



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, September 3, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

PRESENT: Christine Dicker (Partnership Healthplan), Elaine Roberts Musser (Yolo Co. Commission on Aging), Patti Huston (YHAA Board member), Pam Miller (Agency on Aging-Area 4), Kaelea Lucas (Resources for Independent Living), Saira Delgado (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office), Nancy Schaelin-Zipse (senior advocate), Fran Smith (CARA representative), Brandi Bluell (Resources for Independent Living), Mary Schleeter (AAA4), German Ayon (AAA4), Anson Houghton (AAA4), Aaron Lotta (Congressman Garamendi's office), Dawn Myers (YHAA Board and Yolo Adult Day Health Center), April Wick (Resources for Independent Living), Julia Hagelberg (Home Care Co-op), Christina Bolanos (Home Care Co-op), Randy Dinning (Yolo Ombudsman), Monique Gomez (YHAA intern), Valerie Olson (Yolo Co. Health Council), Brendon Sweeney (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office), Pedro Maturana-Figuerao (Home Care Co-op), Lysette Marshman (Sen. Bill Dodd's office), Lindsey Hall (Yolo Co. DA Office, Elder Protection Unit), Tracy Keenan (Citizens who Care-Yolo Hospice), Maryjo Nunes, Sheila Allen (YHAA Executive Director) (30 people on Zoom)

- 1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda** Agenda approved by acclamation.
- 2. Approval of the minutes of 8/6/20 MOTION:** Move approval of minutes. Moved by Patti Huston, Dawn Myers 2nd, passed unanimously.
- 3. Status of Follow up items from 8/6/20**
 - a. Request Board support of HR 6560 UNITE Act of 2020 (Garamendi) *done*
 - b. Send committee Census 2020 information and response maps *see attached*
 - c. Invite Christi Skibbins, Yolo Meals on Wheels to report current program, needs, barriers and funding. *Christi will present at October meeting.*
- 4. Guest Speaker-Congressman John Garamendi** Congressman Garamendi gave an overview of most recent policy announcement by administration regarding increasing fear of voting, removing federal funds from cities with protests and lack of movement of legislation by Senate. Concerned regarding status of our nation. Encouraged participants to be educated, involved and to vote. Also encouraged people to do what is right to stay healthy including social distancing and masks and protect yourself,

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

Supervisor Jim Provenza, Chair - Sheila Allen, Executive Director

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your family and your community. Noted that Governor Newsome is doing a good job. There is allotted funds remaining from the CARES and Families First Act but it is difficult to access. Contact him if you think you have a lead for funds.

Congressman noted concern for recent administrative moves against U.S. Postal Service. It is safe to vote by mail, be sure to follow the instructions so your vote is counted.

FOLLOW UP: Make or find a video on how to vote by mail and help distribute. Suggest checking Secretary of State Alex Padilla's office for sample.

Congressman took questions and input from committee members including:

- Need for funding and flexibility for home and community based services, especially during the COVID pandemic. **RESPONSE:** near term no real structural changes until next administration. People are better off in home than in nursing homes. A significant portion of Medicaid funding goes to nursing homes. Look into other models. e.g.: Finland has a robust in home program. Long term changes: use pandemic as instructive to change the flow of funds.
- COVID testing problems-we need more access and especially faster test results. **RESPONSE:** Rapid tests are able to be done. We could import from other countries but the President will not work with other countries on this or vaccines. Suggests to continue to work with our state legislatures. California is capable of importing tests.
- UNITE Bill had funds for testing and tracing. **RESPONSE:** it passed in House but was not heard in the Senate. Testing program is blocked by the administration.
- HEROES bill is in deep trouble-includes funding for state and local. Ask colleagues in other counties to send support letters-state and local funding. There are funds here.
- Eviction protections are needed. **RESPONSE:** Federal Protections on evictions-stuck in Senate.
- Military families need assistance also.
- Issues will not be solved unless we change the president.

