



May 25, 2022
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Youngmi An, Kathryn Cherkas, John Crowell, Jaydon Gaines, Gabriella Garcia, Jenn Griffin, Joan Hartmann, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Thea Hurst, Renee Kuhlman, Katia Kupelian, Janice LaMere, Dinah Perez Lockhart, Gail Marshall, Alexa Martin, Cynthia McNulty, Alice Villarreal Redit, Erin Saberi, Sarah Slikker, Maria Vega, Joan Vignocchi, Hilda Zacarias

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; found that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and*
- b. *A motion was made by Joan Hartmann, seconded by Heidi Holly 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-22 NO-0 ABSTAIN-1*

3. AAN Business

- **Approve Minutes, March 23, 2022 & May 18, 2022**

Gail Marshall motioned to approve the March 23, 2022 minutes, Thea Hurst seconded the motion. Dinah Lockhart, Alice Villarreal Redit, and Hilda Zacarias abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and minutes were approved.

Alice Villarreal Redit motioned to approve the May 18, 2022 minutes, Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. Thea Hurst, Dinah Lockhart, and Gail Marshall abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Department of Social Services – Update from Adult Services

Sarah Slikker, Adult Protective Services Supervisor at the Department of Social Services, gave the following updates on changes that have happened in legislature and Adult Services:

PUBLIC AUTHORITY (PA)

- Formerly referred to as the In-Home Care Network, the PA manages the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Care Registry, connecting IHSS clients to care providers, and assisting with provider payroll / timesheets.
- To be on the IHSS PA registry, care providers complete an application and an interview with PA staff, who also conduct reference checks.
- Currently the IHSS PA is in need of care providers. COVID presented challenges with impacts in declining enrollment applications.
- The PA is working with a media company to advertise positions.
- All care provider enrollments can be completed online 24/7.
- In January of this year, the hourly rate paid to providers increased to \$15.77 per hour and it may go up again.
- PA continues to provide PPE for recipients/providers as requested.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS)

- On July 1st the asset limit for Medi-Cal increases from \$2,000 to \$130,000.
- IHSS is a Medi-Cal program and expects to see a large increase in the number of applicants.
- In the past, undocumented persons did not qualify for Medi-Cal but now those who are disabled and 50 years of age older will be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal and IHSS if they meet other criteria.

[Medi-Cal Changes for California Seniors - WelbeHealth](#)

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)

AB 135

- In July 2022, Governor Newsom signed into law Legislative Bill AB 135, lowering the age definition of an elder to 60 years of age and up, and changing the definition of a dependent adult to 18-59 years of age
- AB 135 also amended the definition of Mandated Reporters to include IHSS and PA staff, broadened the definition of a Multi-Disciplinary Team, and expanded the definition of neglect.
- The bill will allow for early intervention and longer-term case management.
- Our APS program has already seen an increase in referrals by about 6%



AB 135 fact sheet
draft 1 (2).docx

COVID

- APS COVID-19 Federal Funds were used as part of client service plans to remediate and prevent further harm for clients affected by Covid.

Home SAFE

- SB County APS is in the process of implementing Home Safe Program.
 - Supports housing stability for individuals involved in APS
 - Provides evidence based homeless assistance and prevention services
 - Established in California as a pilot in 2018/19 and is now being incorporated into APS programs across California
 - Focus will be to maintain safety and prevent eviction as well as reduce risk of harm
 - Services may include housing-related intensive case management, short term financial assistance, deep cleaning, and landlord mediation.
- [Home Safe Program \(ca.gov\)](#)

WRAP UP

- Overall APS caseloads have gone up about 20% and the program has seen an increase in complex cases, many involving cognitive impairment.
- The state is working to develop recommendations on how best to create or establish a statewide APS case management system.
- To meet the needs, the BOS approved hiring of 2 new social workers for IHSS and 4 new social workers for APS.

Updates to webpages [In-Home Supportive Services \(IHSS\) Public Authority | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website \(countyofsb.org\)](#)

If anyone has specific questions, feel free to reach out to Sarah at sslikke@countyofsb.org

6. Santa Barbara County Aging and Disability Resource Connection

Jaydon Gaines, Program Services Manager at the Independent Living Resource Center, Inc., gave a presentation on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's). ADRCs are "No Wrong Door" systems that serve as a single entry point to access a wide array of long-term services and supports to empower individuals to live independently. These systems make it easier for people with disabilities, older adults, and their caregivers and family members to learn about and access long-term services.

7. Advance Directives Workshop for AAN

On behalf of Jeanne West, Barbara Finch announced that Jeanne has offered to hold a workshop for AAN members on Advanced Directives. We hope to hold an in person workshop mid county in the near future- possibly in the fall.

8. MPA Local Implementation Updates

- **Strategic communications**
- **Housing Workgroup**
- **Caregiving Workgroup**

Goal is to create a document that gives a clear picture about aging in Santa Barbara County. This includes trends and projections, strengths of our community, and challenges that older adults and people with disabilities are facing, especially as our demographics shift. Supervisor Hartmann has asked AAN to develop a foundational document that allows us to influence plans that have to be implemented as a matter of law.

Update on Housing – Erin Saberi

There have been meetings with the Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee and one-on-ones with AAN members.

- Hone in on the housing element because the process is currently underway with tight timelines for input.
- Opportunity to influence the process in a number of ways, the most important being to provide data and programmatic information for the Special Needs Assessment, which includes seniors and people with disabilities and is a required part of each Housing Element (completed by cities and County –for unincorporated areas).
- Public hearings held after the plan is submitted. AAN members can participate and make sure that that our voices are heard.

Erin asked for AAN input:

- What are the issues regarding access to housing for seniors you know?
- What housing services are sorely lacking for the elderly in the county?
- What are the current issues, generally?
- Please send input to Erin at esaberi@me.com.

Update on Caregiving – Renee Kuhlman

Caring Together Santa Barbara County will be holding quarterly stakeholder convenings, with the next opportunity on June 29. Caring Together Santa Barbara County is a collaboration to help caregivers and our communities.

Their core group came up with the following goals:

- Increasing caregiver pay and increase the caregiver workforce
 - Elevate needs and get help recruiting paid caregivers to give non-paid caregivers that are working 24/7 the breaks they need.
- Education for all ages
 - They would like to develop shared language and increase awareness about seniors and caregiving
- Please send input to Renee rkuhlman@sbch.org

Questions & Comments:

- Renee recommends looking at eviction laws for seniors
- Dinah raised the issue of the food and nutrition distribution crisis

9. Adjourn – Next meeting June 22 (Voting) Next meeting July 27 (AAN Meeting)

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz