



The Unified Voice for Older Adults in Yolo County

Advocacy Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 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), 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), Randy Dinning (Yolo Ombudsman), Curleen Langman (YHAA intern), 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, Jeffry Tardaguilla (Resources for Independent Living), Christi Skibbins (Meals on Wheels of Yolo Co.), David Soto (AAA4), Charolotte Dorsey (CA Senior Legislator, AAA4 Advisory Council), 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), Marianne Boyer (Yolo Co. and Winters Aging Commissions), Emily Miyaoka (Resources for Independent Living), Liz Yeh (AAA4 Advisory Council), Lydia Bourne (AAA4 Advisory Council), Sheila Allen (YHAA Executive Director) (31 people on call)

- 1. Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of 9/3/20 MOTION:** Moved by Wally Pearce, Charlotte Dorsey 2nd, passed unanimously.
- 3. Guest Speaker-Christi Skibbins, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels (MOW) of Yolo County**

Through February 2020 were delivering 5 hot meals a week and congregate meals in all 4 cities and had a waiting list of 96 people. In March, changed congregate meals to daily drive through pick up at senior/community centers. Then senior centers closed and so moved to all home delivered meals. To reduce exposure of seniors and volunteers MOW decreased home deliveries to 2 days per week on Tuesdays and Fridays that included a fresh meal (sandwich, salad) and 2 more frozen meals. An additional grant added breakfast food for June, July and Aug. (ended now). Last Tuesday Yolo County changed from purple to red COVID levels so starting Oct. 19 MOW will change to 3 days per week of

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

Supervisor Jim Provenza, Chair - Sheila Allen, Executive Director

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hot meals (MWTh) and 2 frozen meals. Expect to stay at that level. It will be an improvement for clients to receive a check in an additional day per week.

Christi reported the following concerns:

- Clients-isolation of clients so instituted a calling program for those who were identified as at risk and agreed to calls. The MOW Social worker makes the calls.
- Volunteers-many regular delivery people had to step back because they were older and at risk for COVID. Over 200 community members volunteered to deliver initially but did not need so many with decrease to 2 days per week. Currently only still need volunteers in West Sacramento.
- Staff-have been receiving lots of community support and lots of PPE for staff and volunteers. Closed kitchen one day per week and have staff work from home one day per week to decrease exposure time at facility.

Have not received any CARES funds dollars yet. This contracting is still in process with AAA4. MOW is also working on a contract with Yolo Co. for additional CARES Act funding through county.

Christi responded to questions/comments:

- Is there a restriction on age of drivers? No, it was self-selection that older adults stopped driving.
- Before COVID served 360 meals per day. Now 390 per day.
- Waitlist is at 66 persons now. Goal take 2 people off the list every week.
- What procedure if recipient does not answer the door: If person not there-protocol for safety check and consequences if not there. If not there, leave a notice and don't restart until they call.
- Not sure if and when congregate meals will return. Waiting for vaccine. Need to make a plan to do so safely.
- It is too difficult to have flexibility to accommodate those that need food at different time.
- To volunteer email volunteer@mowyolo.org or call 530-662-7035.
- YHAA intern, Curleen Langman, is President of CSUS Gerontology Club and they can be volunteers. Curleen will reach out to MOW.

4. Agency on Aging-Area 4 (AAA4) Plan Update and Funding Priorities for Yolo County (Patti Huston, AAA4 Governing Board member and David Soto/Will Tift, AAA4)

David Soto and Will Tift of AAA4 provided background on history of program-AAA4 has provided funding for older adult services in Yolo County since 1974. Every 4 years must update plan and budget categories that starts an open competitive process to be a provider. Now is the time for supportive services and nutrition services. Meals on Wheels is the most well-known AAA4 funded service. Senior information and assistance is required in each county.

Patti Huston, AAA4 Governing Board member provided information on input into AAA4 plan thus far including 4 townhalls in 4 Yolo cities last fall and online and paper surveys. Provided a breakdown between cities that show difference that can be taken into consideration.

Committee members asked questions and provided input:

- Transportation is clearly a priority in Yolo Co.
- Transportation providers-expand current and add different types of providers.
- Electric charging grid enhancement
- Grocery delivery services could be done with transportation funds.
- Need for connection to fast internet.

