



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, July 2, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

PRESENT: Christine Dicker (Partnership Healthplan), Charlotte Dorsey (BBCAN, CA Senior Legislator), Elaine Roberts Musser (Yolo Co. Commission on Aging), Elizabeth Lasensky (Davis Commission on Aging), Patti Huston (YHAA Board member), Jon Sugarman (YHAA Board member), Pam Miller (Agency on Aging-Area 4), Kaelea Lucas (Resources for Independent Living), Lindsey Hall (Yolo Co. D.A. Elder Protection Unit), Saira Delgado (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office), Nia Jones (Congressman Matsui's office), Karen Abrego (Senator Pan's office), Marianne Boyer (Yolo Co. and Winters Commission on Aging), Sharon Reuter (senior advocate) Lysette Marshman (Sen. Bill Dodd's office), Dana Carey (Yolo Co. Office of Emergency Services), Julie Freitas (Yolo Co. HHS-Adult and Aging Branch), Nancy Schaelin-Zipse (senior advocate), Sheila Allen (YHAA Executive Director)

1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of 6/4/20 MOTION: Move approval as written. Moved by Elizabeth Lasensky, Marianne Boyer 2nd, passed unanimously.

3. Status of Follow up items from 6/4/20

- a. Send thank yous to Aguiar-Curry, Dodd and Pan for support of CBAS-*completed*
- b. Send link to committee to contact governor for budget-*completed*
- c. Re-send letter of support for AB2047 to senate side-*completed*
- d. Check if referrals for home delivered meals can come directly from APS- *in process*. Pam Miller (AAA4) reports "Stay at Home Sacramento" program for 60 yrs or older and staying at home are eligible for 2 meals per day from 5 restaurants. AAA4 implementing the program. Yolo Meals on Wheels has declined assistance from AAA4.

4. Report on California 2020-2021 Budget Deal Your advocacy made the difference! Pleased to report that all of the proposed cuts and elimination of programs for older adults proposed in the Governor's May Revise did not happen. Both houses of the legislature heard the advocates voices loud and clear and included this position to the governor and the negotiated budget did not eliminate CBAS (Adult Day Health Services) or MSSP or other cuts to IHSS, Caregiver Resource Centers, etc. Congratulations to

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance - The Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County

Supervisor Jim Provenza, Chair - Sheila Allen, Executive Director

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all. The economy will not be vastly improving anytime soon so vigilance will be needed with budget updates. The Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) continues to move forward with a Home Care program that was originally proposed to replace ADHC and MSSP. We will continue to monitor this development also.

5. Reports from elected officials' offices

- a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado) No budget details yet (the 121-page report was just received) Assemblymember was pleased that CBAS and MSSP funds were included in budget as they were priorities. California is still waiting for federal funding to come through. The CA Assembly has been in recess since June 19. Returning on July 19. Last day for bills to pass is Aug. 31. Aguiar-Curry has 9 bills moved to the Senate side including AB 2047 that YHAA is supporting.
- b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) no staff present to report.
- c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) Budget Act signed by Governor Newsom-funding protected for CBAS which was a priority for Senator Dodd. Budget included funds to strengthen emergency response, preserve services (but not expand). Senate in recess now, July 13 restart.
- d. Senator Pan (Karen Abrego) Older adult advocates had a very effective write-in campaign. Received hundreds of correspondences. Concern about enrollment restrictions for Great Plates Program. Tried to advocate for loosening and did not happen. Dr. Pan knows importance of and supports community based programs for seniors.
- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) no staff present to report.
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) Heroes Act passed the House a month ago. Hoping for negotiations in Senate by end of this month. Congresswoman Matsui co-chairs The Task Force on Aging and Families that included a discussion of nursing homes and the impact of COVID. Center for Medicare to collect data and accountability from nursing homes. Very important to prevent home evictions at this time. Working on the food insecurity. Discussing long term solutions for increasing food security.

