



## AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES PSA 26 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

2:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

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### **AAA Advisory Council Members Present:**

Paul Branson - President

Linda Schoeller-Boyle

Janine Smith-Citron

Nancy Nanna – Vice President

Lisa Morrow

### **AAA Advisory Council Members Not Present:**

Jill Rexrode

Priscilla Tarver

### **AAA Staff Present:**

Dena Eddings-Green - AAA Program Coordinator

Virginia Peeke-AAA Staff Services Analyst

### **Others in Attendance:**

Betsy Cawn

Vonn

Shannon Kennedy

Trayce Beard – Sonoma County AAA Advisory Council

Laurie Fisher – Lake Links Program Manager

Karol Swartzlander (Executive Director of California Commissioner on Aging)

Kathy Herdman

Eileen Bostwick

### **1. Welcome / Announcements:**

- The meeting was called to order by Paul Branson at 2:00 pm. Five (5) Advisory Council members were present out of a total of seven (7) active members. Attendees present introduced themselves.

### **2. California Commission on Aging, Executive Director Karol Swartzlander**

- Karol stated that she would give a brief introduction to California Commission on Aging, Tripple –A Council of California (TACC), and introduce everyone to the master plan.
- Karol stated the California Commission on Aging was formally launched in 1974, the California Commission on Aging is considered by state statute as an independent advisory body and are responsible for advising the administration of the governor's office the Legislature state department as well as a federal agency on any issue related to older adults. The commissioners are appointed by the governor and serve up to 2-3 years terms.

- Karol stated that the California Commission’s vision is “Californians can age with dignity and respect in the setting of their choice” and their mission is “To serve as the principal advocacy body for older Californians and a catalyst for change that supports and celebrates Californians as they age”. Karol stated she has advocated to increase the staffing for the California Commission since starting her position and that it has grown from a full-time staff of three to a full-time staff of five plus a part-time consultant and regular interns.
- Karol mentioned that the California Commission has three primary purposes to advocate, advise, and outreach and education.
- Karol stated that the California Commission receives funding through the Older American Act through the Department of Aging along with the California Senior Special Fund which is dedicated to the TripleA Council of California (TACC). Lastly, in 1998, CCoA formed the non-profit California Foundation on Aging as a vehicle to supplement government resources and programs for older Californians with private donations.
- The Triple-A Council of California (TACC) is established under the Older Californians Act and is comprised of all of the chairs of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils. TACC’s mission is to “promote communication and collaboration among local advisory councils and key state partners”.
- Karol stated that the Master Plan on Aging has Five Bold Goals for 2030. Goal One is housing for all ages and stages. Goal two, Health Reimagined. Goal three, Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation. Goal four, Caregiving that works, and lastly Goal five, affording aging. Along with the five goals there are 130 initiatives in the master plan. The Master Plan for Aging Priorities 2023, is to expand the workforce that serves older adults and increase workforce opportunities for older adults. Second, address older adult homelessness and increase housing options for older adults, and improve behavioral health services for older adults.
- Dena asked Karol’s strategy on continuing remote meetings and getting around the Brown Act to continue having remote meetings when it is set to expire in June.
- Karol stated California Commission is introducing legislation to make the remote meeting permanent. Karol also mentioned that SILK is now stating remote meeting is a disability-related accommodation and that they will not list your address.
- Betsy mentioned she promotes online attending and that having online meetings has expanded her ability to serve the public in her role. Betsy also stated that she does not see why it is not an option for any organization to pay for the service. Betsy also stated that older adults trying to obtain Mental Health Services is a horrifying problem and that we have a \$150,000 allocation in our Mental Health Services Act plan to deliver support for older adults but no one does it. Betsy also stated that in all of the plans discussion there is nothing about disaster preparedness and emergency management communication issues for older adults.
- Karol stated that the CDA mentioned emergency preparedness as one of their priorities this coming year.
- Karol stated when you look at diversity equity inclusion in rural countries there has to be an equity component and rural counties do not get the funding they need because of antiquated funding allocations, which they don’t take into consideration how long you have to travel to provide services.

### **3. Comments from the public on non-agenda items:**

### **4. Action Items**

- Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2022
  - A motion to approve the minutes with the correction that Lisa Morrow was present at the last meeting.

M/S Nancy/Lisa All in Favor 0 Abstain

**5. Status of ADRC Application**

- Dena stated that there has not been any changes on the ADRC and that Virginia is working with Adam Brown and communicating with other ADRC's in addition to attending any trainings and that the ADRC is in progress.

**6. Proposed Senior of the Year Awards Program**

- Paul stated that Janine was going to take the lead on this however she is not present, but he did meet with Janine and they talked about having a senior of a year award for each county, one from Mendocino and one from Lake.
- Paul stated that they were hoping to get it done for Senior Month which is in May but did not know if they were going to make the deadline.
- Dena suggested moving this agenda to the next meeting which Paul agreed.

**7. Election of Advisory Council Officers**

- Dena stated that the last election was in June 2021 and that Paul stated at that time that he only wanted to serve for one more term.
- Dena stated that we will move the election to June.
- Paul stated that he is on the fence about being President again, he has been President for four years, and he is open to someone else taking his place.

