



Contra Costa County
Advisory Council on Aging
Health Workgroup

MINUTES
Second Thursday
August 12, 2021
9:30 to 11:30

Join Zoom link:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/84850843773?pwd=ZlMwY3tEY3ZW15UnFwa0tCVUkydz09>

Telephone: USA (214) 765 0478

Password: 767669 Conference code: 445291

MINUTES

- I. 9:33 The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Doran, acting Health Workgroup Chair welcomed everyone.
- II. Attendance: Members present (ACOA members in **bold**) - **Jennifer Doran, Jim Donnelly, Nancy Leasure, Brian O'Toole, Terri Tobey, Dennis Yee**, Caitlin Sly (MOWDR), and Melanie Smith (EHSD Staff), Debra Hanschar, Manager of Contra Costa Ombudsman Program.
- III. Approve Today's Agenda
Motion by Nancy, second by Dennis to approve today's agenda.
- IV. Approve June 10, 2021 draft minutes (Health Workgroup was recessed in July)
Motion by Jim, second by Nancy to approve the June minutes with the following correction of changing the word de-licensing to re-licensing in paragraph VII. Members Reports, subparagraph C. Legislative:

SB 48. Internists, general practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical social workers need to complete at least 4 hours continuing education for re-licensing.
- V. Announcements – Jim stated that Susan Frederick has resigned from the ACOA and he suggested Jennifer as the interim Chair. Jennifer accepted the challenge as Chair, with Susan as the Co-Chair.

Motion by Terri Tobey, second by Caitlin Sly to recommend to the Chair of the ACOA Jennifer Doran as Chair and Susan Frederick as Co-Chair; Vote unanimous.
- VI. Presentation: Debra Hanschar, Manager of Contra Costa Ombudsman Program, Empowered Aging. As of September 1, 2021 Debra's title will change to Program Coordinator.

Empowered Aging is their rebranded name as they add extended programs helping individuals age in their communities. Ombudsman has a resident empowerment program where they hand off residents in LTC to Senior Legal Services.

Jennifer explained the Health Workgroup plan to focus on and improve LTC. Ombudsman wants to educate and take some of the fear out of LTC.

Please see attached PowerPoint presentation for the overview of the Ombudsman Program. There are 29 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) - 3,397 Medicare/MediCal certified beds on any given day they can be any combination including individual insurance. They are driven by their profit model. Custodial residents have rights and it is very difficult to discharge a patient; so it is important for the facility to make sure a custodial patient is a good fit. Bed availability is dependent and effected by the impact of the shortage of licensed staff, COVID19 protocols, and reserving space for a pandemic "Red Zone." Staff not being vaccinated may play a factor in the future. Residential facilities are not licensed so the rules are different.

Debra said the best way to help people is planning – Understand Medicare and MediCal benefits, have a payment plan in place, explore options to remain in home. People should explore early and apply sooner for Medicare and MediCal which may allow a payment plan to be in place prior to the moment they need to enter a facility. "There are a number of people that qualify for MediCal in CCC that are not aware of it."

Dennis asked if Medicare and MediCal education classes exist and Debra replied that may be what we want to explore as a solution. Danville and San Ramon Senior Centers have "buzz sessions" where questions come up about LTC.

Ombudsman has no enforcement powers. They can look at the violations, investigate, make recommendations and issue a citation. There is then a legal review from the departments of Public Health and Social Services. During the pandemic licensing reviews are taking place remotely.

There are public records of facilities at www.medicare.gov to research a facility. Assisted living CDSS post the number of citations and complaints. The average cost of a SNF is 10 to 12 thousand dollars a month.

Debra provided the following details to be added to the minutes:

- A. For information about complaints and inspections of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly go to:

<https://www.cclld.dss.ca.gov/carefacilitysearch/>

Enter the name of the facility and scroll down to the tabs at the bottom of the page. The facility evaluation report is the highlighted date under "All Visit Dates".

- B. For information about complaints and inspections of Skilled Nursing Facilities go to:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CalHealthFind/Pages/Home.aspx>

Enter the name of the facility. The facility name and location will appear. Click on the facility name in the black text box which will take you to another box. Click "View Details" to see the complaints filed against the facility.

Please see attached Advisory Council on Aging Health Workgroup August 12 21 PowerPoint.

- VII. Discussion of long term care informational project. – Group will discuss at the next meeting.
- VIII. Master Plan on Aging (MPA) Local playbook workshop (6/24) Health recommendations – Jennifer has a list of priorities that were compiled by volunteers that concerns her as it is vast. Caitlin clarified that we are asked to contribute some work but not to accomplish it all. Jim further clarified that he had conversations with Tracy Murray (EHSD Aging & Adult Services) and Ana Bagtas (AAA Program Director) regarding the MPA Goals. Jim will share the list of goals with the workgroup.
- IX. Members Reports - time permitting (please e-mail staff any report details you would like included in the minutes immediately after the meeting - msmith1@ehsd.cccounty.us)
 - A. Legislative - Nancy Leasure

The following bills are waiting to be enacted by the appropriate branch of the legislature before being signed by the governor. Here is the status of each bill.

AB 323. Re-referred to the Senate Appropriation Committee (AAPR)

AB 570. In Senate APPR

AB 849. No change. Ordered to third reading 6/24/21

SB 48. In Assembly APPR

SB 56. In Assembly APPR
 - B. Senior Mental Health – Susan Frederick provided “07.28.2021-Presentation to Older Adult Focus Group” as her report. Please see attached PDF.
- X. Staff Reports –
- XI. Discussion
- XII. Public Comment – Jim re-iterated to the workgroup members to start thinking about the ACOA Annual reports. Caitlin updated that MOWDR home delivered meals to the same number of people in need as they are afraid to go out because of Delta – cafes have opened two days a week but with low participation. Original plan was to go to 5 days a week after Labor Day but it is looking like 3 days based on low participation; take away is it looks like it will stay at 3 days a week. The cafes are 5 frozen meals, delivery is 5 frozen, 2 cold. Home delivered clients prefer the 5 frozen, 2 cold.
- XIII. 11:30 Adjournment

The ACOA meets currently on Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 11:30am and recesses in July, and November. Work Group and Committees: SMAC, Elder Abuse Prevention, Health, Housing, Legislative, Membership, Nutrition, Planning, and Technology.

The Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging and its committees will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disability planning to attend the above noticed meeting if the call 925-602-4172 and ask for Anthony Macias at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the Area Agency on Aging on all matters related to the development and administration of the annual Area Agency Plan and operations conducted thereunder, in accordance with mandates from the Older Americans Act. Any comments or recommendations made by the council or its individual members do not represent the official position of the County or any of its officers.