6. COVID Update (Dana Carey, Yolo Co. Office of Emergency Services)

- a. Great Plates is a FEMA funding program. Rules for enrollments were so strict which is why Great Plates participation in Yolo was so low.
- b. COVID case counts are going up. Majority of cases have been traced to family and other social gatherings. New communication coming from county to not gather, use face covering and stay home as much as possible.
- c. Press release from Yolo Co. last night implementing the same business closures as those counties on watch list (we are not currently on it but are surrounded by them). We expect to be on the watch list soon.
- d. Increasing testing capacity-mobile testing at Knights Landing and Dunnigan, 4th and Hope, and Madison. Using the fall to prepare for vaccine distribution by practicing with seasonal flu distribution.

Elaine Roberts Musser reported on a presentation from the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CAHNR) that Congress, Senate and Assembly hearings regarding nursing homes had the following findings: that they are still lacking in PPE and testing kits and materials, staff are underpaid, regulators not implementing evaluation and follow up, current federal regulations were loosened up before pandemic, some state regulations have ordered people back into nursing homes, inadequate tracking of federal funds, some nursing homes can't pay leases so are going out of business, and

reimbursement for Medicaid is inadequate. Additionally, persons on Medicaid (long term residents) are getting kicked out to be replaced with Medicare patients as they have higher pay rate.

Suggestions to improve long term care facilities during COVID:

- 1-develop national supply chain for PPE and testing supplies
- 2-improve pay and increase number of staff
- 3-hold facilities accountable to regulations
- 4-inact stricter regulations of nursing homes
- 5-report discharges to ombudsman (in Yolo not allowed in SNF up until this week)
- 6-majority of SNF are for-profit institutions, funds need to go to proper care rather than profit.
- 7-adequate funding levels for care

Elaine also noted that the Yolo Co. Health Care Preparedness Coalition met this morning and seem to be on top of situation. Nancy S-Z noted that the Heroes Act has some funds for skilled nursing support.

Julie Freitas, Yolo HHS (she also is working at the emergency operations on data) reports the greatest number of cases by age group is 25-35 year olds; this is not new but has been the whole time. Contact tracing-the most recent large outbreak started with family gathering. Persons testing positive related to protests are very minimal. Yolo Co. Emergency Operation for COVID is now transitioning to a "CROC" COVID Response Operation Center.

7. Programs for Homeless Older Adults (Julie Freitas, Yolo Co. HHS, Adult and Aging Branch)

Yolo County provides mental health services for Full Service Partnership-highest need (25 of the participants are older adults) and with their Moderate Team (70 participants are older adults). In past year have integrated these 2 teams.

In Yolo Co. have had an increase in the number of Room and Boards facilities and are making connections to them. Rate ability to house persons is so much higher now, with very few cases not housed within a day. "Project Room Key" state program in response to housing homeless individuals during COVID epidemic, housed everyone immediately (requirement age 60 + and high risk medical conditions). Utilizing 8 motels with 246 rooms. Downsided to 4 hotels and 90 rooms in this month. Number of persons supported: 22 in Davis, 48 in West Sacramento, 26 in Woodland. Participants continue to receive services, with food and medication. Now working on "Project Home Key". In Davis purchase hotel and container homes, West Sacramento-motel purchase and 85 affordable units (in Sept. 2021), Woodland construction at 102 Beamer St. of a 100 bed shelter opening in Nov. 2020 and 60 affordable units. 4th and Hope will continue as a family site and Road 102 Beamer non-family.

Wrap-around services include connecting people to benefits as soon as possible e.g: SSI, MediCal, Vets, etc.. Have some funding to supplement rent, especially through Mental Health Services Act funds.