- Yolo Adult Day Health-voucher piece is still in place, even during COVID and used at pre-COVID levels.
- Nolan Sullivan of Yolo County Service centers reported that during beginning of COVID Yoolo Food Bank served 2500 households (representing 6000 people) weekly food boxes. There is an ongoing food insecurity issue in Yolo County. Food Bank now has drive through food pick up and 750 people receiving home delivered meals who cannot get food at distribution centers. FEMA's "Great Plates" program did not work in Yolo Co. 1300 screened 54 received. Criteria were too strict. Did not allow poor people without transportation to receive if they could be eligible for other programs. County would like to build a Great Plates concept. In Sacramento, county is using CARES funds to have a local Great Plates program.
- AAA4 is providing meals to 200 plus people in hotels through Yolo County restaurants through Project Roomkey.
- Unsure Post COVID what congregate meals will look like. Funding flexibility is possible.
- Project Room key-medical vulnerable, unhoused is phasing out.
- Project Home key-CARES funds to buy hotels or rooms, city-based.

Additional input or comments can go to Patti/AAA4 via Sheila.

5. YHAA Voter Assistance Project-Yolo Long Term Care Facilities (Sheila Allen) YHAA sent out notice to all Yolo County assisted and skilled nursing facilities that we would bring official voting boxes to their locations near election day to collect ballots in order to facilitate voting and decrease need to leave the facility. So far 3 facilities have requested this assistance: Carlton Senior Living (Davis), University Retirement Community (Davis), St. John's Retirement Community (Woodland). YHAA interns assisting with the project.

6. Reports from elected officials' offices

- a. Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (Saira Delgado) AB570 promoting electronic connections and broadband. Governor signed 3 of her bills. No vetoes. Help get word out about the Census-it is currently still open for responses.
- b. Assemblymember McCarty (Sydney Whitesel) – no one present.
- c. Senator Dodd (Lysette Marshman) Governor signed (finished) 11 bills went governor to 7 were signed. Four bills were left in committee. SB909 signed HiLo emergency sirens, SB872 disaster insurance claims to homeowner during state of insurance and payment faster. SB214 community care act-low income seniors and PWD transitions to receiving care in the home. SB1207 (Jackson) was vetoed.
- d. Senator Pan (Karen Abrego) no one present.
- e. Congressman Garamendi (Aaron Lotta) Will send us the one pager on Skinny HEROES Act with \$200 billion to state government, 12% to CA to hold state budget.
- f. Congresswoman Matsui (Nia Jones) HR6698 Nursing Home Strike Team is not moving forward because incorporated into the HEROES Act which moved to Senate. They have not heard yet on status. This is a top priority. Strike teams for long term care facilities and support for persons with COVID. They have having hearings on it. **MOTION:** Send letter of support to senate side. Moved by Elizabeth Lasensky, Fran Smith, passed unanimously.

7. 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.

Pelosi and Mnuchin are moving forward with a new stimulus. “Skinny HEROEOS Act” \$1.62 trillion, PPP, farmer support and more.

8. **The California Collaborative for Long Term Services (CCLTSS)** (Patti Huston) Attended most recent meetings as YHAA representative. Primarily an administrative meeting including collecting dues and bylaws.
9. **Agency on Aging Area 4 update** (Mary Schleeter) Meals to 80 people in Project Room Key, CARES Act Funding 1st installment received and distributed based on highest need. Evaluation time for funded partners. Emerging Yolo ADRC-working towards designation.
10. **Report from California Senior Legislature** – (C. Dorsey) A priority legislative area for the Northern California workgroup is internet accessibility. The yearly CSL meeting is happening in November virtually.
11. **Report from California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)** (Fran Smith) 13 voter education town halls completed. Tony Thurmond and Kim McCoy-Wade were guests. State initiatives explained.
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>
 - b. **Update on Yolo Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)** working toward designation with partners AAA4 and RIL.
 - c. **Healthy Parks-Healthy People Dignity Health** project educating providers and public on positive health effects of getting out in nature. Working on a video now.
 - d. **Expansion of Yolo Adult Day Health Center** advocacy opportunities when the project is publicly announced soon.
 - e. **2020 Census-** last day to complete online is September 30 (likely extended to Oct. 30) <https://2020census.gov/>
13. **Announcements and upcoming events**
 - a. **YHAA 10th Anniversary Fundraiser**-Sunday, Oct. 4, 4pm-Virtual-still time to join us!
 - 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. **League of Women Voters-Health Care Forum** tonight-information on website, planning 3rd event. <https://lwvdavisarea.org>
 - d. **Next Thurs. Davis Senior Citizen Commission**-Emergency Prep recommendations on the agenda and the housing element.
14. **Future Agenda Items**
15. **Next meeting date:** Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10am-noon via Zoom