



**March 23, 2022**  
**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Kathryn Cherkas, John Crowell, Victoria Doss, Lauren Ferguson, Joan Hartmann, Alma Hernandez, Thea Hurst, Vicki Johnson, Shannon Kenny, Maribel Landeros, Gail Marshall, Cynthia McNulty, Aaron Pankratz, Marco Quintanar, DeAnn Rosenberry, Erin Saberi, Rynn Schumacher, Gary Suter, Frank Thompson, Maria Vega, Jeanne West

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Adult & Aging Network Reconsideration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency**

- a. *The Adult & Aging Network reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency, and found that officials continued to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing*
- b. *A motion was made by Supervisor Hartmann, seconded by DeAnn Rosenberry to direct staff to continue to notice and hold hearings as remote hearings consistent with Government Code § 54953(e)(3). The motion carried by the following votes: YES-20 NO-0 ABSTAIN-1*

### **3. AAN Business**

#### **• Approve Minutes, January 26, 2022 & February 23, 2022**

DeAnn Rosenberry motioned to approve the January 26, 2022 minutes and Marco Quintanar seconded the motion. Cynthia McNulty, Erin Saberi, and Aaron Pankratz abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

The following error was noted in the February 23, 2022 minutes:

- Under B.2, Anthony Rosenberry needs to be changed to Anthony Rodriguez.

DeAnn Rosenberry motioned to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes with the aforementioned change and Marco Quintanar seconded the motion. Thea Hurst, Vicki Johnson, Gail Marshall, Aaron Pankratz, Erin Saberi, and Gary Suter abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Gary Suter announced that Joyce Ellen Lippmann resigned from the Area Agency on Aging. He has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director. Their Advisory Council is planning an acknowledgement and virtual celebration of Joyce's longtime service on May 21st. They are also planning a virtual Listening Session on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am. They are going to go over the Area Plan for the 2022-23.

Kathryn announced that the Alzheimer's Association is going to be reopening on April 1<sup>st</sup> for in-person programs, education and support groups. They will still have virtual programming, virtual support groups, and hybrid-model support groups but they are looking for in-person community engagement in accordance with public health guidelines and safety measures.

Maribel shared that Promotores are collaborating with People Helping People and will be holding Medi-Cal Enrollment Night on March 30<sup>th</sup>. They are targeting anyone 50 and over regardless of immigration status.

Jeanne shared that she is now doing in person presentation on Advanced Care Planning. She already has ten presentations booked with the Alzheimer's Association for their families. Jeanne likes to have groups of 15-20 and encouraged folks to contact her if they need a presentation. She also offered to do a presentation to the AAN group. She added that Adriana Marroquin is providing workshops in Spanish and that is available as well.

#### **5. Adult & Aging Network Membership Agreement**

Barbara identified the need to develop an official membership agreement for AAN. Barbara went over the draft with the group. The group suggested adding an option to name an alternate person to attend/vote in the member's absence. Gloria will make the aforementioned change and send the final version to the group.

#### **6. Updates & Opportunities from the Alzheimer's Association**

Kathryn Cherkas, Director of Programs at the Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast Chapter, shared information about the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) and some of the bills they have been involved with. AIM is a separately incorporated advocacy affiliate of the Alzheimer's Association. Kathryn mentioned that 501©(3)'s like the Alzheimer's Association cannot speak up during election cycles during lobbying so they have created this separate organization (AIM) to do that. They work with advocates in the community, engaging anyone who would like to raise their voice to enact change in state and federal funding for dementia care. They also push for legislation to advance research, enhance support for caregivers, and improve the lives of those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

They recently held an Advocacy Day that focused on three main bills. The first bill they sponsored this year was Assembly Bill 1618 from Assembly Member Aguilar-Curry to increase public health resources that focus on brain health

and build on public health strategies with proven outcomes backed by research. The bill will establish a California Department of Public Health Office of the Healthy Brain Initiative.

The second bill is Senate Bill 861, sponsored by Senator Monique Limon, to utilize proven public health strategies to provide outreach and information about dementia care navigation to communities in need. This bill recognizes community health workers' ability to access and support their communities. With funding from this bill, organizations could partner with community health workers / Promotores to develop a culturally and linguistically appropriate dementia care navigation program and receive Medicare reimbursement for salaries, training and education.

The final bill is Assembly Bill 2583 with Assembly Member Kevin Mullin and it focuses on training law enforcement to effectively engage with, serve, and protect those living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. The bill proposes a requirement for dementia training for all law enforcement officers by 2030. Kathryn shared that she worked on a five part training series last year with the Santa Barbara Police Department. They were eager to learn more about dementia and how to connect with other resources. She added that this training would be a part of the crisis response training that all police officers already receive. Kathryn clarified that this bill only applies to law enforcement officers but the overarching concept is to bring dementia care training to all first responders.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

- **Vicki:** Does AB 2583 have a provision that a social worker would also accompany police officer when responding to one of these mental health calls? No, not this bill.
- **Jeanne:** Remembers that in the 1990s there was heightened awareness and concerted efforts to do training for law enforcement, mainly because so often the behavior was misinterpreted as the person appearing to be intoxicated, when in fact, that wasn't the issue at all. The importance of law enforcement knowing the key issues and how to address them is very important.
- **Kathryn:** Mentioned that she is working on a protocol for the quickest identification of someone when they are called for wandering. If anyone would like to join a work group, please contact her.
- **Marco:** This is also very important for long-term care facilities because they see a lot of people with behaviors due to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. He believes that there should also be training to the staff because situations happen in long-term care facilities where police are called in. He would like to join the work group to get more information.
- **Kathryn** shared that she just received an email from the Federal Government Affairs Director and that they are advocating for monitoring residents in long-term care and tracking how all staff are being trained on a regular basis.

