



*The Unified Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County*

**Advocacy Committee**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 4, 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

**PRESENT:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Sheila Allen (Executive Director, YHAA)             | Aaron Lotta (Congressman Garamendi office)      |
| Brandi Bluel (Resources for Independent Living-RIL) | Kaelea Lucas (Resources for Independent Living) |
| Lydia Bourne (AAA4 Advisory Comm.)                  | Pam Miller (Agency on Aging Area 4)             |
| Marianne Boyer (Yolo/Winters Aging Comm.)           | Emily Miyaoka (RIL)                             |
| Seth Brunner (Yolo Aging Comm.)                     | Dawn Myers (YHAA Board/Yolo ADHC)               |
| Saira Delgado (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office)  | Elaine Roberts Musser (Yolo Aging Comm.)        |
| Christine Dicker (Partnership Healthplan)           | Valerie Olson (Yolo Co. Health Council)         |
| Katie Dineen (Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry office)   | Ali Padua (YHAA CSUS Gero intern)               |
| Charlotte Dorsey (AAA4 Advisory, Yolo Aging Comm)   | Nancy Schaezlein-Zipse (Senior Advocate)        |
| Jaana Elina (AAA4)                                  | Mary Schleeter (AAA4)                           |
| JR Fujita (AARP)                                    | Fran Smith (CARA representative)                |
| Lindsey Hall (Yolo D.A. Elder Abuse Protection)     | Jon Sugarman (YHAA Board of Directors)          |
| Patti Huston (YHAA Board)                           | Jeffrey Tardaguila (RIL Board)                  |
| Anson Houghton (AAA4)                               | April Wick (RIL)                                |
| Curleene Langman (YHAA CSUS Gero Intern)            | Sheila Allen (YHAA staff)                       |
| Elizabeth Lasensky (Davis Aging Comm.)              |   |

**1. Approval of the minutes of 2/4/21 MOTION:** Move approval as written. Moved by Marianne Boyer, Charlotte Dorsey 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

**2. Yolo County COVID Vaccine Rollout and Outreach to Unvaccinated Older Adults**

Dr. Aimee Sisson, Yolo Co. Health Officer, reports that as of 3/1/21, 71% of people age 65 years and older in Yolo Co. have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. While this is great progress, there still is work to do to find the barriers and address them for the remaining 29% of older adults. This population is many times more likely to die if infected with COVID. YHAA is having a special meeting tomorrow, March 5, 9am via Zoom to discuss the barriers and address them.

There is a new urgent issue with many Kaiser and Sutter patients who received notice yesterday that their second dose is cancelled with no new date scheduled. Another change is that vaccine distribution is moving from the state to Blue Cross (the 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity) in the coming days. There does not seem to be a clear understanding of how this will roll out. It does appear that Yolo County will get far fewer doses for their mobile clinics and to distribute to our community clinics that serve our most vulnerable with this new distribution system. Also, the state is to implement “MyTurn” app to sign up for vaccine appointments. “MyTurn” does not yet have full functionality for health systems or Yolo Co. receive the vaccination request or for them to reach the individual to schedule a vaccine. Thousands of people have already completed the Yolo Co. interest form to get on the list for vaccines. This information now has to be abandoned and cannot be migrated to MyTurn so people will need to sign up again. If you know someone who is homebound, let Sheila know their name, age and address and she will forward the information to Yolo County for scheduling for a home vaccination.

Comments:

April Wick from RIL noted that her staff were able to get vaccinated as health providers through Yolo County who have been amazing.

Partnership Healthplan called their clients and helped to sign them up for vaccine appointments using the information from YHAA.

### 3. YHAA 2021 Legislative Agenda (see attached)

The YHAA BOD approved the attached 2021 Legislative Agenda as proposed by the YHAA Advocacy Committee with the additional of including another priority: permanently removing the 7% cut to IHSS. Utilizing this list and with additional votes of the board, YHAA has signed onto 3 advocacy letters this past month:

1- IHSS Budget-Permanent Restoration of the 7% Across-the-board Hours Cut

2-Elimination of Medi-Cal Asset Limit (from Justice in Aging)

3- Simplified Senior and Disabled CalFresh Applications and Telephonic Access in the 2021-2022 Budget Act (from AARP) SB107 (Weiner)

### 4. YHAA Master Plan for Aging Town Hall meetings

a. Master Plan report: <https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>

b. Local Playbook: <https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/LocalPlaybook>

YHAA has a grant from The SCAN Foundation to support town hall meetings to discuss local implementation of the Master Plan for Aging.

Request for volunteers from each city to provide planning support for town hall:

Woodland-Valerie, West Sacramento-Charlotte, Davis-Patti, Winters-Marianne

Sheila will send out invitations to city, county, state and federal legislators to participate. State legislature is in session until June-Fridays are the best day, late April and May.

### 5. Reports from elected officials' offices

a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado) Their office legislative meeting is next week. Bill introduction deadline has passed. Will send fact sheet for AB14.

b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) not present.

c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) not present.

d. Senator Pan (Karen Abrego) not present.

- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) House just passed American Rescue Plan. If there are any changes it need to go back to house. \$15 wage minimum will likely be pulled out. It is largely an infrastructure bill with roads and broadband, vaccines distribution, opening of schools. Office has been hearing from local seniors upset that they cannot get their vaccines. Saira reports that some people are being rescheduled as of this morning. Garamendi would like to talk to senior groups. **FOLLOW UP:** Request participation in Town Halls.
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) not present

**6. Report from Legislative Subcommittee** (See 2021 Legislative Tracker document attached).

**MOTION:** Move that YHAA write a letter of support to our federal senators in support of key elements of the The American Rescue Plan. Moved by Valerie Olson, Lydia Bourne 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

Master Plan for Aging-Justice in Aging is compiling a list of legislation related to implementing the master plan: <https://justiceinaging.org/2021-legislative-bills-related-to-the-master-plan-for-aging/>

SB56 (Durazo) expands Medi-Cal to those over age 65 regardless of immigration status. (already have done children age 0-26) watch

AB1400 Single Payer Bill (Kalra) watch. Place on future agenda to discuss after it has moved forward.

**7. Report from Yolo County Health Council** (Valerie Olson)

Health Council created an Ad Hoc Committee on COVID issues whose recent focus has been on collaboration and communication. Health Council working with YHAA to get accurate information out. When discussing barriers that get in the way of reaching 100% vaccine update, use of computer should be included. This is also an issue with telehealth. 2-1-1 is a help but often caller is just given another phone call to make rather than an answer or direct connection to service.

Are vaccine clinics ADA accessible, is there a bathroom available? Clinic planning need to include language, culture, multi-media approaches.

**8. The California Collaborative for Long Term Services (CCLTSS)** (Jon Sugarman) CCLTSS has decided to collaborate with CA Senior Legislature to jointly participate in their Senior Rally Day rather than create a separate event. Legislative visits will be the day after the rally and will be set up by CCLTSS staff.

**9. Agency on Aging Area 4 update** (Pam Miller) “Get set up” – free online classes, home, piloting for month of March. [www.getsetup.io/partner/area4-ca](http://www.getsetup.io/partner/area4-ca)

AAA4 received 200 google home devices for distribution to older adults in Yolo County. Requirements: 60 years or older or a caregiver, access to wifi and a smart phone. For more information contact: Brittany Lathrop 916-710-8380.

Virtual Health Workshops <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HbRaIHbvZg&list=PL4YuySN46E85-GxfZ94VpUygXlc3yyUf>

AAA4’s 4 year RFP cycle happening now. Currently reviewing proposals to start in July. Federal funding for the coming year looks promising.

**10. Resources for Independent Living** (Kaelea Lucas, community organizer) Recent Webinar: “Living in the intersection of black and disabled”. To watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HktTovzMAQU>

Priority advocacy areas: LTSS advocacy, accessible housing on city and county level including live-ability and visit-ability. YHAA will work with April and Kaelea on messaging to persons with disabilities regarding eligibility for COVID vaccine beginning on March 15.

- 11. Report from California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)** (Fran Smith) Jody's Fabulous Fridays, virtual events; tomorrow's topic is Brain Health. Working on their legislative platform which will include restoring the cuts from SSI and supporting the "Healthcare for All" legislation.
- 12. California Senior Legislature (Charlotte Dorsey)** Sponsoring Senior Rally Day (virtual) May 4, 9am-2pm. Will share registration link when it is available. Northern CA caucus had a difficult time meeting because of insufficient broadband.
- 13. YHAA report on current projects:** (Sheila Allen)
  - a. **Phone Friends for Seniors "Friends of the Elders"**
  - b. **Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)**
  - c. **Healthy Parks-Healthy People**
  - d. **Kaiser grant-connection to services**
  - e. **Expansion of Yolo Adult Day Health Center**
- 14. Announcements and upcoming events**

Charlotte Dorsey-notes the importance of getting out to walk and get exercise, especially during the pandemic. She has promoted "take a walk" on her local Next Door app. So much positive feedback. AARP Age Friendly volunteers in West Sacramento spoke to their city council in favor of approval of accessory dwelling units. A similar effort is happening in Davis.

Jeffrey Tardaguila-California Nurses Assoc. held a virtual lobby effort for AB1400 (Kalra) Guaranteed Healthcare for All.

Valerie Olson-Yolo County is sponsoring a COVID Summit on Tuesday, March 2. A recording can be found here: <http://yolocountyca.swagit.com/play/03022021-1639/#0>
- 15. Future Agenda Items – Older adult nutrition in Yolo County-commission**
- 16. Next meeting date:** Thursday, April 1, 2021, 10am-noon via Zoom