

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for August 19, 2020

ACOA MEMBERSHIP

Active Members = 27
Vacancies = 11
Pending = 2

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

Present:

Martin Aufhauser	Jill Kleiner	Mary Rose
Jagjit Bhambra	Shirley Krohn	Frances Smith
Mary Bruns	Nancy Leasure	Summer Selleck
Deborah Card	Steve Lipson	Kathie Thompson
Jim Donnelly	Richard Nahm	Terri Tobey
Kevin Donovan	Frank Napoli	Ron Tervelt
Jennifer Doran	Nuru Neemuchwalla	Lorna VanAckeren
Susan Frederick	Brian O'Toole	Dennis Yee
Gail Garrett	Erin Partridge	
Arthur Kee	Gerry Richards	

Absent: Rudy Fernandez, Joanna Kim Selby

Guests: Penny Reed, Rossmoor Counseling Services
Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman DeSaulnier
Greg Wanket, prospective member from Martinez
Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging
Nhang Luong, Senior Information and Assistance
John Cunningham, Contra Costa Dept. of Conservation and Development
Caitlin Sly, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region
Sara Shafiabady, prospective member
Lenore McDonald, Center for Elders Independence
Lia Bristol, Office of Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
Rosa Loya, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region

Staff Present: Tracy Murray, Director of Aging and Adult Services; Glenda Pacha and Anthony Macias

Roll Call: Anthony Macias called roll; quorum established as 28 members present.

Announcements:

- None.

Approval of Today's Agenda:

- Approval of meeting agenda motioned by Ron Tervelt, Fran Smith motioned second, agenda approved without changes.

Approval of July 2020 Minutes: Approval of July Minutes motioned by Arthur Kee, Nuru Neemwuchalla motioned second, minutes approved as submitted.

Public Comment: None

Committee and Work Group Reports:

Membership Committee – Jennifer Doran

- Vacancies – two Member-At-Large seats open; seven local/city seats are still open: Concord, Martinez, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, San Pablo and San Ramon.
- We have received five applications and are going to be scheduling interviews.
- New members:
 - Marty Aufhauser, Moraga
 - Megan Casey, Oakley (pending Board of Supervisor approval)
- At today’s meeting, ACOA members will meet by Supervisorial district to caucus members for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet to recruit and solicit a slate of candidates for next year’s officers.
- Ron Trevelt will be new member Marty Aufhauser’s “buddy” for purpose of acclimating him to the council.

Planning Committee – Kevin Donovan

- At last meeting, discussed purpose and duties of the committee.
- Established a base knowledge of funding sources and AAA contracts.
- Discussed additional CARES Act funding of \$2.1 million; allocation to Supportive Services: Legal, Transportation, Nutrition, Caregiver and Ombudsman.
- AAA received \$5.8 million, in 2021 \$7.4 million of which \$2.2 million coming from CARES Act.
- AAA funding mainly to Senior Nutrition, Ombudsman, Meals on Wheels Diablo Region, and Family Caregivers Alliance.
- At our next meeting, we’ll discuss objectives for the committee, meetings with contractors, how to ensure services provided to the community are done well

Housing Workgroup – Gerald Richards

- Lenore McDonald is now co-Chair of the Work Group with Gerald as chair.

Technology Workgroup – Steve Lipson.

- Working on ACOA web presence to improve public access to information.
- Seeking metrics to see what people are looking at to determine how to improve the site.
- Plan to train seniors who are already active community volunteers in technology so they can train other seniors
- Please join the committee!

Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup – Mary Rose

- Mary Rose will be resigning from the ACOA and this workgroup.
- She offers thanks to Shirley Krohn, Summer Sellick & Frank Napoli.
- Currently, presentations canceled due to pandemic
- President Susan Frederick thanks Mary for her many years of service to the ACOA

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

- At the next meeting (Aug 24 at 10 am) speaker from “Uber Wave”, which provides wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- For more information, contact Mary Bruns.