- **Thea:** Is there a Medical Alert Bracelet for Alzheimer's, dementia, traumatic brain injury clients? Yes, the Alzheimer's Association has partnered with Medical Alert for a very long time but that partnership has faded because now many different types of medical alert wandering devices exist. One of her most common conversations is helping families find the right device for their needs. They partner with the Sheriff's Department on Project Lifesaver and they are discussing ways to identify adults with dementia or cognitive impairment with the Santa Barbara Police Department.

If anyone has questions or would like to get involved as an advocate, please contact Kathryn at [kccherkas@alz.org](mailto:kccherkas@alz.org)

## 7. MPA Local Implementation Updates

- **Strategic communications**
- **Coordinated outreach and engagement**

The AAN held a Master Plan for Aging event last fall and we are doing follow-up in the two priority areas, caregiving and housing. Supervisor Hartman recommended creating a foundational document with a unified message and data to show the needs and challenges of aging in Santa Barbara County. Erin Saberi was recommended by partners in Sacramento and was hired as a consultant, with support from The SCAN Foundation.

Erin gave an update about herself and the vision that she has for what is possible in our community. Erin's background include government politics, policy and communications. She is a native Californian who worked in Washington D.C. and came back to serve as an appointee of Governor Davis. She has a small communications business where they advance policy through communications. They work with clients to build unified messaging to advance goals, collaboration, and policies. In our case, the goal is to advance our Master Plan for Aging implementation goals and to elevate the needs of older adults and people with disabilities..

Erin hopes to work with the AAN members to form an Ad hoc Committee. The Ad hoc Committee will dig into the messaging and ideally would have representatives from the Caregiving Committee, Housing Committee, Alzheimer's and Dementia work, and others. After the messaging, the intention is to produce a document that conveys the information and have it be alive and changing as things change in our community. One of the target projects is to influence the city and County Housing Elements. Housing Element updates are currently underway and will need to be submitted to the state by mid-February. The project will also produce communications tools such as PowerPoints and social media materials that we can use to build support.

### Questions/Comments:

- **Vicki:** What is the ultimate purpose of putting together this package?  
**Erin:** My understanding is that you all want to influence the planning processes in the county, to make sure that local MPA issues are

integrated and understood. **Barbara:** As we try to influence policy, we also want to make sure that we are poised to take advantage of any funding that becomes available.

- **Gail:** Would Erin be the contractor for the county to assist in our goal of getting the right information into the housing element? Who is paying her? **Barbara:** Yes, Erin will guide the messaging and we will need help from AAN and community partners. We have a grant through The SCAN Foundation as the Regional Coalition for the Santa Barbara County, with the Independent Living Resource Center as fiscal agent. The Adult & Aging Network budget also has some funds to support the work if needed.
- **Alma:** Can I get clarification on the timeline? **Barbara:** That depends on the scope of the project. If we want to have something that is going to be useful for all the planning projects, we will need to spend more time on it. We may need to produce something quick for the housing element and we may also want to take the time needed to gather relevant data and develop messaging together. **Joan:** Wondered if the project could be phased. Her hope is that we can use this document to influence the housing elements not just in the county but also the cities. She is not sure what their timeframe is but if we had this document as a phased document, at least we could offer what we have. We want it to be timely or it will not be as useful.
- **Frank:** Cities have the same timeframe as the county. Each of them want to have the basic data and their policy recommendations for their City Council's and Planning Commission's in about August. They need to have it adopted subject to review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development by December, and then they will get feedback from the State Department and they need to have it adopted in place by the end of February of 2023. What they have heard so far is that the cities would be appreciative of the input because they do not have any other independent source of information. The overall coherent messaging is more important than the data itself and the policies that we will have a chance to talk about here could probably be considered and put into the mix in each one of those city council's decisions.
- **Erin:** Frank, is someone tracking at the moment or is that something we need to begin doing? **Frank:** Has been in contact with a couple of the cities. He has tried to talk to all of them but has not heard anything back from some of them. Some are doing it within their own staff and some are contracting the work out to a consultant. It is relatively early but they are all doing data analysis and looking at how effective their past senior housing policies were and then they will move forward on policy recommendations into the summer. We are still timely for each of the cities in the county. Frank added that he reached out to Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe and Lompoc but have not connected with anyone there. He did hear back from Santa Maria, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta. **John:** There is a workshop tomorrow evening in Solvang on the Housing Element <https://plansolvang.com/housing.html>

- **DeAnn:** Having a lead person to take all the data and information and gather it is a good idea. Family Service Agency would like to be a part of this. They have direct contact with seniors and caregivers every day and also have a lot of data.
- **Jeanne:** Perhaps the recent Point in Time Count has information they can share. **Joan:** They have done the initial numbers but they have not done the deep dive for different categories. They are communicating with them about what they can tell them about seniors and the changes over time. They do know that a lot more people seem to be living in vehicles but whether they are seniors is still something they will find out.
- **Erin:** The first Ad hoc Committee meeting will have deep listening and having some facilitated questions so that Erin can start hearing from everyone what they know and do not know. They will then start to explore together on how they want to craft and shape the message based on the needs. **Barbara:** The goal is to have a few meetings within the next month.
- **Is there another planning process that we want to be thinking about as well?** **Barbara:** They are combining some of the conversations about the environmental justice work and the housing work. The Promotoras have been helpful in this as well. **Joan:** The Recreation Master Plan is another opportunity. It is critical that senior's interests be clearly wrapped in. It would be helpful to feed into that with what we learn here.

**8. Adjourn – Next meeting April 20 & May 18, 2022 (Voting)  
Next meeting May 25, 2022 (AAN Meeting)**

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*