



*The Unified Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County*

## **Advocacy Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

**PRESENT:** Christine Dicker (Partnership Healthplan), Patti Huston (YHAA Board member), 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), Dawn Myers (YHAA Board and Yolo Adult Day Health Center), April Wick (Resources for Independent Living), Lysette Marshman (Sen. Bill Dodd's office), Lindsey Hall (Yolo Co. DA Office, Elder Protection Unit), Jeffrey Tardaguilla (Resources for Independent Living), Debra Palmer (Yolo Co. and Winters Aging Commissions), Elizabeth Lasensky (Davis Senior Citizen Commission), Nolan Sullivan (Yolo Co. HHS-A-Service Centers Branch), Wally Pearce (AAA4 Advisory Council, Yolo Co. and Winters Commission on Aging), Emily Miyaoka (Resources for Independent Living), Lydia Bourne (AAA4 Advisory Council), Valerie Olson (Yolo Co. Health Council), Pam Miller (AAA4), Julie Bates (AARP), Curleen Langman (YHAA intern), Ali Padua (YHAA intern), Monique Gomez (YHAA intern), Sheila Allen (YHAA Executive Director) (31 people on call)

- 1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of 10/1/20 MOTION:** Move approval. Moved by Elizabeth Lasensky, Wally Pearce 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.
- 3. CA Collaborative on Long Term Care Services and Supports (CCLTSS) Advocacy Day, Nov. 9-10**  
Day 1-education on current issues. Day 2-local meetings with legislators and their staff. YHAA Advocacy Committee members attending: Sheila Allen, Curleene Langman, Charlotte Dorsey, Fran Smith, Elizabeth Lasensky, Dawn Myers
- 4. Report on YHAA Voter Assistance Project-Yolo Long Term Care Facilities (Patti Huston/interns)**  
YHAA partnered with Yolo Elections to provide official ballot boxes to Long Term Care facilities in Yolo County during COVID times. Phone calls from YHAA and email from county elections went out to all skilled nursing facilities and assisted facilities with more than 20 residents. Four facilities requested to participate and YHAA interns and volunteers were sworn in as elections workers and trained on ballot handling. Facilities participating were Carlton Senior Living (Davis), University

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance - The Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County  
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Chair - Sheila Allen, Executive Director  
600 A Street, Suite C, Davis, CA 95616 530-757-5583 [www.yolohealthyaging.org](http://www.yolohealthyaging.org)

Retirement Community (Davis), St. John's Retirement Community (Woodland) and The Californian (Woodland).

**5. AAA4 Recommendations for 4 year Plan Update-report (Patti Huston)**

Patti Huston, AAA4 Governing Board member reported she recently presented to YHAA Advocacy Committee, Yolo Co. Aging Commission and spoke with current providers to see how services are currently going and changes to services with COVID. Yolo Governing Board members will utilize this input to recommend to full AAA4 Governing Board level of funding for the next 4 year cycle of funding. Four program areas are required to be provided in every county: legal services, information and assistance (I &A), transportation, and nutrition.

**6. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) unmet need survey (Sheila Allen)**

Nov. 4 Sheila attended the Yolo County SACOG Hearing on unmet transportation needs. She provided the following input:

- a. At the 4 late 2019 YHAA townhall meetings-transportation was number 1 issue
- b. Microtransit project for rural Yolo "Youride" is not on website-needs to be better advertised
- c. Continued and increasing need for cross walk in Winters across Grant Avenue (Hwy 128) to connect only grocery store in town to neighborhood that includes low income senior and family housing and new larger senior housing complex.
- d. Cost of ADA rides may still be out of reach for some persons with disabilities.

*Responses at hearing:*

Jose Perez, Yolo Bus representative, Jose Perez:

Microtransit is expanding in rural Yolo Co. Started with an on-demand service for Knights Landing area into Woodland. Now also have a Winters pilot that is a converted limited bus route to on-demand utilizing grant funding and tracking usage.

Microtransit-is user friendly, first come-first serve model. May only call on day of service need (no schedule ahead of time)

Been in communication with City of Winters re: relocating the bus stop with new senior housing complex. With microtransit, they may be able to pick up and get to store, especially with smaller buses.

Supervisor Don Saylor:

Working with CalTrans to expand I-5 Winters overpass to safely allow biking or walking. In addition to the need for the cross walk, a sidewalk is needed on the north side of the road. Complete Streets Plan-Winters is submitting a CalTrans application that will be considered at beginning of the year the will include completing the sidewalk on the north side of Grant Ave. to Railroad St. This also will address need for side walk at Yolo County Services building.

Cost-ADA-funding services-try to make as low as possible. \$4.50 is less than 10% of the cost of an ADA ride.

