Kern County Commission On Aging
Stephanie Lynch, Chairperson
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1052; (661) 868-1001 FAX

REGULAR COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
MINUTES
June 15, 2015
Greenacres Community Center
2014 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312

OPENING
CALL TO ORDER:
Chairperson Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:
The flag salute was completed and a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS (*Chairperson, **Vice Chairperson, *** Parliamentarian)
Commission Members Present: Chris Barrett, Gloria Brown, Aaron Flucker, Linda Fuller, **Kris Grasty, Norma Jackson, Jon Johnston, *Stephanie Lynch, Sandy Morris, Marti Overfield, Yolanda Prado, and Cynthia Ruiz

Excused Absences: Harley Baker, Doris Duquette, Margaret Mooney, and Linda Oswald
A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

Aging and Adult Services Staff Present:
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

Guests:
Sandra Rodezno, Dick Taylor, Bob Lerude, Mishelle Ulrich, Grace Bradbury, Don Graham, Betty Gilfillan, Janet Andrea, Nicole Y. Lombera, Peg Walker, and Catherine Vasquez

AGENDA & MINUTES
POSTING: Lito Morillo confirmed agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

CORRESPONDENCE:
• A letter was sent to Sandy Morris congratulating her on receiving a Beautiful Bakersfield Award for her Bakersfield Christmas for Seniors Program.

• A letter was sent to Dr. Scott Modell thanking him for speaking at the 18th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference on May 14, 2015.
COMMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST
Public Comments:
Sandra Rodezno, of The Village at Seven Oaks, talked about their new assisted living and memory care facility at 4301 Buena Vista Rd., in Bakersfield. There are 48 apartments. They have studios, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedrooms available.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Jackson thanked the Greenacres Senior Center staff for the delicious meal they prepared.

Chair Lynch welcomed and introduced Sandy Morris as a new Commissioner on the Commission on Aging. This is her first meeting attending as a Commissioner.

ACTION ITEMS

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for the month of May 18, 2015, Regular Commission on Aging Meeting were approved as prepared: Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) (Grasty/Flucker/Prado, Overfield, Morris/None) Motion carried.

- NOMINATION FOR OFFICERS: Chair Lynch opened the floor for nominations for the 2015-2017 Commission on Aging (COA) officers. After nominations were closed, the slate was presented as follows: Chair, Kris Grasty; Vice-Chair, Yolanda Prado, Norma Jackson; Parliamentarian, Linda Oswald, Marti Overfield. Time was given for voting. Commissioners Brown and Johnston counted the votes and Chair Lynch reported the results: Chair, Kris Grasty; Vice-Chair, Yolanda Prado; Parliamentarian, Linda Oswald. Chair Lynch thanked the Nominating Committee for their help with nominations for election of new officers. Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) (Brown/Johnston/None/None) Motion carried.

SERVICE PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

VETERANS OFFICE – Richard Taylor
Richard Taylor provided information regarding the Press Release issued May 29, 2015 by the Kern County District Attorney's Office. Announced a temporary restraining order was issued against a local business owner and his two companies alleging they have fraudulently misrepresented the nature of the services that they provide in order to obtain aid and attendance benefits for military veterans and their spouses. The Judge also assigned a receiver to oversee the operation of the business owner and his two companies. So far over 60 victims have been identified in Kern County alone. The Kern County Board of Supervisors will be declaring "Rosie the Riveter Day in Kern County" on Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT – Grace Bradbury
Grace Bradbury reported the seniors who attend the senior center are very active. They have karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursday and this usually brings a lot of seniors to the center. They have music and love to dance. Attendance has gone down and they now serve approximately 23 meals per day, and almost 6,000 meals per year. They have a new stove in the kitchen.
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION- Bob Lerude
Bob Lerude thanked the senior center staff for the meal they prepared. The attendance at the Veterans facilities have declined. Tuesday, June 23, 2015 is the first day of budget hearings. East Niles will be getting a new roof and fencing that will happen sometime in the Fall. The Cooling Centers have been opened and were presented before the Board of Supervisors and the grant from PG&E was accepted. The Department has been affected significantly by the water cutbacks. There is 15-16 different water districts throughout the county in which they have to abide by. There are issues on the Kern River. For the first time in history the city is expecting the Kern River will run dry. They are expecting significant water impacts to agriculture within the next ten years. Fifty percent of water use in California is used for environmental type reason, forty percent is used for agriculture, and ten percent is used for home and business use.

