

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for April 21, 2021 Public Hearing and Meeting

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 34
Vacancies = 6
Pending = 0

Call to Order: Jim Donnelly, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Jim introduced newest council members Candace Evans representing city of Orinda and Sue Metzler, who is Member-at-Large seat #18.

Present:

Martin Aufhauser	Susan Frederick	Brian O'Toole
Jagjit Bhambra	Michelle Hernandez	Erin Partridge
Mary Bruns	Arthur Kee	Penny Reed
Deborah Card	Joanna Kim-Selby	Gerry Richards
Megan Casey	Jill Kleiner	Sam Sakai-Miller
Jim Donnelly	Shirley Krohn	Sara Shafiabady
Kevin Donovan	Nancy Leasure	Frances Smith
Jennifer Doran	Steve Lipson	Terri Tobey
Candace Evans	Sue Metzler	Lorna VanAckeren
Rudy Fernandez	Nuru Neemuchwalla	Dennis Yee

Absent: Gail Garrett, Summer Selleck, Kathie Thompson, Greg Wanket

Guests: Mike Adawalla, Care Patrol; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Carlyn Obringer, City of Concord; Bill Pelter Ability Now; Lillian Roselin, John Muir Community Health Fund; Caitlin Sly, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region; 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 30 members present.

Announcements:

- None

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Approval of meeting agenda motioned by Shirley Krohn and seconded by Arthur Kee. Agenda approved.

Approval of March 2021 Minutes:

- Anthony will re-send March minutes to approve at May meeting
- Correction to last page of draft of March minutes: Next meeting date is April 21 not May 3.

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

- AAA Program Manager- extended conditional offer to candidate, which was accepted. Checking on background and references to be completed. The candidate has passion about programs for disabilities and aging. Tracy has a high degree of enthusiasm for this candidate. We are about 6 weeks out before the person will be onboard.
- Debbie Toth appointed to the on Measure X Advisory Committee.
- The standard for reassessment of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients is 80%. Fifteen months ago, when Tracy took over the department, we were at 56%, this month we are at 82%. Tracy is very pleased. Intake assessment is still struggling to have timely assessments.
- Adult Protective Services division manager resigned. Will be recruiting for new one. Requirements: Masters level and aging experience. This provides a fine opportunity for someone to come in and lead that team.
- The County budget presented to the Board of Supervisors yesterday. Essentially Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) will maintain the current number of employees.
- California Department of Aging funding will be \$5.4 million. Negotiating contracts with community agencies. Contracts amounts distributed in pro rata basis. Contracts start July 1.
- Fran – when IHSS began, they had funding for training. During the administration of Arnold Schwarzenegger cut it out, funding for that removed and never replaced.

Committee and Work Group Reports:

Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran

- We have 10 new members in the past year. At our next meeting, allow time in meeting to introduce selves.
- Walnut Creek city representative, Frank Napoli, has resigned and recruitment has begun.
- Expecting resignation from Martinez city representative in May.
- All Member-At-Large (MAL) seats filled.
- Brian O'Toole will be "buddy" (council mentor) to Candace Evans, Orinda city representative.

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Presentations from Center for Elders Independence and Choice in Aging. Both agencies provide critical Adult Day Care services. Both go the extra mile. Talked about program transitions through the pandemic. Both agencies are responsive, creative we are very supportive of what they are doing in the community
- Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging did an overview of Master Plan for Aging.
- Next meeting: Thursday, May 6 – we will have presentations from Senior Information & Assistance and Health Information Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP)

Health Workgroup– Susan Frederick

- Nhang Luong of Senior Information and Assistance (I&A) Hotline was presenter.
- I&A receives an average of 1600 calls a month. Calls answered within 30 seconds, average wait time is 4 minutes. Can keep place in line and get a call back. Twenty percent of calls are about housing needs followed by in-home care needs.

- There are six social workers and two part-time retired social workers who work at the call center
- It is an integrated Call Center, which means that they do intake for IHHS and if not eligible, they give info on what the next step would be for the caller.
- Workgroup drafted two letters of support for bills sent to directly to legislative committee to speed up approval. Next month to executive committee and then to the council for approval.
- Next month workgroup we will add two more reports to the agenda. Caitlin Sly will report on senior nutrition and Denis Yee will report on Equity in Healthcare covering racial disparities in health and medical outcomes.
- Ernesto De La Torre is the new CCHS COVID 19 Adult Ambassadors Program Manager I have seen and heard him at several meetings. He is very thoughtful and I expect he will do an excellent Job.

