programs.
- The Transportation Infographic – waiting edits and plan to have on March ACOA agenda.

### Nutrition Council – Gail Garrett

- No report, senior centers closed.
- Gail will contact Senior Nutrition Program for update.

### ACOA President's Report – Jim Donnelly

- Thank you to Susan Frederick for her leadership as ACOA president the past two years.
- Looking forward to an interesting year ahead.
- Looking forward council to meet in person again and hopes to have a Christmas party this year.
- Use of Zoom has allowed for a quorum at meetings.
- Jim honored to lead ACOA as president.
- Wants to do Contra Costa Conference on Aging in early 2022.
- Give Jim ideas for presenters to ACOA meetings.
- Jim is serious about his volunteer activities. Hopes all members are also serious.
- Volunteering is about personal commitment and has expectations of what a membership on council is; work on council is by committees/workgroups; please review meeting schedules and see if there are any other workgroups or committees to join.

### **ACOA Membership Expectations – Jim Donnelly (attachment)**

- Review of membership expectations.

### **ACOA Meetings Schedule and meetings calendar for 2021- Jim Donnelly (attachment)**

- Review of 2021 calendar of workgroup and committee meetings.

### **Presentation: COVID-19's Impact on Aging Programs – Debbie Toth**

- The pandemic required us to reimagine who we are; recognize ok not to be who we were; we may be a better us when this is over.
- Funding of programs during pandemic became an issue; “No money, No mission”.
- Non-profits are businesses that have to pay employees, rent and bills.
- Revenues for some nationally known non-profit organizations went up due to increase in donations, especially meal programs.
- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) are licensed health facilities and eligible to public funding.
- Adult Day Care (ADC) is a private pay is social model; service for fee model for private pay; clients need to come into facility for services.
- The ADC organizations hit hard financially; staff laid off.
- Seniors lost their services; both caregiver and person receiving services rely on these services.
- Some applied and received PPP loans; funding ran out; variety of ways were used to stay afloat as best as possible; not all stayed open.
- Choice-In-Aging (CIA) able to secure funding and recreate model.

- Debbie contacted Ca. Dept. of Health Care Services' Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) to figure way to serve people (frail, rely on services) without congregate sites.
- Worked with Calif. Association of Adult Day developed Temporary Alternative Services (TAS) model; this model was approved by State in 48 hours.
- Showed us that we need to develop partnerships to educate legislators.
- Ensure infrastructure for aging programs; must continue to keep track on what is being utilized as this still requires reporting how money is spent.
- County stepped up and got stimulus money and was able to add funding to Title III programs that had been receiving this already.
- Title III money allowed for PPE to go into homes; also requires a release from client to go into home.
- Caitlyn/ MOWDR: discussed what changes and pivoting that programs with MOWDR had.
- Immediate spike in # of people who needed meals up 40%; congregate café changed into drive through pick up of weekly frozen meals and deliveries; developed new programs such as grocery bag program and delivered to clients in addition to meals. Classes for exercise being done virtually; providing seniors in there program tablets such as iPads.
- Choice in Aging: calling their clients 5 days or 3 days a week; activity packages brought to home; exercise and Crafts by home with Zoom; Backyard concerts; Parking lot exercise; Halloween parade; but still saw decline/deterioration; PT began to go into homes and started in home services.
- Then came the vaccines: prioritization of vaccines to the most vulnerable population; mobile vaccine program began in smaller, lower income, racially diverse assisted living homes; 6 bed B&C facilities; constant communication with health department.
- Facilities selected by region of clusters as to where these homes are located.
- Arthur- good job; Mary is wondering if model that Debbie is using can be used for those who cannot leave their homes? Nobody is getting to them at this time.

#### Announcements and Correspondence- Jim Donnelly

- Shirley – Save the Date for the California Senior Legislature's Senior Rally Day (virtual) – Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Regional Coalition Update – Lorna Van Ackeren

- On a personal note: Thank you to Debbie and her team for all the work they are doing getting vaccines to seniors.
- Working with California Collaborative on monthly Zoom meetings. This month they discussed the Master Plan for Aging.
- Next month presenter will be John Cunningham, Transportation Planner for Contra Costa County on how the Master Plan for Aging addresses transportation issues.

#### Public Comment

- None

Next ACOA Meeting March 17, 2021 will include Public Hearing for Area Plan Update

Jim adjourned meeting at 11:30 am.