*Final hearing Jan. 21.*

**FOLLOW UP:** Find out where to send letters of input and share with committee:

Email – transitneeds@sacog.org

Online Comments - sacog.org/unmet

Call/Text – (916) 426-3799

Mail -SACOG, Attn: Unmet Transit Needs, 1415 L Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

**7. Reports from elected officials' offices**

- a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado) Saira will follow up regarding Winters sidewalk and cross walk issues.
- b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) not present.
- c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) Thank you for efforts to engage voters to cast their ballots. Looking forward to YHAA legislative proposals and are still taking ideas for legislation. Lysette will brief staffer Ron Turner regarding Winters cross walk issue.
- d. Senator Pan (Karen Abrego) not present
- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) not present
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) not present

**8. Report from YHAA Advocacy-Legislative Subcommittee-Legislative Ideas for 2021** (Debra Palmer, chair, members: Elizabeth Lasensky, Nancy Schaezlein-Zipse, Charlotte Dorsey) See attached bill tracker. "Skinny CARES Act" no movement and unlikely to move forward. Will likely be restarting a new COVID relief bill soon. Legislative Ideas for 2021 session as discussed last month and will be presented to state legislative staff at Advocacy Day:

- a. Re-introduce 2020 Legislation, especially YHAA supported and watched bills.
- b. Digital Divide-internet accessibility in northern part of state-telemedicine, connecting with family, communication, wellness and mental health, including affordable alternatives for low income older adults.
- c. Access to electronic devices for persons in long term care facilities for each resident. (including training)
- d. Timely information on dangers to the community including smoke, fires, heat, flooding, even if not in our immediate area.
- e. Cross jurisdiction communication in emergencies (e.g.: Solano and Yolo Co.)
- f. Access to medically necessary power.
- g. Extending Medi-Cal waiver to all counties, especially Yolo
- h. Local-Participate in the Davis Housing Element discussion.
- i. Special focus on emergency preparedness and information for older adults and persons with access and functional need related to Emergency & Disaster Preparedness related to wild fires.

**9. The California Collaborative for Long Term Services (CCLTSS)** (Patti Huston) Sponsor of Advocacy Day, see above and <https://www.ccltss.org/> Their legislative priorities include:

- a. Adopt CA Master Plan for Aging recommendations
- b. Build a high quality, coordinated system of care
- c. Provide middle class relief and stop impoverishment to receive long term care.
- d. Create a CA Integrated Services and Supports Planning Council

**10. Agency on Aging Area 4 update** (Pam Miller/Mary Schleeter)

- a. Going into the 4-year plan cycle with RFPs in spring.
- b. ADRC Update-finished applying for next fiscal year. In middle of rapid assessment for COVID response. Consumer Transition Intervention (Coleman Model)-training in 2 weeks. Transition services (from hospital or skilled nursing to home) is one of the 4 core services that ADRCs provide.
- c. AAA4 is working in cooperation with Yolo County Meals on Wheels to address their waitlist, currently about 80 people. Coordinating getting restaurant meals to these people starting on Monday utilizing Yolo County CARES funds through the end of the year (similar to project in Sacramento County that has been happening for months).

- d. Providing meals to Project Room Key participants: 13,056 meals served to date. Working with Jesuit to supply notes, cards and gift packs to Yolo Project Room key.
- e. Working the Yolo County to utilize their CARES Act funding:
  - a. Yolo Meals on Wheels to directly transition 315 people from the Great Plates program through Dec. 31.
  - b. Expanded funding through Food Bank. Food Bank went from providing food to 400 households in Winters per month to over 1000 per month. Food Bank is now the only food distribution in Winters.

NOTE: Yolo Meals on Wheels not receiving CARES Act dollars because they did not fully expend their first round of stimulus dollars.

Discussion: Are there any additional ideas or partners that could get food out? Have tried working with Woodland Dinner on Main group. Congregate meals not coming back anytime soon and were seeing decreased participation before pandemic. Looking for new ways to provide nutrition. Pam reports the successful “Dine Around Town” program in Yuba-Sutter utilizes meal vouchers for set menus at participating restaurants.

- 11. **Report from California Senior Legislature** – (C. Dorsey) (unable to access Zoom)
- 12. **Report from California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)** (Fran Smith) Prop 15 did not pass-CARA worked on trying to pass this initiative. Meeting on Nov. 19 to create priorities for next year.
- 13. **Report from Yolo County Health Council** (Valerie Olson) Meeting 2 times a month now with every other week with a COVID-focus. Alderson in Woodland has had a number of outbreaks and multiple deaths. Need more testing and tracing in high risk areas such as front line workers and agriculture workers. Need for more often testing in LTC facilities to prevent deaths. In red zone now but likely going back to purple. Not a lot of time for discussion after reports. Vaccine-starting to look at distribution processes including how to properly store (some vaccines require subzero temperatures). Flu vaccine-drive through going very well. New flu vaccine dates have now been added. Have information how to get shot at home if they can’t get out. **FOLLOW UP:** send members flier on home vaccine
- 14. **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. Will add people from AAA4 meals programs <https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/phone-friend-forms-Con>
  - b. **Update on Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)** see above
  - c. **Healthy Parks-Healthy People**-educating public and providers on positive health benefits of getting out into nature.
  - d. **Expansion of Yolo Adult Day Health Center**-Expansion planning is moving forward. Providing limited respite care for stressed caregivers in the center. Recently tried outside group activities recently. Quarterly re-assessments in person where they can, flu clinic, drive by Halloween, modified transport van to separate seats.
- 15. **Announcements and upcoming events** Nov. 18, League of Women Voters virtual event: The difference between Medicare for all, single payer system and universal health care.
- 16. **Future Agenda Items**
- 17. **Next meeting date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020, 10am-noon via Zoom