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Habitat for Humanity East Bay/ Silicon Valley - Laura Salcido, Resource Development Manager, and Home Preservation – presented about their services, building homes, home repair, counseling, and rent support.
- Hector Malvido, Policy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement Manager, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa County – reported on legislative issues.
- The Committee is working on Housing White Paper with EHSD Policy & Planning. Waiting for new census data. It will hopefully be released in August

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Last meeting presenter- Justin Lola, VP of IT for Center for Elders’ Independence (CEI) regarding technology training for CEI clients.
- ACOA website – WG member Sam shared information and showed the draft of proposed changes of the website that she has been working on using WordPress platform used by EHSD for updating of their webpages.
- Sam walked workgroup through completion of the google form for submission of resources to the ACOA webpage.

Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Terri Tobey

- Workgroup is losing two members and gaining new member, Sue Meltzer. Please join!
- Last month we had a presentation from Gretchen Ellis from STAND for Families Free of Violence about interpersonal violence and services they provide.
- Surprised that 1/3 of older adult victims are men.
- Abraham Aviles-Scott from Contra Costa Senior Peer Counseling will present at the next meeting
- Final approval of workgroup Elder Abuse Prevention PowerPoint presentation at the next meeting.
- Scheduled presentations: May 25 in Rossmoor and June 1 in Danville.

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- Senior Rally Day – May 4 – be sure to register!

- The Workgroup prepared six letters for the Executive Committee to review at their next meeting.
- On April 6, Shirley testified to Aging and Adult Care Committee in Sacramento regarding (AB 383) regarding creating an Older Adult Mental Health Administrator within the State Department of Health Care Services. The bill unanimously approved in Committee. It is now on the Health Committee consent calendar. After Health Committee, the bill goes to the Appropriations Committee.
- Shirley is drafting an opinion piece about the importance of Master Plan for Aging as one of the good things that Newsom did.
- Will send out California Senior Legislature bills and their status to workgroup for next meeting.

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

- Upcoming meeting: Elaine Welch will talk about Mobility Matters.
- Last meeting Rashida Kamara shared: At County Connection, 68% of drivers vaccinated. Drivers were trained by the County and had additional PPE and were classified as emergency workers
- Thank you to Melanie Smith for taking minutes.
- Unless someone can help with verification of data that there is some concern about Transportation Infographic cannot be published
- Tracy Murray referred Mary to ask for assistance from EHSD's Policy & Planning Dept. on verifying the data.

ACOA President's Report – Jim Donnelly

- If you are not able to attend meeting please submit Leave of Absence form. Ideally before the meeting but if not before the meeting, please do it afterwards.
- The expectation of ACOA members is that you attend at least two meetings a month, ACOA general meeting and a workgroup or committee meeting.
- If you miss four ACOA meetings in a row, for unexcused absences, we can request your removal from council.
- Please be sure you are a member of Workgroup or Committee.
- Both Debbie Toth, and ACOA member Dr. Michelle Hernandez appointed to the Measure X Advisory Committee.
- Reminder: Senior Rally Day May 4.
- May 11th MOWDR – Fall Prevention Coalition meeting.
- Dishing with Debbie on Thursdays on Facebook once a month.
- May 20 Ombudsman monthly webinar – this month's topic -Rise in violence against Asian Americans.
- June 24 Master Plan for Aging Town Hall (tentative time 9:30-11:30)

Presentation: Master Plan for Aging Update – Debbie Toth

PowerPoint Presentation attached to minutes.

Announcements and Correspondence- Jim Donnelly

- Public Hearing on CDA Older Adult State Plan on Monday, 4/26 at 1pm and another at 3 pm
- Anthony will send email with information on how to attend.

Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth

- Organizers meeting to plan June 24 Master Plan for Aging Town Hall.
- May fifth Advocacy Day –meetings are set with legislators (or their staff) Rebecca Bauer-Kahn, Steve Glazer, Tim Grayson, and Nancy Skinner.
- Link to Justice in Aging – tracking MPA legislation <https://justiceinaging.org/2021-legislative-bills-related-to-the-master-plan-for-aging/>

Public Comment

- Gerald:
Works with American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on bills that reform the criminal justice system. Including one that modifies the Brown Act to allow Zoom meetings to continue post-pandemic. We might be interested in following this legislation.
- Joanna:
Korean Senior Center in Alameda County AAPI committee formed by Assembly members and Senators of Asian nature. They send out information to us so we know what is going on and they try to help us out.
Lake Merritt area attack on Asian man
City of El Cerrito on Mira Vista Drive area neighbors formed a committee to 800 post locally very active. Fair Oaks neighborhood also has group.
- Sara:
Next meeting of National Aging in Place Council (NAIPC) is on May 6. They will receive a presentation from a palliative care physician.
April is “National Donate Life Month”.

Next ACOA Meeting May 19, 2021. Presentation from Dr. James Mittelberger, Chief Medical Officer, Center for Elders Independence & geriatrician

Jim adjourned meeting at 11:30 am. Shirley moved.