

**Tuolumne County Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of Meeting on Monday, May 10, 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 Vice Chair Ted Michaud.
2. **Introductions: Commissioners Present:** Malcolm Carden, Cathie Peacock, Carleton Penwell, Ted Michaud, Laurie Sylwester, Kristi Conforti, Catherine Driver, Syd Robenseifner, Melody Brotby, John Featherstone, Tyler Summersett. **Absent:** Jim Grinnell, Matthew Rose, Charlotte Frazier (LOA), Viktoria Martinez and Rex Whisnand .  
**BOS/County Staff Representatives:** David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Tuolumne County, Jason Terry, County Administrator's Office.  
**Guests:** Kristin Milhoff, Executive Director, Area 12 Agency on Aging, Kathleen Haff, District 4 Supervisor.
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 April 12, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** None, in Rex's absence.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – no activity during April, 2021.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** No report.
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg mentioned that vaccinations in the County are going well, with 2/3rds of over 65 group vaccinated. Less than 25% of 16-30 group, however. The UK variant of the Covid-19 virus has been detected in the County. The new Fire Safety Committee had its first meeting. Emphasis will be on public communications, community education and outreach, and emergency planning, initially. Dore Bietz (OES) had her first webinar. Cal Fire is trying to hire an extra 80 people for fire season. DG's new website is up and running.

Jason Terry mentioned that \$10.5 million is coming to the County under the American Recovery Plan, to offset expenses and lost revenues from the pandemic. Spread over two years.

Tyler Summersett mentioned the RFP that the TCTC has issued for the identification of high risk areas in the County and the formulation of an evacuation plan. John Featherstone asked if there were any plans for the homeless camps west of the City of Sonora. (Note: the evacuation of Camp Hope was announced shortly after the meeting).

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

**Transportation Committee:** Tyler Summersett mentioned that TCTC has been working with Syd Robenseifner and Southside in Groveland on the new bus program. The ribbon cutting will be this week. They are also looking into a taxi/public voucher program for Groveland (goal 2).

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:**

3. **Continue to review viability of Senior Volunteer Event.**
4. **Continue to review viability of Centenarian Luncheon.** Carleton is looking into PR and Sponsors for the 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.** Cathie attended the Behavioral Health meeting on Mental Health services in the County. Lots of info on the services, but not much of a focus on the Senior population.
7. **Investigate establishment of County-wide network to provide services to seniors via phone, online, newspapers, etc.**

**Legislative Committee:** No report, in Rex's absence.

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.** Kristin mentioned that the Master Plan on Aging rally last Tuesday was well attended.

**Governance Committee:** Per Carleton, the GC is a quasi-Nominating Committee. We have 4 vacancies (now 5, as of May 12). The strengths and interests of applicants is particularly important. Laurie asked for specific input on strengths needed and also any gaps in district representation.

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.** Per Carleton, some minor tweaks of the ByLaws may be needed. Will start this process soon.

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

14. **Review information from applicable organizations and agencies on Senior homelessness, and report concerns to BOS.** There seems to be a lack of info on Senior Homeless in the County, just anecdotal information. Per Cathie, there is a lot of tension and embarrassment in families regarding homelessness. Malcolm mentioned the numbers in the recent Emergency Declaration issued by the BOS, which showed much larger numbers of homeless people in general than previously revealed. Laurie suggested we acquire info on mobile home parks, particularly rents and vacancy levels. Kristin suggested a new public park for RVs would be useful. Cathie mentioned that there is considerable concern about a wave of evictions once the pandemic-related moratorium on evictions expires on June 15.

15. **Investigate impact of Homeowners Insurance situation on Senior homeowners and renters.** Nothing new in this area. Dot Popovich from State Farm is a good source of information for people trying to reduce their premium costs.

16. **Review current County plans for emergency evacuation of Seniors and make recommendations as appropriate.** See comments under Transportation Committee regarding RFP that has been issued on emergency planning and evacuation.

17. **Develop list of relevant speakers for March – November meetings, to include all Supervisors.** Carleton has arranged speakers for the May-September meetings. October and November are up for grabs at present.

18. **Monitor and report on Covid-19 vaccination situation in County as it applies to Seniors.** See Supervisor Goldemberg's comments above.

**Senior Expo Task Force:**

19. **Investigate putting on 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Expo later in year.** There was no consensus on whether we could or should hold a Senior Expo this year, or how we would staff it. Cathie suggested that instead of a SE in 2021, we should offer help to the organizers of the Elder Abuse conference that is taking place in June. We could put off the SE until the spring of next year.

10. **Guest Speaker:** Supervisor Kathleen Haff spoke about her new position as Supervisor of District 4. She regards herself as a public servant rather than a politician, and draws heavily on her experience in both private industry and with the County as an Analyst. Laurie asked that the Supes as a body be continually on the lookout for gaps in the County's activities as far as Seniors are concerned. Kathleen spoke about Access Tuolumne and its importance to the County as far as communication is concerned. AT has vacancies on its Board right now, and

could use a Senior component. She also spoke about RCRC and how valuable the interaction is with other rural counties. The latest issue has been the onerous rules promulgated by the State Forestry Board, which are causing considerable concern across the State.

**11. Unfinished Business:**

**Status of Commission Membership** – Malcolm has issued a revised Roster reflecting the three seats declared vacant. We now have 4 openings. (After the meeting, a communication was received from Viktoria Martinez announcing her resignation, so we now have 5 vacancies).

**12. New Business:**

**Emergency Shelter Declaration issued by the County.** Kellae Brown was not present to discuss this, but Supervisor Goldemberg stated that it permitted the County to lift some permitting restrictions as far as new construction is concerned, and also gave us access to new grants.

**Elder Abuse Seminar.** See notes above.

**ByLaws Review.** See Governance Committee notes above.

**Compensation for Zoom Host.** It was proposed, seconded and passed to compensate Malcolm Carden at the rate of \$5/month for his hosting of COA meetings on his private Zoom account.

**13. Public Comment:** None

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3.22 pm.

**Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, June 7, 2021, 2 pm.**

**Next COA Meeting – Monday, June 14, 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.*