At 1:41 p.m., Chair Lynch excused herself from the meeting and turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Grasty to facilitate the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT - Janet Andrea
Janet Andrea reported on how to prevent over-heating. Seniors are more vulnerable to overheating. The body sends signals to the brain that it's overheating. These signals prompt the brain to release hormones that cause the body to sweat, which allows the body to cool off. Sometimes when the body is overheated, the cooling mechanism doesn't work so the body is not allowing itself to sweat or cool off and the body can reach up to a dangerous 106 degrees. It is important to recognize symptoms of overheating such as dizziness, thirst, confusion, changes of behavior, staggering, strong, rapid pulse or slow, weak pulse, dry skin, flushed skin (red in the face), lack of sweating, weakness, swelling, high body temperature, and faint. Pay attention to your weather forecast. Keep fluids on hand and stay hydrated. Don't exercise in the heat, drink plenty of fluids, avoid caffeine and alcohol, dress appropriately with breathable clothing, and keep your house cool.

The plastic water bottles are intended for a one-time use. When the plastic is heated, chemicals are leached from the plastic into the water and can be cancer-causing. Try to refrain from using and keeping plastic water bottles in the car. Many BPA-free plastics are just as bad as the BPA-laden kind. Glass does not leach chemicals and is the best to use. Stainless steel is second best although it does release a little bit of nickel. If plastic cannot be avoided, silicone is the best.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Peg Walker
Peg Walker provided an update on expanding Mental Health senior services within the next year. The Good Samaritan Hospital will open their geriatric psychiatric unit in Bakersfield, CA on July 1, 2015. They will begin with six beds and are approved to accept 5150 admissions. They will be working closely with community representatives from Mental Health and have received a lot of training from the Alzheimer’s Association. Administration is hoping to develop a secured psychiatric facility for seniors this year. Currently these seniors are placed in Los Angeles County.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – Adrianna Kessler
Not in attendance.

EMPLOYERS TRAINING RESOURCE - Peggy Langels
Not in attendance.
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Catherine Vasquez
Nicole Lombera reported on the Fair Housing program. This program protects from and investigates harassment, discrimination, and hate violence complaints based on race, color, religion, gender, etc. They also help the landlords and tenants resolve complaints involving alleged violations of the law.

Catherine Vasquez provided information on the Home Access Grant Program. This program will help with up to $3,000 to install grab bars, ramps, tubs, and other necessary items to help persons with disabilities. This is an income based program and is available to home owners and renters, with the owners approval. The Home Improvement program is a no-interest deferred payment loan available to home owners only. This loan will help replace existing items such as painting, plumbing, roofing, electrical, etc. No payments are required and there is no interest charged. When the home is sold or the applicant no longer lives in the home, the loan will become due in full. The program does not cover those who live within the city limits.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER – Harvey Clowers
Not in attendance.

Vice-Chair Grasty called for a recess at 2:10 p.m.
Vice-Chair Grasty reconvened the meeting from recess at 2:22 p.m.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

AASD SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT-

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lito Morillo
Lito Morillo reported today, June 15, 2015 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). This day was launched by the United Nations approximately 10 years ago. AASD combines Elder Abuse Awareness with the Older Americans Act month and observes WEAAD in the month of May. There has been a strong initiative to have WEAAD recognized a lot more in hopes to have a bigger impact in elder abuse awareness nationwide.

