



The Unified Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County

Advocacy Committee

Purpose: To discuss and implement strategies consistent with the YHAA Strategic Plan that advance policies, programs and projects that promote the well-being of older adults in Yolo County

MINUTES

Thursday, April 2, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom

PRESENT: Julie Bates (AARP), Marianne Boyer (Yolo Co. and Winters Aging Commissions), Seth Brunner (Yolo Co. Aging Commission), Saira Delgado (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office), Charlotte Dorsey (BBCAN/CA Sr. Legislator/AAA4 Advisory), Monique Gomez (YHAA intern), Lindsey Hall (Yolo Co. DA Elder Abuse Prevention), Anson Houghton (AAA4), Nia Jones (Congressman Matsui office), Alanna Kennedy (YHAA intern), Elizabeth Lesensky (Davis Aging Commission), Lysette Marshman (Senator Bill Dodd office), Pam Miller (AAA4), Elaine Roberts Musser (Yolo Co. Aging Commission), Mary Schleeter (AAA4), Fran Smith (senior and consumer advocate), Jon Sugarman (YHAA Board), Sydnie Whitesel (Assemblymember McCarty's office), April Wick (Resources for Independent Living), Debra Palmer (Yolo Co. and Winters Aging Commissions), Patti Huston (YHAA Board), Christine Dickerson (Partnership Healthplan), Kelly Trillo (Yolo Co. DA Elder Abuse Program), Kaelea Lucas (Resources for Independent Living), German Ayon (AAA4)

1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of 3/5/20 – Accepted as written

3. Status of Follow up items from 3/5/20

- a. Send California Senior Legislator application-there is an Area 4 opening-send email to Will to distribute-50 hours per year
- b. Provide federal Older Americans Act legislation to YHAA Advocacy Leg. Committee for evaluation
- c. Add <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> YHAA Advocacy Committee page to assist public and members with following state legislation

4. Update on Yolo County COVID-19 (Dana Carey, Yolo County Office of Emergency Services)

Due to unanticipated scheduling conflict Dana Carey unable to participate. Sheila provided group with brief overview of status of response. Current statistics including a new dashboard by city of infections and educational information can be found at the county website:

<https://www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/adults/communicable-disease-investigation-and-control/novel-coronavirus-2019>

YHAA also has a COVID site on our home page that includes educational resources, community resources and the link to the Phone Friends for Seniors project. <https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/>

5. **YHAA Phone Friends for Seniors project** (Sheila Allen) Last week YHAA started a new project to address isolation and need for services of older adults in Yolo County, the YHAA Phone Friends for Seniors. Community volunteers are matched with a senior in their community for regular phone chats. If additional need for service, especially food and medication, is identified the volunteer contacts Sheila for assistance. For information or to sign up as volunteer or to receive a call: <https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/phone-friend-forms> Con
6. **Discussion-other ways YHAA can support the community and seniors**
Group discussion regarding social isolation issues: There is a concern about an increase in scams. Assure in training and senior outreach that personal information may be shared. Sheila to send out press release today. The Governor is also starting a Neighbor to Neighbor program. In Winters, the Elder Day participant list is being called. Village Homes neighborhood in Davis also doing this. An educational need is how exercise in the home. AARP working with the governor's office and has an educational webinar every Thurs. Julie Bates to send link for distribution.
7. **Update on 2020 Census – “Census Day” April 1** (Sheila Allen) With shelter in place orders all planned senior housing and senior center outreach has been postponed. Suggest to send information out in utility bills-City of Winters putting it into theirs. Suggest putting signs put up in post office. Utilize Next Door. RIL is also doing census outreach. **FOLLOW UP:** Sheila find out if legal to help other people complete census online while on the phone with senior.
8. **Yolo Adult Day Services updates** (Dawn Myers)
Galileo Place (Yolo Hospice Adult Day Program) broke ground last week to start remodel. They have hired a dedicated project manager and working with advisory committee.
Yolo Adult Day Health-Denise has been re-engaged at state level to re-design California Adult Day Programs from center-based to center without walls. Dawn is innovating-90 participants on roster. For those at highest risk providing home based services and delivering food and social materials to the participant's homes and phone follow up. The governor's office asked for names of people that the governor called about the program. Data Collection-will mobile work and will this be a way to do in the future, especially in more remote areas.
9. **The Collaborative for Long Term Services & Supports/Master Plan for Aging** – All activities related to Master Plan for Aging are currently on hold. Funding from SCAN for LTSS may change scope to respond to COVID. LTSS group discussing how does group maintain relevance and funding. May have a revised scope of work.
10. **Reports from elected officials' offices**
 - a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado)-Legislative calendar in flux, it is supposed to start 2 weeks from now but doubt that will happen. All staff working remotely. Still taking calls and receiving emails. Receiving lots of information. Websites helpful: cdph.ca.gov; covid19.ca.gov, testing and treatment, financial information including unemployment, have resource guide on their website-**FOLLOW UP:** Send her Phone Friends for Seniors program.