Health Workgroup– Susan Frederick

- AARP Urges Congress to Prioritize Funds for Nursing Homes in COVID-19 Relief Package in five point plan:
 - Require testing of nursing home staff and residents and provide them with adequate personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Provide transparency when it comes to information about COVID-19 cases, the transfer and discharge of residents, and how federal relief funds are used, to make sure the money pays for testing, PPE, staffing, virtual visitation and other items that directly relate to patient care and well-being.
 - Require facilities to provide and facilitate virtual visitation for residents and their loved ones.
 - Ensured adequate staffing levels in facilities and allow long-term care ombudsmen access so they can advocate for residents.
 - Reject proposals for COVID-19-related blanket immunity for nursing homes and other long-term facilities.
- Alzheimer’s virtual conference updates:
 - Research Suggests Common Vaccines Tied to Lower Risk.
 - A Blood Test for Alzheimer’s disease On the Horizon.
 - Early Life Risk Factors Matter.
 - How Alzheimer’s Affects Hispanic/Latino Populations Differently.
 - New Research Study to Focus on COVID-19 and the brain.

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup – Shirley Krohn

- Nancy Leasure will be co-chair.
- Committee will re-convene in January next year.

Nutrition Council – Gail Garret

- Everything going well with Meals on Wheels (Senior Nutrition program).
- Delivery of five frozen meals per week, with variations of fruit, juice, milk, oatmeal, etc.
- Some bus companies are delivering meals.
- Financial donations increased since beginning of pandemic.

- Most communities have food distribution program

Senior LGBTQ community issues: Summer Selleck

- No report

Housing Workgroup Presentation – Gerald Richards (chair)

- Slide from Point-in-Time homeless count presentation by, Jaime Jenett of Health, Housing and Homeless Services, at the last Housing workgroup meeting.
- Count started at 530am at various places throughout the county, volunteers approached homeless people about where they slept last night, etc.
- In 2020, numbers went down from 2019.
- Numbers are required every 2 years to be reported to HUD
- Definitions of homeless differ
- Older homeless have fixed incomes
- 17% older adults 55-61, 16% seniors 62+ = 33% over 55
- Homeless don't have health care, seniors increasing health care needs

Update on Housing Whitepaper- Nhang Luong (AAA staff)

- Housing white paper having more edits, information added. Completion of whitepaper in October.
- Workgroup produced infographic two years ago and updated annually, focusing on older adults and housing issues.
- One-fifth of population in county are 60 years or older.
- Concord and Antioch has seen growth in 60+ population.
- A 120% increase of older adults 62+ from 2019.
- Recommendations:
 - Expand age restricted affordable housing
 - Increase funding for affordable housing
 - Bring awareness of the issue to local officials
 - Strengthen housing protection
 - Develop more affordable assisted living facilities
 - Support sharing housing

The Coming Wave: COVID 19 Evictions Lenore McDonald (co-chair)

- One-third Contra Costa residents are renters (source: Bay Area Equity Atlas)
- Black and Latino renters, especially women, are disproportionately economically insecure.
- Current Contra Costa unemployment 13.5% and on the increase.
- As COVID continues, things will only get worse.
- Senior Legal Services chart of eviction protections (random dates) several jurisdictions have established moratoriums but they do not have consistent end dates.
- Housing workgroup trying to get the information out about eviction protection resources.

- Evictions can lead to homelessness
(Slides/documents from Housing workgroup shown at meeting attached.)

Comments/Discussion post presentation:

- Doesn't seem like significant response to significant problem – ageism
- Are we getting in front of BOS in a public way?
- Very comprehensive report in Master Plan for Aging with lots of recommendations (including housing).
- White paper is exhaustive inventory of resources.
- Dealing with housing issues takes time.
- Cities still resisting building affordable housing in their cities.
- Possible FEMA funding to purchase hotels for homeless shelter
- When we finish the white paper, ask city reps to present the info to their cities.
- Use of empty building in Walnut Creek for housing.

Who is the housing workgroup?

