

Tuolumne County Commission on Aging
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021, 1:30 pm
**** Meeting held via Zoom ****

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by Chair Rex Whisnand.
2. **Introductions:** Supervisor Jaron Brandon was welcomed. **Commissioners Present:** Rex Whisnand, Malcolm Carden, Catherine Driver, Cathie Peacock, Carleton Penwell, Ted Michaud, Tyler Summersett, Syd Robenseifner, Jim Grinnell, Matthew Rose, Melody Brotby. **Absent:** Kristi Conforti, Laurie Sylwester, Charlotte Frazier (LOA), John Featherstone. **BOS/County Staff Representatives:** David Goldemberg, District 1 Supervisor, Tuolumne County. **Guests:** Kristin Milhoff, Area 12, Jaron Brandon, District 5 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. Kristin Milhoff announced that the Area 12 Resource Data Base had been completed. She will send Malcolm a link.
4. **Minutes:** Minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Chair's Report:** Rex mentioned that Hazel Mitchell was unable to attend as Guest Speaker due to illness. He also mentioned that the next COA meeting might be in person. The Executive Committee meeting the previous week was in person at Interfaith, and will continue to be so going forward. An application for COA membership has been received from Zandra Bietz.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathie Peacock – no activity during June, 2021. Malcolm's check will be issued shortly.
7. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** No report.
8. **BOS Report:** Supervisor Goldemberg mentioned that the Delta variant of Covid-19 is becoming a concern. More new cases are showing up amongst older people, the majority of them unvaccinated. The drought is also becoming a serious concern. The planned Resiliency Village site on Big Hill is controversial and has not been well received by neighbors.
9. **Committee Reports on 2021 Goals:**
Transportation Committee: The Committee has not met yet. Tyler needs Committee members!
 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 mentioned the Seniors Voucher Program for the

Farmers Market is up and running, with 200 voucher books printed and available at Interfaith and the Senior Center. Voucher books come with 5 vouchers, each for \$5. Catherine said she would send a thank you card to the Sonora Area Foundation for funding this program.

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 said that the County Housing Committee finally met. Supervisor Brandon commented that it was a good meeting. No other news.

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, everything is in progress.

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.

Education Committee: The Committee met on Zoom in June. Minutes of the meeting have been distributed to Commissioners.

14. **Review information from applicable organizations and agencies on Senior homelessness, and report concerns to BOS.** Malcolm mentioned that it is proving difficult to get hard data on the numbers of seniors that are homeless. There was a general feeling that whatever numbers there are tend to be understated because seniors are embarrassed to admit

they are homeless. Ted mentioned a subcommittee of the local League of Women Voters he has joined that is concerned with homelessness. Supervisor Brandon mentioned a recent fire extinguisher handout at Camp Hope, which was well received.

15. Investigate impact of Homeowners Insurance situation on Senior homeowners and renters. Malcolm mentioned a lack of statistics as far as how many California Fair Plan policies there are in the County. He will try contacting some insurance agents to see if they know.

16. Review current County plans for emergency evacuation of Seniors and make recommendations as appropriate. Tyler confirmed that a firm has been selected for the TCTC evacuation route project, more info to come.

17. Develop list of relevant speakers for March – November meetings, to include all Supervisors. Speakers are set for August and October, we need to get someone for September and November.

18. Monitor and report on Covid-19 vaccination situation in County as it applies to Seniors. Per Matthew, nothing new to report. Adventist Health and TCPH are still holding clinics, plus shots are freely available at most pharmacies now.

Senior Expo Task Force:

19. Investigate putting on 10th Senior Expo later in year. No further action. We will discuss at the Executive Committee Meeting in August. Carleton suggested we approach Chris Bateman, former owner of Friends and Family News, about getting involved.

10. Guest Speaker: Matthew stepped into the gap left by Hazel Mitchell's unavailability, and gave an update on Adventist's Blue Zone project, which is getting under way shortly in the County. Teams will be in place by September 1, and a plan of action will be developed shortly after, including metrics to be used. The County was chosen as a Blue Zone because of the community connections with the hospital, and the type of community organizations it has. Malcolm raised a concern about the number of recipes containing kale on the Blue Zone site.

11. Unfinished Business:

Status of Commission Membership – We will have 4 vacancies on the Commission once the new member is approved. One Commissioner (Charlotte) is on Leave of Absence,

Meeting Attendance – This was discussed at the Executive Committee. Commissioners are reminded of the ByLaw rules regarding attendance.

Groveland Meeting. It was agreed to move the meeting in Groveland from September to October 11th. Syd has arranged for County OES Coordinator Dore Bietz to be the speaker. Tyler will look into providing a bus to transport the Sonora folks up to Groveland.

Nominating Committee Formation. The Nominating Committee membership was approved by the Commission. Kristi Conforti will be Chair, Jim Grinnell and Catherine Driver will be members.

12. New Business:

In-Person Meetings – See Chair’s comments above.

13. Public Comment: None

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2.57 pm.

Next COA Executive Committee Meeting – Monday, August 2, 2021, 2 pm at INTERFAITH.

Next COA Meeting – Monday, August 9, 2021, 1.30 pm. TBA, but most likely 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.