- Thanks to a grant we received from PG & E, the Cooling Centers will be operational when the National Weather Service forecasts reaches 108 in the desert area, 105 in the valley, and 95 in the mountain areas. Lito thanked Commissioner Jackson for attending the Board meeting on 6/2/15.

- AASD submitted its budget with a 2% reduction. The department is still dealing with increase costs in personnel, and general cost of doing business such as workers comp, county counsel, and other overhead related items. Budget hearings with the Board will be on June 30 and again August 17, 18, and 19 if need be.

- The State's revenue is $6 billion higher than projected, which means the State has a surplus.
- The Joint Budget Conference Committee approved the Assembly version to restore $6.4 million for the statewide LTC ombudsman program. The funds include:
  - $1 million one-time money from SNF Citation Account
  - $400k on going - increase in L&C fees for SNF
  - $5 million on going in general funds

- The conference committee also approved the Assembly recommendation to increase funding for the Caregiver Resource Centers. At this time it is uncertain whether the committee approved $3.8 million or $3 million for the program.

- Provides a grant increase to the Social Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) individual’s grants (excluding couples) in an amount equal to $66 million for 2015-16, starting on January 1, 2016, with full-year costs of $132 million for 2016-17 and ongoing. This will provide an additional $10 for individuals’ grants, across all caseload categories. It reinstates the annual COLA for SSI/SSP, starting January 1, 2020.

- Approves restoration of the 7 percent reduction in IHSS hours, effective July 1, 2015. The cost for the restoration is $228 million, which is funded with General Fund in 2015-16 and with the proceeds of the restructured Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax in 2016-17 and ongoing.

- Committee approved proceeding with the FLSA implementation of overtime for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, as is currently prescribed by state law and funded in the Governor’s Budget and May Revision, effective October 1, 2015.

The proposed budget is expected to go to both houses next Monday for approval and then sent to the Governor for his action. There is yet no indication on what action the Governor is expected to take on these or other items

- The Governor’s May Revise includes one significant new proposal addressing poverty, a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) targeted at persons with very meager earnings. It would build on the federal EITC by providing 85% of the value of the federal credit. A household with three or more dependents with earnings of $6,000 would get a state EITC of $2,295 on top of the federal EITC of $2,700. This would boost income from $8,700 under current law to $10,975. Under the Governor’s proposal the state EITC will not be available to persons who are self-employed and do not report their earnings to Employment Development Department. The proposed EITC phases out at $13,870 for families with three dependents which means that as a practical matter it will primarily benefit persons who are working less than full time and at or near the minimum wage. While the tax credit will not be enough to lift these households above the federal poverty level, the credit will lift some households out of deep poverty.

- The California Senate on Monday approved a plan to again raise the state’s minimum wage, lifting it to $13 an hour in 2017, and then tying it to the rate of inflation after that. Governor Brown has not stated whether or not he supports another minimum wage increase.
• Currently in negotiations with United Domestic Workers (UDW) on a contract for IHSS Providers in Kern. Current wage stands at $10.35 per hour.

• A new law effective July 1, 2015 allows for part-time employees to accrue sick leave at 1 hour for every 30 hours worked. For the County of Kern, we adopted 2.667 for every 80 hours worked which is slightly higher the State requirement. This means that our extra help employees will now have sick leave. The maximum any part time employee can accrue is 48 hours or 6 days. This rule doesn’t apply to Kern County retirees that return to the County of Kern to work.

• AASD is exploring the possibility of occupying the suite next to the Public Authority building. We will be analyzing the possibility.

• The County of Kern is one of two counties throughout the nation that were selected by Google to be a part of their Innovation Lab Training pilot project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – S. Lynch, K. Grasty, J. Deegan, A. Flucker, N. Jackson, M. Overfield, Y. Prado
Commissioner Prado reported the Commission on Aging participated in the Housing Authorities Health Fair on June 8-11, 2015. There was a small group in attendance at the various Housing Authority sites. AASD gave out Farmer's Market coupons.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS – L. Fuller; Y. Prado
Commissioner Prado reported Commissioner Morris was appointed to serve on the Commission by ADAKC as of June 1, 2015. There are three vacancies to fill, Around the Clock Care, North of the River, and Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance. Laura Juarez is working with those agencies on appointments.

CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) – M. Overfield; N. Jackson
No report

TRANSPORTATION – Y. Prado; L. Fuller; J. Johnston
Commissioner Prado reported they had a meeting last week regarding unmet transit needs. There were talks of having carbon emission buses and vans replaced with electric vehicles. Free transit passes were given away within the community. Within the next month, monies will be going out for the American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards to make driveways near the buses. The City will receive $360,000, and $240,000 will go to the County. On June 16, 2015, there will be a hearing about the increase in GET rates. The price for seniors will not be increased.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – A. Flucker; M. Overfield; E. Hiatt
Commissioner Flucker reported he will be meeting with the committee to discuss the next Employee Recognition.
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION – M. Overfield; G. Brown
Commissioner Overfield reported the recognition continues to go well. Volunteers who are involved with senior nutrition are being recognized. Commissioner Brown asked how the Commission concluded to recognize nutrition volunteers only. The Vice-Chair suggested this be matter be discussed in the Executive meeting.

LONG TERM CARE – N. Tolentino; C. Barrett; D. Duquette; L. Fuller; N. Jackson
Commissioner Prado shared her experience as a patient at Glenwood Gardens.

Commissioner Jackson reported she, Commissioner Fuller, and Commissioner Barrett visited The Village at Seven Oaks. In the assisted living area, there are a total of 60 apartment homes. They have a library, a parlor, a wine bar room, meeting rooms, a theatre, and other activity rooms within their facility. They have studios, a deluxe studio, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedrooms available. The cost starts at $3,800/month for a 1 bedroom. It is a beautiful facility and it should be opened in August 2015. There are 48 rooms in the memory care unit. Their rooms are smaller and cost $4,400 to $5,300/month.

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE – S. Lynch; K. Grasty; E. Hiatt
No report.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY – K. Grasty; A. Flucker; J. Johnston; L. Oswald; Y. Prado
Commissioner Johnston reported he, Commissioner Grasty, and Commissioner Prado took a U.S. flag to the Ben Austin Senior Center and they were very appreciative. They mentioned they would like a California flag as well.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – D. Duquette
No report.

THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING COUNSEL OF CALIFORNIA (TAAC) – M. Overfield
No report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – M. Mooney; H. Baker; J. Deegan; K. Grasty
Commissioner Grasty reported “Elections” and other items need to be added to the Bylaws.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE – J. Deegan; G. Brown; J. Johnston; M. Mooney
Vice-Chair Grasty thanked the committee for all their work on the nomination committee for the election of officers.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY – A. Flucker
Commissioner Flucker reported he attended and IHSS Summit in Sacramento. The training was about how to be an affective advisory board. They gave pointers on how to enter a room and how to dress. There was a panel discussion on how to work with your public authority and IHSS Advisory Board.

NEW BUSINESS – None.
INFORMATION ITEMS-
Mileage reimbursements for travel to and from Commission on Aging meetings are due today to Laura Juarez. New Commissioners will need to complete a W9 for the County Auditor's use. Mileage reimbursement is not taxed.

The last Ethics Training Class of the year given by County Counsel will be held Thursday, August 6, 2015, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Board Chambers. You may continue to take your Ethics training online at any time. Laura Juarez will let you know who is due. You are required to have 2 hours of training. Once your training is completed, please provide a copy of your Ethics Certificate to Laura Juarez.

NEXT MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE MEETING</th>
<th>REGULAR MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 2, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 20, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>1:00 pm to 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aging and Adult Services</td>
<td>Wasco Senior Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Generation Room</td>
<td>1280 Poplar Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5353 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA</td>
<td>Wasco, CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo
Secretary