- A workgroup of the ACOA.
- Gerald Richard chair, Lenore McDonald Co-Chair, Nhang Luong staff, Jim Donnelly, Frances Smith.
- Community agency representatives.
- Please join them!

ACOA President's Report – Susan Frederick

- Please send us your home not work address so we can contact you.
- Jim attended the TACC (AAA Council of California) call. They meet four times a year
- Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Dept. on Aging, reported release in Dec. 2020 of Master Plan for Aging.
- Statewide need for Meals on Wheels in up, the number of volunteer drivers is down. Locally, our Contra Costa paratransit operators have stepped in to help which has kept drivers employed.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager's Report – Tracy Murray, Director Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Bureau

- Fire/heat concerns – AAS bureau active with Operations Center for emergencies/disasters. There was an apartment complex with air conditioning issues in this heat emergency that were resolved.
- In-Home-Supportive-Services (IHSS) with 11,000 consumers and 9,000 care providers. A slight decrease in applications; staff deployed remotely; slight improvement in completion of applications and reassessments.

- Adult Protective Services (AP) has seen decrease in reports during March/April, now stabilized to expected levels; caseloads remain high, staff deployed remotely.
- General Assistance (GA) – housing and poverty effects older adults. GA serves many seniors. There has been a reduction in GA applications. We are working with health partners to make sure folks can apply for GA services when necessary
- Whole Person Care (WPC; also known as Community Connect) – staff deployed to meet consumers where they are. WPC works with health department to serve the 12,000 highest utilizers of services.
- AAA – Laura gone and there is a gap in leadership. The county has a hiring freeze but Tracy received permission to hire interim program manager. Interview next week (hopefully). The interim will have all the responsibilities of regular position and will report to Tracy Murray. The long-term plan is to recruit for a fulltime person but Human Resources is busy with health care related hiring. Tracy expects to complete the hiring process for the permanent program manager within 6 months.
- Tracy wants feedback from ACOA on qualities for AAA leader. Susan will work with Anthony to coordinate any ACOA members interested in giving feedback.

Consent items:

- Nomination of Debbie Toth for Scan Foundation 2020 Innovation Award
- Gerald Richards motioned /Jim Donnelly seconded. Motion passed.
- Council approved consent item unanimously.

Results of Caucus for Nominating Committee Members

- District 1 Gail Garrett
- District 2 Terri Tobey
- District 3 Arthur Kee
- District 4 Nuru Neemuchwalla
- District 5 Jagit Bhambra

Announcements and Correspondence- Susan Frederick

- Please consider joining other workgroups/committees
- Kevin: please send list of workgroups/committees, members, and chair contact info
- Roster of members will be sent out

Regional Coalition Update: - Debbie Toth, Choice in Aging

- Frances Smith, Shirley Krohn, Lorna Van Ackeren, and Debbie Toth represent Contra Costa on the Scan Foundation Regional Coalition.
- COVID19 pandemic magnified issues of aging.
- Currently coalition is planning for learning day, followed by advocacy day.
- Three half-day activities, with presentation and breakout groups.
- Dates to be determined.

New Business for next meeting:

- September presentation will be from Senior Medi-Care Patrol

Public Comment

- Debbie – Thursday Aug 27 at 11:30 Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Department on Aging will be on Debbie’s Facebook live event. She will discuss the Master Plan for Aging timeline and COVID19 pandemic.
- Link to the event is on the Choice in Aging website <https://choiceinaging.org>
- Can we create a COVID needs fund with CARES Act funding? Debbie will email with details to Glenda who will share with Tracy Murray.
- Mary Bruns – Will housing handouts to be distributed? Yes
- Waiting for white paper and will distribute to ACOA, BOS community, Fran Smith - Richmond housing group, and Richmond mayor.
- Mary Bruns – wants to start a campaign regarding sharing wealth to support major societal problems.
- Gerry – progressive income tax system no longer exists.

Next ACOA Meeting September 16, 2020

Susan adjourned meeting at 11:25 am.