**8. Consideration of Advisory Council Application**

- Paul asked Shannon Kennedy if she could tell the Advisory Council a little about herself.
- Shannon stated that her background is working with children and that she has a CNA home health certificate and that she has also worked with special needs children and adults.
- Shannon mentioned that she is interested in the welfare of our Seniors in Lake County and that she is really concerned about their Behavioral Health and also about seniors being harmed there are so many of them that are isolated.
- Nancy stated that Shannon understands what seniors are going through and that she would a good candidate for the Advisory Council.
- Lisa stated that Shannon would be the perfect candidate for the Advisory Council and that she would recommend that we appoint her.
- Paul made a motion to move Shannon's candidacy to the Governing Board and to advise staff to make a resolution for the Governing Board

M/S Lisa /Linda All in Favor 0 Abstain

## **9. Return to In-Person Meetings**

- Dena stated that unless something changes, June is when we are going to have to go back to in-person meetings and that is for board members and that there has to be an in-person quorum.
- Dena stated she is hoping that our Mendocino people attended the Mendocino meeting in person when it is in Mendocino and Lake County people attended virtually and vice versa Lake County people attended in person and Mendocino people attended virtually.
- Nancy stated that if we did meet in person that Joan Walter of Mendocino County would attend in person.
- Paul stated that he wanted this to be put on the agenda because he recognizes how it is difficult to attend meetings in person however it is so nice to be in the same room with people because after the meeting you can talk and get to know one another.

## **10. Discussion of Next Area Plan**

- Dena stated that the Area Plan is due May 1 and that the Advisory Council can have input on what content the Advisory Council wants to be included.
- Lisa stated that she would be willing to review the Area Plan in an ad-hoc committee if one was formed.
- Dena stated that the Area Plan needs to be approved by the Governing Board meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> before submitting it on May 1.
- Nancy stated that she would be will look at the Area Plan and provide input.
- Betsy asked whether or not we have the data on C1 and C2 meals that are being provided by the senior centers and if there going to be any report on the impact of Covid on senior centers programs.
- Dena suggested that the Advisory Council meeting in March so that she has enough time to review the result of the ad-hoc committee and that she has time to prepare.
- The Advisory Council agreed to meet on March 20, 2023, at 2 pm.
- Paul suggested that they keep the March 20 meeting short, with only one or two agenda items.

## **11. Next Elder Abuse Conference**

- Dena asked the Advisory Council what topic they want to have for the conference and if they wanted to have it in person.
- Dena suggested fraud and scams, which was done last year, or how to spot caregiver abuse.
- Linda recommended that the Advisory council do how to spot caregiver abuse since people have been isolated.
- Dena stated that she would look into what classes are available through U.C. Davis and see if they have facilitators who are presenting in person and if they are not doing in-person we are going to have to do virtually.

## 12. Committee Meeting

- Community Involvement and Advocacy Committee
  - Ad-Hoc Committee, Senior Thriving
    - Senior Thriving
      - Paul mentioned from Janine's email that yesterday's Senior Thriving meeting moved to propose developing a systematic approach to communicating with and educating vulnerable seniors and their caregivers, gatekeepers, family members, service providers, and others. Social change model starting with disaster preparedness models. Senior Thriving is looking into working with a non-profit to serve as a fiscal agent for associated cost. Senior Thriving is meeting again in two weeks with an anticipated draft action plan to be in place.
- Nominating and Membership Committee
  - CSL Recruitment
    - Paul asked if Priscilla applied to join the CSL committee, and that we are still recruiting.
    - Betsy suggested that a presentation be presented to the board of supervisors due to their large following.
- Legislative Committee
  - Governor's Proposed Budget
    - Paul stated that even though the budget is in a deficit they are trying to maintain senior services and it looks like at the moment there are no major cuts planned. The state is trying to maintain services by dipping into the reserve a little bit and trying to use other funding sources, overall at this point, there are not going to be cut however this is not the final budget it will be revised in May and voted upon by legislators.
- Elder Abuse Prevention Committee
- Needs Assessment/ Health Promotion Committee
  - Paul stated from an email from Janine that from the disaster preparedness section, it is important to understand that folks have registered to know your zone. Janine stated that with all the concerns about technology, it seems important to know how many households have smartphones and internet access. Janine also stated that the Senior Thriving group would be happy to distribute the survey.
  - Betsy mentioned that the new Mental Health person from DHSS, said he is working with in-home support services providers for training and that Betsy suggested that he be given the task of working with in-home support service workers to identify how their clients are prepared for evacuations, and he has agreed to put something together and he has agreed to try and put something together.

- Area Plan Committee

### **13. AAA Staff Report**

- Dena stated that hospice has bereavement counseling that they are doing starting the first Wednesday, third, and fourth Wednesday. Hospice is also a dementia caregiver workshop on April 15 and 22 from 10 am -2 pm in Lakeport. An Emergency Planning Focus group on February 23 and 24 at Highland Senior Center. Legal Service is doing clinics on how to get things expunged from your criminal record in both Lake and Mendocino counties. Redwood Care Giver Resource Center is having a monthly training opportunity for individuals who care for people on February 10 and it is going to be via zoom along with online monthly training via zoom.
- Betsy stated that the Emergency Planning that was taking place at the Highland Senior Center is not going to be done in person but through zoom.
- Deana mentioned that the Advisory Council could review the Needs Assessment Questioner and see what questions they wanted to add or change and the Needs Assessment Question will be going out in February of next year.

### **14. President Report**

- Paul stated that part of the problem when it comes to AAA staffing might be solved with the state requesting or requiring each AAA to have a full-time Ombudsman coordinator and right now in our AAA that is part of Dena's job. At the Governing Board meeting the recommendation was made that the Governing Board would ask each Board of Supervisors to contribute additional funding to the AAA to pay for the full-time Ombudsman coordinator and to make up the difference in Dena's salary.
- Paul stated that if this goes forward it would not start till next fiscal year which would be July 1 and we would get more of Dena's time to work on Advisory Council and AAA issues.
- Paul mentioned either a group or another ad-hoc committee put together a set of talking points that someone could take and develop a short hard-hitting speech to take to the two boards of supervisors. Paul stated that this would look better coming from this body.

### **15. Adjourned**

Adjourned at 3:44PM

**Next meeting**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**2:00pm**

**Zoom Meeting**