

Tuolumne County Commission on Aging
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021, 1:30 pm
**** Meeting held via Zoom and/or phone conferencing ****

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Malcolm Carden, Kristi Conforti, Cathie Peacock, Syd Robenseifner, Carleton Penwell, Melody Brotby, Ted Michaud, Charlotte Frazier, Catherine Driver, Matthew Rose and Rex Whisnand. **Absent:** Torie Carlson (LOA), Sally Dios (LOA), John Featherstone, Jim Grinnell, Diana Ishmael.
BOS/County Staff Representatives: David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Tuolumne County, Michelle Jachetta, Tuolumne County Public Health, Rebecca Espino, Tuolumne County Public Health, and Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office.
Guests: Kristin Milhoff, Executive Director, Area 12 Agency on Aging, Laurie Sylwester.
3. **Public Comments:** Non-Commissioners are welcome to speak about senior-related issues NOT listed on this agenda (2 minutes maximum per speaker) – no discussion, please. None.
4. **Minutes:** Minutes of the January 11 , 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex mentioned that Laurie Sylwester and Viktorea Martinez had applied to join the Commission. Their applications will be considered by the BOS in March. There may be as many as 3 other candidates interested, also. He reminded Committee Chairs that he needs their annual reports for his presentation to the BOS in March. Finally, the State Master Plan on Aging is moving forward in the Legislature, with funds included for specific parts of the Plan in next year's proposed Budget.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – no activity during January, 2021.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Acknowledgement letters have gone out to Centenarians. Jason will look into possible congratulatory letters from BOS,
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg mentioned that the State's stay-at-home order has been lifted. There is a concern that people will now relax and lower their guard. Vaccination programs are proceeding slowly, and supply is still an issue. More organizations are now offering signups – pharmacies, VA, Tribe etc. State website, MyTurn.ca.gov, will not be active until early March, but will hopefully combine existing lists and remove the need for multiple signups. A majority of educators have now received at least one shot of the vaccine.
9. **Guest Speaker:** None.
10. **Unfinished Business:**
Annual Report to BOS – see Chair's remarks above.
Status of Commission Membership – ditto.
Status of Centenarian recognition effort – see Corresponding Secretary's report above.
2021 Goal Setting Exercise, Part 2. The proposed goals for 2021 were approved by the Commission with some minor adjustments. See separate sheet for list of final goals.

Commissioners were reminded that goals can be fine tuned when the Committees first meet. Committee chairs were appointed where possible, and Commissioners were encouraged to serve on at least one Committee, if not more. We still need a Chair for the Transportation Committee – it was suggested that Tyler Summerset be approached for this position. Commissioners were also reminded that the Committees are regulated by the Brown Act, and both Agendas and Minutes should be posted on the County website.

11. New Business:

Discussion of COA role in Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout. Commissioners expressed their concerns about the current signup difficulties that older people are having, particularly those without computers, and also the transportation challenges that older people face in the County. Michelle Jachetta estimated that about 6,000 people have received at least one shot of vaccine so far, including the majority of health workers, and perhaps 40% of people over 75. They are now working down the age list, from 75 and older to 70 and older, and then to 65 and older. The phone is the best way for people without computers to make an appointment, but the hotlines that Public Health and Adventist Health operate are swamped at present, and offering reservations is hampered by the uncertainty surrounding vaccine supply. The State signup list mentioned above will not be active in the County until early March. There is limited value in getting posters or mailers printed, as the information is changing frequently, with more vaccination sites appearing each week. As far as transportation is concerned, TC Transit is operating on a Dial-A-Ride basis only at this point, but can take people to appointments. Silver Streak Transportation, out of Calaveras County, is also trying to help out with getting older people to appointments here in the County. Syd Robenseifner suggested that small buses could be run from South County, if vaccination appointments could be coordinated and confirmed for a particular time slot for small groups. There are no plans for mobile clinics at present, per Michelle. It was recognized that everyone needs to get more and better information out, but that Public Health should be the central vector for publicity for the various vaccination options. As far as volunteering is concerned, Michelle mentioned [HealthcareVolunteers.ca.gov](https://www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov), if people want to sign up. Finally, it was determined that the Commission would not set up a separate Task Force to assist with the situation, but would maintain a watching brief, and disseminate information as needed to older members of the community. This was added to the Education Committee's goals for the year. Commissioners were encouraged to volunteer where possible.

Discussion of Senior Access to County Mental Health Services. Deferred to next meeting.

12. Public Comment: None.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3.30 pm.

Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, March 1, 2021, 2 pm.

Next COA Meeting – Monday, March 8, 2021, 1.30 pm. Both by Zoom.

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the Commission on Aging Chair, Rex Whisnand (209) 785-8166. Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this public meeting. Agenda packet materials are available for public inspection at the office of the Tuolumne County Administrator, 2 S. Green St., Sonora CA 95370.