Governor's "Neighbor to Neighbor" (encourage to reach out to neighbors) and statewide hotline 833-544-2374 (for seniors-for resources). People can sign up to help through CA Volunteers. COVID testing is now available at state fairgrounds with MD referral. Utilizing CERTs, neighborhood response teams (city of SF have those) there is a training required (20 hours required for CERT)

- b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) Their office is connecting people to resources. Kevin doing tele-townhall with Sen. Richard Pan. On Facebook page-She will send to me for distribution 6pm tonight. Team is there for you. All staff are working from home.
- c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) Legislature adjourned March 16, scheduled to return April 2. Not sure if that will happen. But requests for this legislative session-majority of time and funds will be for addressing COVID19 (not other budget asks). Nurses/MD are asked to help for medical response teams-can sign up-Healthcare.ca.gov (retired nurses, MD, etc) Neighbor to Neighbor (211), Yolo Food Bank to get food delivered to home.
- d. Senator Pan (Diana Douglas) not present.
- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) not present.
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) CARES act and rebate checks-persons receiving SSI can receive without filing taxes. Section 2202-2205-specific to seniors.

11. Agency on Aging Area 4 update (Pam Miller/Mary Schleeter) Fully operational though working remotely. Jill Cook-concerned regarding the Yolo Meals on Wheels on waitlist-connected to YHAA Phone Friends and food bank. There were 87 people on the waitlist. Then called people on home delivered meals and then congregate meal people. Food truck-twice a week can get meals to deliver to those in need. When public calls office forwards to an AAA4 staff member who can forward to 211 information or to AAA4 person centered counselors. Yolo ADRC-have emerging status. Were supposed to have teleconference with CDA but it was cancelled. Have some funds available and working on budget.

12. Report from California Senior Legislature – (C. Dorsey) Prescription labeling legislation is on hold-made it to committee. In West Sacramento, misinformation regarding staying in place and not gathering.

13. Announcements and upcoming events

- a. YHAA 10th Anniversary Fundraiser-March 29-**Postponed to Fall-Date TBD**
- b. Senior Lobby Day at Capitol-**CANCELLED**
- c. SCAN Foundation – Fall Advocacy Day at Capitol- Oct. 21 (**tentative**)
- d. Resources for Independent Living-Kaelea Lucas is new community organizer and advocacy. Working from home through May 4. Providing services by phone and zoom. Census ambassadors are doing a phone bank. Identifying unmet needs, fears about paying rent, risk of homelessness, protections, resources for groceries, new Yolo-focused resource worker is Emily (fluent ASL) will be working at co-location site and ADRC resource provider.
- e. Fran Smith at 8pm each night howling and ringing bells for support
- f. AARP-working remotely-changes to telehealth, Medicare coverage, challenge grant extended into May.
- g. Elizabeth Lasensky-at 7pm go outside-Rancho Yolo little concert on the street
- h. HICAP-making phone appointments
- i. Governor Newsom now doing daily press conference at noon.

14. Future Agenda Items-Organizing and activities of YHAA Advocacy Legislative Subcommittee

15. Next meeting date: Thursday, May 7, 2020, location or phone conference TBD