5. Reports from elected officials' offices

- a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado) session ended Tues. 1:30am. Governor signed eviction protection which is very good news. Monitoring the LNU and August Fires, they are getting under control. Be prepared for emergencies-this is National Preparedness Month.
- b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) no representative present
- c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) Session concluded. Very tumultuous year. Total of 8 Dodd bills that made it through to governor's desk. SB862 Planned Power bills all were killed. SB909 HiLo Sirens-Governor already signed. SB872-streamlines insurance claims after wildfires. Transition-SB214-permit low income seniors and people with disabilities to make transition. Huge uptick in constituents reaching out to elected which is a positive outcome of current situation.
- d. Senator Pan (Karen Abrego) no representative present.
- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) Contact their off with any problems with federal agencies. Help with in-person appointments for social security.
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) no representative present.

6. Report from YHAA Advocacy-Legislative Subcommittee (Debra Palmer, chair, members: Elizabeth Lasensky, Nancy Schaezlein-Zipse, Charlotte Dorsey) See attached bill tracker.

HEROES Act- **FOLLOW UP:** check if we sent a letter

Heals Act- Introduced which includes funds to save Medicare and Social Security. Watch status.

SB1207 Jackson **MOTION:** Move to support SB1207. Moved by Marianne Boyer, Fran Smith 2nd, passed unanimously.

7. The California Collaborative for Long Term Services (CCLTSS) (Patti Huston)

At last meeting there was a Project Roomkey report (housing for persons at high risk poor outcomes from COVID experiencing homelessness) and a housing discussion with local perspective. Half of the single homeless population is over 50 years old. In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) - half a million people in CA receive this. Providers had received PPE with training. Expedited IHSS is needed for participants in Project Roomkey. Currently, Project Roomkey is not accepting additional people.

8. Agency on Aging Area 4 update (Anson Houghton)

- a. Newly proposed Home Care program from Dept. of Health Care Services was pulled yesterday.
- b. Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)- Core partners AAA4, RIL and YHAA. Have some funding for infrastructure and capacity development in Yolo Co. Additional COVID funds received by ADRC for: 1-Information and Assistance, 2-Crisis intervention, 3-Planning for goals and options counseling, 4-transition services. California Community Transitions (CCT) program-get link, federal funding only through Dec. 21. **FOLLOW UP** Anson to provide description. “No wrong door” connection to services. Yolo ADRC hopes to be fully certified within a year.
- c. AAA4 assisting in Yolo County to provide 70-80 meals per day for Project Roomkey

9. Report from California Senior Legislature – (C. Dorsey) Supporting rural internet access.

10. Report from California Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA) (Fran Smith) Focusing on the election and getting out the vote. California Action Teams (CATs) reaching out to local elected officials to discuss: future of Medicare, Medicaid, Long Term Services and Supports. Doing phone calling to remind people to vote and where polling place is located.

11. 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>
- b. **Update on Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)**
- c. **Healthy Parks-Healthy People**
- d. **Expansion of Yolo Adult Day Health Center-county and Dignity making progress**
- e. **2020 Census-** last day to complete online is September 30 <https://2020census.gov/>

12. Announcements and upcoming events

- a. **YHAA 10th Anniversary Fundraiser**-Sunday, Oct. 4, 4pm-Virtual
- b. **Next election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.** For information on ballot drop off locations and in-person voting: <https://www.yoloelections.org/news-and-publications/proposed-voter-assistance-centers-vac-and-ballot-drop-off-box-bdb-locations-for-november-3rd-general>
- c. **Partnership Healthplan**-\$1000 for go kits.
- d. **Cooling Centers**-difficult to get a list of locations open. **FOLLOW UP:** Add to website. Emergency Services-there is an app. **FOLLOW UP:** Ask Dana.
- e. **Emergency Prep**-recommendations to the Board of Supervisors **FOLLOW UP:** Distribute these. Subcommittee of Board of Supervisor will review recommendations for what can be implemented then go back to full BOS.
- f. **Healthcare Coalition**-ReadyNet drills. 3 of 15 assisted living facilities have responded to assessment so county can track how they are doing.

13. Future Agenda Items – Meals on Wheels of Yolo County, Educating the public on voting process in Yolo County

14. Next meeting date: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 10am-noon via Zoom