



May 22, 2019

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott • 555 McMurray Rd. • Buellton, CA 93427

MINUTES

Attendance: Natalia Alarcon, Rona Barrett, Holly Collinsworth, Ruth Corona, Lauren Ferguson, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Patricia Low, Angie Rodriguez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Arcelia Sencion, Margaret Weiss, Megan Young

Special Guests: Aydee Plascencia, Department of Social Services; Tony Morris, Rona Barret Foundation

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Approve Minutes, March 27, 2019

Arcelia Sencion motioned to approve the minutes from March 27, 2019; Margaret Weiss seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. AAN Regional Coalition Report

- **My Care, My Choice Outreach**
- **Advocacy Day September 17, 2019**

Barbara gave a brief update on the May Revision of the Governor's 2019-20 Proposed Budget and the focus on the Master Plan for Aging. Governor Newsom has made a commitment to the Master Plan on Aging, however, some are disappointed that he did not put more money behind it. The Governor set aside \$873,000 and increased six positions to support new projects under his leadership, including the Master Plan for Aging, the Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, and the Single-Payer Commission. Cuts that have been made in previous years have not been restored. The California Collaborative and Regional Coalitions want to keep the momentum going and put pressure on Sacramento to make this a plan that works for the future and to consider current needs as well.

In terms of the Master Plan, they put together some Principles for an Equitable, Comprehensive Master Plan on Aging for all Californians. In order to be effective and truly meet the needs of California's aging population, it is critical that the Master Plan on Aging be informed by the following key principles:

- Economic Security
- Equity
- Intergenerational
- Comprehensive & Intersectional
- Person-Centered Long-Term Services and Supports

California's service system is challenged by fragmentation at the state and local level. With a commitment to create a master plan, Senator Hannah Beth Jackson has introduced SB 228, which establishes the parameters of the Master Plan for Aging. It calls for appointment of an Aging Czar and an Aging Task Force to identify master plan priorities and outlines goals of the master plan. AAN member, Rona Barrett, is a part of the Senator's Advisory Group. Rona mentioned that the Senator has done an extraordinary job in bringing this issue to the forefront. She hopes that members of the Advisory Group can attend an AAN meeting in the future. Other bills related to the Master Plan focus on affordable and accessible housing, address the issue of system fragmentation, address the issue of access to a coordinated system of information and supports, and focus on family caregiver support. In addition to this, there is the California Senior Legislative Package for 2019, which has several bills. These include eliminating the Senior Penalty with Medi-Cal, increasing financial stability for low-income seniors, improving continuity of Medi-Cal coverage and helping seniors keep their home. Folks can sign up to the newsletters from Justice in Aging for more information.

The SCAN Foundation is asking the Regional Coalitions to focus on the needs of dual eligible older adults. These are adults that are eligible for Medi-Cal and Medicare. My Care, My Choice is an online tool that has basic information about how to support dual eligibles in making choices about their care. SCAN is asking us to identify people who are regularly coming into contact with dual eligibles who are trying to provide this kind of support and showing them these tools. The website is: <https://www.mycaremychoice.org/en> The website is a great way to engage consumers in understanding the system and making their own choices. There are Advisor Tools that include a Health Profile Checklist and a Next Steps Checklist.

Jennifer and Barbara are part of the planning team for Advocacy Day 2019. This year, they will be focusing on the Master Plan on Aging and setting up appointments with the Legislators. Since we share Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Monique Limón with Ventura County, we will be partnering with them to visit the legislators. The statewide collaborative will develop messaging and key points, and packets will be created with information and local stories. AAN members are invited to submit stories to make the asks meaningful for our county.

5. CalFresh and CalFresh Expansion

Aydee Plascencia, CalFresh/General Relief Department Business Specialist at the Department of Social Services, gave a presentation on the CalFresh and the CalFresh Expansion (see attached). CalFresh is a nutrition assistance program that allows low income families and individuals to purchase nutritious and healthy food. The CalFresh Expansion program will go into effect starting June 1st and SSI/SSP recipients will be eligible to apply for CalFresh benefits. Aydee went over:

- Application Timeframes
- Expedited Services
- Interview Process
- Verifications and Income
- Semi Annual Reporting (SAR) & Recertification (RRR)
- Outbound Communication Tool Providing Uploaded Submissions (OCTOPUS)
- SSI and SSP benefits will not be reduced or eliminated as a result of ending cash-out
- Authorized Representatives will be able to apply on behalf of applicant
- Eligibility workers have been trained on how to work with older adults
- Aydee will send Gloria the list of CBOs that are taking in DSS Applications

6. *Lives Well Lived*

- **Report from Lompoc Senior Expo**
- **Future possibilities**

Lives Well Lived is a documentary film done by Sky Bergman, a filmmaker in San Luis Obispo. She was inspired by her 100-year-old grandmother to make a film that interviews older adults about their experiences. AAN members previously discussed using this film as a way to get people talking about aging issues. Points of discussion included: Do you want it to be a family / intergenerational event? Do you want to have a panel to discuss policy issues? What is the need for your community and how can this film help generate the conversations around it?

The first screenings of *Lives Well Lived* were at the Lompoc Senior Expo. They had a photo booth where you could write your message of what your definition of a live well lived was. They also have a website where you can tell your story. Margaret Weiss shared that it was a lovely film. She felt that the film was a bit lengthy but that it would be a great experience for a lot of different ages. Barbara suggested that AAN could use the film screening to educate and solicit support from local elected officials by having a panel and talk about policy, resources and what is needed in the community. Sky Bergman is willing to be a part of the screening. Community Partners in Caring expressed an interest in hosting a Santa Maria screening and Barbara spoke to someone at Antioch University and discussed the possibility of partnering up with their program and having a screening in Santa Barbara. Barbara shared that there was a lot of diversity in terms of stories, experiences and ethnicity but all of the people in the film were healthy. She felt that they would need to structure the questions or discussion in an intentional way to be inclusive of this element because that is the reality that a lot of people face. Rona stressed the importance of also discussing wellness during the panel.

Barbara plans to work with Antioch to have a screening in the fall in South County. She hopes to be able to get Assemblymember Limón and Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson at the event and get participation from folks in the community. Barbara asked Rona to let her know of any ideas on what they can do for Santa Ynez Valley. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let Barbara know.

7. **Member Updates and Announcements**

- **Natalie Alarcon** shared that Community Action Commission has a Senior Repair Program. They were recently awarded a CDBG grant for Santa Maria to expand the senior services in that area. It includes minor home repairs, grab bars and minor carpentry.

8. **Adjourn – Next meeting July 24, 2019**

- Brainstorm at a future meeting on who should be at AAN table
 - CenCal
- Update on grant that Friendship Center received for an intergenerational project in public schools to diminish ageism
 - Two-minute film on intergenerational activities that are being done in public schools (Heidi Holly)

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz