

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
Health Work Group Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Call to Order: Susan Frederick called the meeting to order at 930 am.

Present: Fred Adams, Jennifer Doran, Susan Frederick, Nuru Neemuchwalla, Brian O’Toole, Dennis Yee, Nancy Leasure, Kathie Thompson

Absent: Joanna Kim-Selby, Terri Tobey, Lenore MacDonald

Staff: Anthony Macias

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

- Approve Today’s Agenda – Jennifer moved to approve agenda, Brian motioned 2nd, unanimously approved.
- No revisions to February 2020 minutes; approved.

Public Comment

- None

Announcements and Correspondence: Susan Frederick, Chair

- Susan meeting set up with Caitlin Sly and B. Sessler; meeting cancelled and was to be rescheduled. Due to COVID19 Shelter-in-place rescheduled meeting was also cancelled.

Presentation: Brain Tour - Alzheimer's Association

- Workgroup viewed Brain Tour interactive presentation on the Alzheimer’s Association website.

AARP Updates – Nuru Neemuchwalla

- AARP supported 8.3 billion dollar funding bill passed by President Trump for Coronavirus; The coronavirus funding bill signed into law by the president Friday puts much more money toward treating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 than his administration requested from Congress last week.
- AARP supports HR3 bill related to lowering costs of drug cost and insurance costs, and will begin canvassing its members.

Legislative Report - Nancy Leasure

- HR987 **Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act** passed House and is currently in Senate; Bill would require Dept. of Health and Human Services to conduct outreach and educational activities regarding federally-facilitated exchanges (i.e., health insurance exchanges that are established and operated within states by HHS). The activities must inform potential enrollees of the availability of coverage and

related financial assistance under the exchanges and must be provided in culturally and linguistically appropriate formats.

- California AB683 to increase medical eligibility to more by requiring the State Department of Health Care Services to disregard specified assets and resources, such as motor vehicles and life insurance policies, in determining the Medi-Cal eligibility for an applicant or beneficiary whose eligibility is not determined using MAGI, subject to federal approval and federal financial participation is still stuck in state senate

Dementia/Alzheimer's: Jennifer Doran

- Alzheimer's Association has a 94 page report called Facts and Figures which reveals the burden of Alzheimer's and dementia on individuals, caregivers, government and the nation's health care system. The report examines the experiences, exposure, training and attitudes related to dementia care among primary care physicians and others.
- This can be found at: <https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures>
- New experiment that wipes out retired brain cells, called senescents (*spelling?*). By removing senescent cells from a strain of mice that shows symptoms of Alzheimer's, the team prevented one of the disease's hallmarks: the buildup of a protein called tau, which forms toxic, tangled clusters inside neurons. Without these tangles, the aging mice didn't lose neurons as they normally would, and their memories remained intact.

Nursing Homes: Fred Adams

- Scope of Nursing home violations are generally horrible.
- **Citations:** Citations are issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH) during the annual certification visit, complaint investigations or special incident investigations for violations of state or federal law. Citations come in several classes depending on their severity. The state average is a little less than one per facility per year, but ideally, a facility should not have any citations; many facilities have few or none. Some facilities have numerous citations which indicates potential problems. The state issues the following classes, as well as the less frequent citations for the falsification of medical records (not listed).
- **Class AA:** The most serious violation, AA citations are issued when a resident death has occurred in such a way that it has been directly and officially attributed to the responsibility of the facility, and carry fines of \$25,000 to \$100,000.
- **Class A:** Class A citations are issued when violations present imminent danger to patients or the substantial probability of death or serious harm, and carry fines from \$2,000 to \$20,000.
- **Class B:** Class B citations carry fines from \$100 to \$2000 and are issued for violations which have a direct or immediate relationship to health, safety, or security, but do not qualify as A or AA citations.
- 61% of SNF in California have received at least one citation.

Discussion:

How can family who are currently not able to visit SNF due to the Coronavirus outbreak able to see if there are violations?

Caregivers for SNF are in short supply.

Discussion of COVID19

Nuru: idea of making organ donation an opt-out instead of opt-in.

Jim: ACOA 2020 event information given to workgroup; list of presenters; draft of program discussed.

Action Items for Executive Committee?

- None

Future Meetings:

- Next meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.