7. Report from YHAA Advocacy-Legislative Subcommittee (Debra Palmer, chair, members: Elizabeth Lasensky, Nancy Schaezlein-Zipse, Charlotte Dorsey)

Federal Heroes Act (Nancy S-Z report) Has already passed the House. Waiting for action by senate. House version is (\$3 trillion). Very large piece of legislation that includes funding pieces for older adults including: Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) support, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) for testing, grants for mental health and homeless care, suicide prevention lines, substance abuse treatment, Aging and Disability Resource Services, nutrition, family caregivers support, disease prevention, elder rights, assistive technology, additional supports to support persons with a disability in their homes, public health, infrastructure for telehealth, grants for transit agencies, housing-extend homeless assistance.

MOTION: YHAA to write a letter of support to our senators and provide information to Advocacy Committee members for individual advocacy on the older adult and persons with disability sections. Moved by Nancy Schaelin-Zipse, Charlotte Dorsey 2nd, passed unanimously.

SB862 Planned Power Outage (Dodd) (Debra Palmer presented) In Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee. Addresses accessibility and emergency power for persons who cannot leave their home.

MOTION: Move recommend support by Elizabeth Lasensky, Dawn Myers 2nd, passed unanimously. Kaelea Lucas (Resources for Independent Living-RIL) reports there is a new program by PG&E to sign up if you need power in emergency. RIL has emergency hotel vouchers and limited funds to purchase battery backup. **FOLLOW UP:** Send RIL flier to committee members.

AB 2047 Emergency Services: Alzheimer's Disease: Dementia (Aguiar-Curry) (Elizabeth Lesensky presented) YHAA already has support position. **FOLLOW UP:** Send letter of support to Senate side.

8. **The California Collaborative for Long Term Services (CCLTSS)** (Jon Sugarman)
Quarterly member meeting focused on the state budget. January revise will be difficult again.
9. **Agency on Aging Area 4 update** (Pam Miller/Mary Schleeter) Providing meals to homeless people in hotels in Yolo County (Project Room Key). The program is full, not taking additional referrals at this time. Pleased that state funding is not dependent on trigger funds so AAA4 budget is intact. During pandemic, AAA4 is focusing on nutrition needs of older adults. Agency is providing 5000 meals in Sacramento. CARES Act funding is promised but still waiting for actual funds. Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)-Turned in our work plan to the State Dept. of Aging.
10. **Report from California Senior Legislature** – (C. Dorsey) Senior Legislatures is also interested in the availability of internet and ability of older adults to virtually connect. No CSL convention this year.
11. **Report from California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)** (Fran Smith) no report.
12. **YHAA report on current projects:** (Sheila Allen)
 - a. **Phone Friends for Seniors** for information or to sign up as volunteer or to receive a call:
<https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/phone-friend-forms-Con>
District Attorney office providing education to volunteers for Scam prevention and how to identify Older Adult Abuse.
Kevin Clark-moving to Indiana
 - b. **Update on Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)** Partners agencies are Agency on Aging-Area 4 and Resources for Independent Living. See AAA4 report.
 - c. **Healthy Parks-Healthy People**-project in collaboration with Cache Creek Conservancy and Putah Creek Council to educate provider and public on the positive health impacts of getting out in nature.
 - d. **Expansion of Yolo Adult Day Health Center**-vetting a site in Woodland, it is looking good. If this moves forward, it will solve location and need for expansion issues.
13. **Announcements and upcoming events**
 - a. **YHAA 10th Anniversary Fundraiser**-Rescheduled-Sunday, Oct. 4, 4pm-Virtual or In-Person
 - b. **2020 Census** – last day to complete online is Aug. 15 <https://2020census.gov/>

- c. **Free COVID testing** extended in West Sacramento, one day in Davis with long lines. Members report that people are not using masks/face coverings in public. If there is a business that is not requiring people to use face coverings can call police for enforcement.
- d. **Galileo Place-Adult Day Care in Davis.** Remodeling of space almost complete. Working on licensure packet. Planning for opening in early 2021.

14. Future Agenda Items

- a. Dept. of Health Care Services, Long Term Care at Home Program, moving very fast.
- b. Next meeting Congressman Garamendi will join us.

15. Next meeting date: Thursday, August 6, 2020, 10am-noon via Zoom