

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes for June 15, 2022 Meeting**

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 37
Vacancies = 4
Pending= 0

Call to Order: Jim Donnelly, council President, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present:

Mike Awadalla	Jennifer Doran	Erin Partridge
Swamini Bajpai	Rudy Fernandez	Brian O’Toole
Michelle Berman	Eric Freitag	Gerald Richards
Jagjit Bhambra	Dale Harrington	Michael Rigsby
Mary Bruns	Jody Iorns	Sam Sakai-Miller
Rhoda Butler	Jill Kleiner	Sara Shafiabady
Deborah Card	Shirley Krohn	Terri Tobey
Jim Donnelly	Steve Lipson	Lorna Van Ackeren
Kevin Donovan	Nuru Neemuchwalla	Dennis Yee

Absent: Martin Aufhauser, Kacey Carterelliott, Candace Evans, Arthur Kee, Nancy Leasure, George Lee Nuru Neemuchwalla, Penny Reed, Sutter Selleck, Francés Smith, Michael Wener

Guests: Dr. Marla Stuart (Employment and Human Services Department), Debbie Toth (Choice in Aging), Bill Pelter (Ability Now Bay Area), Caitlin Sly (Meals- on-Wheels Diablo Region), Shawna Reeves (Legal Assistance for Seniors), Susannah Meyer (Empowered Aging), Tara Cantu (Choice in Aging)

Staff Present: Ana Bagtas, Jenny Lam, Anthony Macias, Glenda Pacha

Roll Call: Anthony Macias conducted the roll call and noted 30 members present establishing a quorum.

Approval of Today’s Agenda:

- Shirley Krohn made a motion to approve the agenda. Rudy Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of May 2022 Minutes:

- Gerald Richards made a motion to approve the May 2022 minutes. Dale Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Division Manager’s Report – Ana Bagtas, AAA Program Manager

- The monitoring of the AAA by Department of Aging (CDA) began on June 13 and ends on June 17. CDA has provided technical support on initial findings, with the final report

expected within 60 days of the monitoring. CDA provided positive feedback on the recently completed Title IIIB Request for Proposal, contract template, and monitoring tool.

Corrections are needed on the client grievance policy, provider complaint resolution, and voluntary contribution policies.

- The AAA Staff worked hard renewing contracts and closing the fiscal year.
- The Implementing the Master Plan for Aging in California Together (IMPACT) Steering Committee established champions for transportation, housing, equity and inclusion, workforce, and health to canvas and collect information about coalitions and groups, formal and informal, that address these issues.
- Beginning in July 2023, the AAA will take over administration and oversight of the senior nutrition program, which is currently under the Contra Costa Public Health through an interdepartmental agreement with EHSD.
- CDA announced the Older Adults Recovery and Reliance (OARR) funding program for the following Dignity at Home/Fall Prevention, Older Californians Nutrition Program and Intergenerational Activities, and Senior Legal Services. Contra Costa received an allocation of \$1,648,971 for these services.

ACOA Committee and Work Group Reports:

Membership Committee – Jill Kleiner

- There are two candidates for membership awaiting appointment to the ACAO by the Board of Supervisors.
- Welcomed Dale Harrington to the Membership Committee.
- Current vacancies include Cities of Concord, El Cerrito, Pinole and San Pablo, as well as an opening for a Senior Nutrition Program representative.

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Some members of the Planning Committee assisted Glenda, Jenny and Anthony with on-site contracts monitoring visits with AAA contracted service providers.
- Each visit ran from 1.5 to 2 hours covering the organization's governance, client demographics, program operations and data and fiscal management.

Health Workgroup – Jennifer Doran

- Abraham Aviles-Scott, director of Contra Costa Health Services Senior Peer Counseling program presented at the June meeting.
- Dr. Sara Levin, Deputy Health Officer at Contra Costa Health Services, presents at the August meeting.
- A new sub-workgroup is being formed to research assisted living housing for older adults in the county.

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

- Workgroup did not meet in May.
- Rashida Kumara of County Connection and John Cunningham, planner with the County's Department of Conservation and Development, will present at the June meeting.

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Workgroup did not meet in June.

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- The workgroup discussed Access to Technology (ATT) program that has a potential \$1.45 million dollars in funding for digital divide initiatives in the county.
- Steve discussed the “Lighthouse for Older Adults” (Lighthouse), a public-private initiative to pilot access to telehealth and internet services to low-income seniors launched by the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS).
- Lighthouse aims to equip older adult residents of affordable housing communities with internet access, telehealth tools, and digital literacy skills they need to access information, health care services, and social connections.
- The workgroup will be looking for speakers on Technology for older adults to come and present at their meetings.

ACOA President’s Report – Jim Donnelly

- Consent Items- Approve letter of support for Choice in Aging’s “Aging in Place” campus. Jody Iorns made a motion to approve consent item. Lorna Van Ackeren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Planning the MPA local implementation conference at Pleasant Hill Community Center on November 17, 2022 with ACOA and IMPACT steering committee.

Introduction: Marla Stuart, Director of Employment and Humans Services Department (EHSD)

- Marla Stuart is the new director of EHSD. She has 35 years in public service and holds an MSW and PHD in Social Work.
- Dr. Stuart’s focus is on the delivery of Social Services through public and private collaboration.
- She is a data driven and focuses on how data can drive change.
- She thanked the ACOA and its committee for their community involvement.
- Acknowledged that evidence-based practices are embedded into the plan.

Presentation: Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention, Shawna Reeves, Special Project Consultant, Legal Assistance for Seniors

- Recognized the significance of the day as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- Discussed the following issues:
 - 1 out of 100 seniors passed away from COVID. Over fifty percent of the unhoused are over 55 years or older.
- Shared resources including fraud education by the California Dept. of Financial Protection and Innovation and privacy protection through the Consumer Privacy Protection Act.
- Major banks are obligated to report cases to APS, but rarely do or report when funds have already been depleted. Banks need to be held liable for not reporting.

Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging

- Coalition is focusing on the November 17 local Master Plan for Aging event.
- Coalition is adding quarterly webinars that highlight local MPA implementation in the state.

Public Comment

- Debbie stated that transportation for older and disabled adults is an equity issue. Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC) is working to educate public officials on aging and disability transportation issues.
- Sara Shafiabady commented the National Age in Place organization is reviewing Safe Discharge Planning. This is to educate the public on safe hospital discharge planning.

Next ACOA Meeting is on Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am