

Advisory Council on Aging Planning Committee
June 1, 2021, Minutes of the Meeting

Call to Order: Kevin Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Kevin Donovan, Debbie Card, Jim Donnelly, Jill Kleiner, Dennis Yee, Arthur Kee

Absent: Susan Frederick (LOA)

Guest: Jason Schwartz CCSLS; Nicole Howell, Ombudsman Services; Dr. Michelle Hernandez (ACOA member); Debra Hanschar, Ombudsman Services

Staff Present: Glenda Pacha, Anthony Macias

Approval of Today's Agenda: Approval of agenda motioned by Arthur; Debbie motioned second; agenda approved by all.

Approval of May Minutes: Approval of minutes motioned by Jim, Dennis motioned second, minutes approved as written by all.

AAA Report – AAA Staff

- Anna Bagtas, new program manager for AAA, to begin June 1.
- Possible new funding coming to AAA programs with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Contractor Presentation: Contra Costa Senior Legal Services, Jason Schwarz, Exec. Director

- Provides free legal services for seniors 60 years of age and older residing in Contra Costa County with focus on housing and elder abuse.
- CCSLS commits to serving more than 450 unduplicated clients each year and performing a minimum of 3,723 hours in direct client services and legal education workshops.
- Advocating for Elder Justice: resolve legal problems that are adversely affecting basic needs of the elderly such as food, shelter, health care, and freedom from physical, psychological or economic abuse.
- Have both paid staff and volunteers.
- CCSLS assists residents of Contra Costa County aged 60 and over who are economically disadvantaged. Of this population, we are especially concerned with those who have disabilities, are isolated, and who struggle with poverty. We also serve non-English speaking residents
- Dennis- any need/underserved areas that could use more resources? Solar energy exploitation cases; highly time-consuming cases; fraud type cases have time intensity dimension.
- Jill- question about rent relief? Response: Ramping up of evictions, but has not spiked as high as was predicted. Have a Rent relief program- not much has come through.
- Kevin- question about big increase in bankruptcy help? Response: unknown percentage of how many are being helped by CCSLS. Attorney for clients of Ombudsman Services.

Update from Ombudsman Services: Nicole Howell, Executive Director and Debra Hanschar, Program Manager Contra Costa.

- In June will be announcing new organization name. (Empowered Aging)
- All facilities had completed all vaccine clinics by end of April; 95% of 60+ have received their vaccines in CCC.
- Returned to facilities in Sept 2020 with full PPE ; now wearing normal PPE (mask); all of Ombudsman are 100% vaccinated;
- Twelve to fifteen facility visits will be completed each day by Debra and her staff. Excited to have staff in facilities.
- Visits permitted inside buildings with masks and social distancing still required.
- Need to prepare for hot weather, fires and power outages.
- There was a fire at a residential facility in Walnut Creek. Fortunately, all residents are safe and the evacuation went well. Concerns were to make sure residents had access to medication, clothing and making sure family members kept informed.
- Dennis- PSP question? Power outage and lack of generators; small facilities are not required to have generators.
- Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA) program; graduating 3rd cohort this year; delivering the intimate care on a daily basis. Lack of trained staff is deadly for residences.
- 340/350 “six beds” (Board and Care) approximately in county. Frequent visits to facilities to monitor temperatures and monitor closely those that are in financial trouble.
- It was hard to get volunteers during pandemic; Debra working on recruiting and training classes in the Fall. Working with the other two counties (Alameda/Solano) as well. Field Ombudsman are staff and volunteers. Cases are more complex and staff is more involved than volunteers are and there is use of SW interns.

Discussion

- Exceptional presentations and support provided by the two presenting groups. The future feels much brighter for care of older adults in our communities, due to the commitment of great service agencies.
- Aggressive solar panel sales people are an issue for seniors.
- Ombudsman- great leadership and great training program; creative approach and the classes to help with soft skills; targeting first generation of post-high school training;
- Retention of trainees is also important as is providing the trainees with opportunities to advance their careers.
- Jill- follow-up with Nicole and ask how long trainees last and what is the turnover rate?

Community Connect and ACOA – Debbie Card

- Most staff is working from home; number of staff are employed to work on the COVID issues; no update on the presentation from Community Connect, hopefully October ACOA general meeting.

Area Plan Update (APU) Power Point – AAA Staff

- Oversee the distribution of OAA funds
- Provide program and fiscal monitoring of all providers to ensure quantity and quality of services.
- Objectives: ACOA Planning Committee Goal 1: focus on the objectives that are listed; Goal 2: engage with the MPA as requested.
- Debbie: more detailed information perhaps at event on 6/24.

Items for Executive Committee:

- Objectives from APU.

Next Meeting:

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 9:30-11:30, location: Zoom
- Family Caregiver Alliance
- Alheimers' Association

Public Comment:

- None

Adjourn 11:30 a.m.