

**Tuolumne County Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of Meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021, 1:30 pm**  
**\*\* Meeting held via Zoom and/or phone conferencing \*\***

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Malcolm Carden, Cathie Peacock, Carleton Penwell, Ted Michaud, Laurie Sylwester, Jim Grinnell, Melody Brotby, Charlotte Frazier, John Featherstone, Matthew Rose and Rex Whisnand. **Absent:** Kristi Conforti, Torie Carlson (LOA), Sally Dios (LOA), Catherine Driver, Viktoria Martinez, Tyler Summersett, Syd Robenseifner. **BOS/County Staff Representatives:** David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Tuolumne County, Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office, Shannon Thaggard. TCTC. **Guest:** Kristin Milhoff, Executive Director, Area 12 Agency on Aging.
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 March 8, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex mentioned the ByLaws regarding Absences and Leaves of Absence. The Chair has the authority to rule in both cases. Charlotte requested a one month LOA, which was granted.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – no activity during March, 2021.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** No report.
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg mentioned that the new County Fire Safety and Homelessness Committees have been formed, and are looking to hit the ground running. The Fire Services Parcel Tax (Measure V) will be on the June ballot. There is no stable funding for County fire services at present. Equipment is aging rapidly, and staffing is a challenge. The BOS sent a letter to the State Board of Forestry regarding new regulations they have promulgated regarding fire safety issues. This was done with inadequate input from rural counties, in particular. There is already a housing shortage in the County, and these rules will make it worse. Finally, the BOS is considering restarting public in-person meetings again shortly. Malcolm asked about the remaining \$50 million out of the \$73 million that the County is to receive as part of the Resiliency dollars, now that the Resiliency Center projects have been finalized. The two other pieces, Forest Management and Solid Waste Disposal, are still works in progress, per DG.

Jason Terry mentioned that there will be a Budget Update discussion at the BOS meeting on 4/13. Rex asked about Ethics Training. Ted said it is available online only. Malcolm will send out the link received from the Area 12 Advisory Council.

**9. Committee Reports on 2021 Goals:**

**Transportation Committee:** Tyler Summersett was unable to join us, but Shannon Thaggard mentioned that an RFP is being prepared to look into evacuation route issues within the County.

1. **Report unmet needs in Senior Transportation to SSTAC (Social Services Transportation Advisory Council) and County.**
2. **Review a program of driver assistance to Seniors utilizing taxi and public transportation services.**

**Community Relations Committee:** Cathie reported that the Committee hasn't met yet, but hopes to do so in early May.

3. **Continue to review viability of Senior Volunteer Event.**
4. **Continue to review viability of Centenarian Luncheon.**
5. **Have a Commissioner attend BOS (Board of Supervisors) meetings as needed and speak on Senior topics during Public Comment or on Agenda.**
6. **Attend Senior community meetings & events and publicize COA (Commission on Aging). Report back to COA as part of regular Agenda item.**
7. **Investigate establishment of County-wide network to provide services to seniors via phone, online, newspapers, etc.**

**Legislative Committee:** Rex mentioned that the Committee hasn't met yet. The Launch of the State Master Plan on Aging will be on May 4, and will be a "big deal".

8. **Continue to monitor State and Federal Legislation as it impacts Seniors, and report to BOS as needed.**
9. **Report periodically on the status of Senior Legislature proposals, and highlight items which will directly impact the County.**
10. **Study California Master Plan for Aging and make recommendations to BOS and other agencies.**

**Governance Committee:** Per Carleton, no meeting as yet, will meet shortly.

11. **Continue to recruit new members to fill openings and maintain a "bench strength".**
12. **Develop an ongoing succession process for the COA.**
13. **Review COA ByLaws and present recommended changes to COA.**

**Education Committee:** Malcolm reviewed the minutes of the Committee's second meeting.

**14. Review information from applicable organizations and agencies on Senior homelessness, and report concerns to BOS.** Ted will present on this topic at the next meeting. Cathie has been appointed to the new Homelessness Committee, and will report on its progress. Carleton recommended that the new Committee look at what other communities are doing about the problem. Jim mentioned that rents are rising in the County. Laurie said that there are a lot of empty second homes in the area that could be opened up for rental.

**15. Investigate impact of Homeowners Insurance situation on Senior homeowners and renters.** Laurie has discussed the insurance situation with a State Farm rep. They are still writing new policies in some areas, but there is a list of red-lined areas in the County that is updated every six months or so, so it is a fluid situation.

**16. Review current County plans for emergency evacuation of Seniors and make recommendations as appropriate.** Malcolm has been appointed to the new Fire Safety Committee, and expects that this will be a major focus of the Committee.

**17. Develop list of relevant speakers for March – November meetings, to include all Supervisors.** Carleton has arranged speakers for the May-September meetings.

**18. Monitor and report on Covid-19 vaccination situation in County as it applies to Seniors.** 41% of the local population has now received at least one vaccine shot. Interest seems to be declining in the remaining 59%. Jim asked whether the numbers included veterans who were vaccinated outside of the County.

**Senior Expo Task Force:**

19. **Investigate putting on 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Expo later in year.** Still in Limbo.

**10. Guest Speaker:** Kristin Milhoff, Area 12 Agency on Aging. Kristin mentioned the State Master Plan on Aging Rally Day on May 4, accessible on Zoom with prior registration. Area 12 will be participating in the new Aging & Disability Resource Connection that is being funded by the State. The ADRC offers person-centered solutions, rather than a one plan fits all approach.

**11. Unfinished Business:**

**Status of Commission Membership** – Malcolm will draft a letter for the Chair to send out to the three members on LOA, declaring their Commission seats vacant.

**Status of Committee Chairs and Members** – see Committee reports above.

**12. New Business:**

**Revised Commission Roster.** Circulated with Meeting agenda.

**Leave of Absence and Meeting Attendance.** See notes above.

**ByLaws Review.** Will be started soon.

**Brown Act and Ethics Training** – see notes above.

**Senior Expo.** Still too early to determine whether it is feasible for this year.

**13. Public Comment:** Carleton recommended that compensation be provided for hosting Zoom meetings. Also, we should consider reinstating face to face meetings over the summer. He thanked Supervisor Goldemberg for his involvement with the COA. Finally, he urged Commissioners to remember why the COA was originally formed, which was to provide leadership in supporting seniors.

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3.25 pm.

**Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, May 3, 2021, 2 pm.**

**Next COA Meeting – Monday, May 10, 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.