

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes for September 15, 2021 Meeting**

**ACOA MEMBERSHIP**

Active Members = 36  
Vacancies = 4  
Pending= 0

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

**Present:**

Martin Aufhauser	Gail Garrett	Erin Partridge
Michelle Berman	Michelle Hernandez	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	Lorna Van Ackeren
Jennifer Doran	Sue Meltzer	Dennis Yee
Candace Evans	Nuru Neemuchwalla	
Rudy Fernandez	Brian O'Toole	

**Absent:** Rhoda Butler, Kacey Carterelliott, Megan Casey, Eric Freitag, Joanna Kim-Selby, Sutter Selleck, Frances Smith

**Guests:** Dale Harrington, council applicant, Walnut Creek; Bill Pelter, Ability Now; Michael Wener, council applicant, Walnut Creek/Rossmoor; Lillian Roselin, John Muir Community Health Fund (JMCHF); Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging; Marie Osuna, Oakley resident; Michelle Ozun, Danville resident; Lee Pullen, Marin County Aging and Adult Services; Eli Gerlardin ,Marin Center for Independent Living; Ben Ellsworth, of Congressman DeSaulniers Office; Caitlin Sly, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region; Jackie Livings, CCHS Senior Nutrition Program

**Staff Present:** Ana Bagtas, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging, Glenda Pacha and Anthony Macias

**Roll Call:** Anthony Macias called the roll; 28 members present established a quorum.

**Announcements:**

- None

**Approval of Today's Agenda:**

- Shirley Krohn motioned to approve the agenda. Debbie Card seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of May 2021 Minutes:**

- Gerald Richards motioned to approve the August 2021 minutes. Penny Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## Presentation: Marin County's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

Presenters: Eli Gelardin, Executive CEO, Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL)  
Lee Pullen, Director, Marin County Aging and Adult Services

- Eli and Lee, co-chairs of Marin County's ADRC, provided an overview of the development of Marin's ADRC and shared the following insights and lessons learned from the project:
  - Involved agency directors, Advisory Council, and other partners in the ADRC project.
  - Hired an administrator/manager to coordinate the development of the project, complete State forms and applications, and communicate with the California Department of Aging (CDA).
  - Used infrastructure grant to hire staff. Current positions include the ADRC administrator/manager, two service coordinators, and one navigator.
  - Collaborated with hospitals and nursing homes for transition services referrals from institution to home.
  - Utilized ADRC in disaster response, such COVID-19, to expand food distribution, triage, support community members, and provide caregiving resources.
- Eli and Lee identified digital access and equity as emerging needs and advised engaging with key agencies with staff and multiple language capabilities that reflect underserved communities.
- ONE DOOR is the name of Marin ADRC (logo attached). A marketing campaign is in development.
- Eli and Lee addressed questions, listened to comments, and provided the following response:
  - The information and assistance team can connect clients to services.
  - Funding comes from a variety of sources, including County and State, and administered by MCIL on behalf of the ADRC.
  - Involve the managers of Adult Protective Services and In-Home Support Services early on in the process of ADRC development.
  - Lean on the ADRC advisory committee more intentionally and more often to discuss challenges and seek advice.

## Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager's Report –

Ana Bagtas, Area Agency on Aging Program Manager, reported on the following (see attached for details of the report):

- The AAA launched the Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) program to distribute 131 iPads to eligible clients. Contact Nhang Luong at nluong@ehsd.cccounty.us or call Rosalinda Camacho at 925-655-1362 to make a referral.
- Medicare Open Enrollment season has begun. Contact HICAP to meet with a counselor to understand the changes in Medicare and available benefits and costs.
- The AAA is preparing to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids for the Older Americans Act Title IIIB Supportive Services, which includes case management, transportation, telephone reassurance, visiting, etc.
- Ana Bagtas and Susan Rotchy, the Executive Director of the Independent Living Resource Center are meeting next week to discuss next steps with recruiting and retaining a consultant to help with developing an ADRC for Contra Costa County.

- Assembling a Contra Costa County IMPACT Committee, the steering committee that will help develop a plan to implement the priority areas identified at the June 24 Master Plan for Aging (MPA) rollout in Contra Costa County.

### **Committee and Work Group Reports:**

#### Membership Committee – Jill Kleiner

- Current vacant seats: Concord, Martinez, Pinole, and San Pablo; one member-at-large vacancy.
- In the process of interviewing new applicants and welcomes new members to join.

#### Nominating Committee – Jill Kleiner

- Completed outreach to members gather interest in being officers for next year.

#### Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- Welcomed Michelle Berman, newest member of Planning Committee.
- Discussed Ana’s updates on ADRC, MPA, and monitoring of AAA contractors.
- Reported presentation by Uplift Family Services Kinship Program and Debbie Card’s announcement of Community Connect Program funding ending on Dec 31, 2021 and replaced by CalAIM beginning in January 2022.

#### Health Workgroup– Jennifer Doran

- Looking at issues affecting residents in skilled nursing facilities and long-term care homes.
- Heard presentation by California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

#### Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- AB383 mental health bill died in the Appropriations Committee. Will try again next session.
- Workgroup does not meet until next January, when legislative session starts again.

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

- Joanna Pallack of West County Transportation will be presenting at the next meeting.
- Heard presentation about Uber Wave and Measure X.
- Encouraged writing letters to the Measure X committee in support of senior services and accessible transportation.

#### Nutrition – Gail Garrett

- Monthly meeting for meal review for congregate meals is to begin again.
- Next meeting of the Nutrition Council is in October.
- CC café is now Café Costa and has a new signage and logo.

#### Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Next meeting is Monday 9/20. Justin Jarrett from the Crisis Center and will discuss how Housing will fit into Master Plan for Aging.

#### Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Terri Tobey

- Mary Knox, Deputy District Attorney in the Elder Abuse unit presented at the last meeting.
- Emily Milstein from Contra Costa Senior Legal Services will present at the 9/28 meeting.

- Announced the Fall Prevention Event at the Rossmoor Event Center, September 23, 10am-2pm.

#### Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson

- Sam Sakai-Miller presented to the Executive Committee about workgroups and committee adding content to the new ACOA website.
- Thanked Kevin Donovan for attending the Bay Area Regional Digital Inclusion Group meeting.

#### ACOA President’s Report – Jim Donnelly

- Shared Contra Costa demographics released by the Census Bureau and COVID data (attached).
- Asked Committees and Workgroups to send annual updates on their Area Plan objectives to Anthony by November 9.
- ACOA will return to in-person meetings starting Oct 1 due to reinstatement of the Brown Act/Better Government provisions set forth by the county board of supervisors. ACOA members was sent the Brown Act and Open Government Rules guidance to attend any council meetings remotely (attached).

#### Announcements and Correspondence- Jim Donnelly

- None

#### Consent Item – approve Michael Wener as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Member

- Gerry Richards moved to approve Michael Wener as 1<sup>st</sup> alternate member. Marty Aufhauser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Regional Coalition Update – Debbie Toth

- Announced the “Amplifying All Voices” series held over a four-week period. Debbie will send information to Anthony to forward to council members.
- Asked members to write letters of support for Measure X funding for services for older adults in the county, especially for accessible transportation.

#### Public Comment

- Choice-in-Aging is hosting Bedford Center Block Party on October 9, a fundraising event for Adult Day Health Care program in Antioch.

Next ACOA Meeting October 20, 2021.

Jim adjourned meeting at 11:30am.