



March 22, 2023
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: John Crowell, Chris Donati, Lauren Ferguson, Jennifer Griffin, Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Pat Keelean, Maribel Landeros, Cynthia McNulty, Marco Quintanar, De Rosenberry, Erin Saberi, Sarah Slikker, Gary Suter, Maria Vega, Joan Vignocchi, Kathryn Westland

Guests: Jonathan Martinez, Glenda Ramirez, Erin Saberi

Staff: Barbara Finch and Jessica Martinez

1. Welcome & Introductions

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

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

Barb Finch – County of SB shared the updated guidelines for Brown Act Teleconference meetings.

Traditional Rules:

Legislative bodies may meet by teleconference, through audio or video, or both, IF:

- 1) Roll call votes;
- 2) Locations identified on agenda and properly posted;
- 3) Public rights protected at each location, including accessibility; and
- 4) At least a quorum of members participate from within County.

COVID/ Emergency Rules:

Allows virtual meetings without complying with “traditional” rules, IF:

- 1) Declared state of emergency;*
- 2) Health officer social distancing recommendations; and
- 3) Findings (risks to health and safety of attendees) must be made and reconsidered within every 30 days on the need to continue to meet remotely

New AB 2449 Rules

Authorizes less than a majority to participate remotely under limited “just cause” or “emergency circumstances”

- 1) Quorum of the body must participate from a single physical location open to the public
- 2) Agency must provide public option to participate remotely and adhere to the following:
 - Follow regular requirements for agendas and posting;
 - Stop meeting for interruptions until restored
- 3) “Just Cause” AB 2449
 - “Just cause” means (1) child care or other caregiving of immediate family; (2) a contagious illness; (3) need related to physical or mental disability; or (4) travel while on government business
- 4) “Emergency Circumstances” AB 2449
 - A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person
 - Request must be agendaized with general description of the relevant circumstances of request (excluding personal medical information) if time allows
- 5) AB 2449 Rules
 - Just Cause: Member may not use the “just cause” provisions for more than two meetings per calendar year
 - Within each calendar year, a member may not participate in meetings by teleconference due to “just cause” or “emergency circumstances” for a period of more than three consecutive months; or above 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency (AAN = 1 meeting)

The following discussion ensued:

Are there caveats or provisions for older adults?

- Transportation issues
- Health issues
- It is ironic that there are these obstacles to participation and what we are working towards is removing obstacles for seniors

Next meeting is in May - please plan to attend in person

- Continue to meet in Mid-County location
- Consider alternating between North County and South County location
- Ad-hoc committees can continue to meet virtually

3. AAN Business Approve Minutes, January 25, 2023

De Rosenberry motioned to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes and Chris Donati seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

None

5. CommUnify 211 PSPS Program:

Glenda Ramirez and Elisa Pardo – 211 Care Coordinators with CommUnify gave a brief description Santa Barbara's 211 system and the Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS program.

- 211: comprehensive information and referral system connecting people quickly and effectively to health and human services, disaster relief, and public information
- Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS) event: is a precautionary safety measures taken by the utility companies to prevent wildfires
- PSPS Care Coordinator: helps individuals with access and functional needs (AFN) be prepared for a Public Safety Power Shut off. Assists clients to:
 - Register for alerts & notifications
 - Learn what important health and medical information to gather
 - Register for programs such as Medical Baseline program and the Disability Disaster Access & Resources Program (DDAR)
 - Food and meal resources during an active PSPS
 - Provides local transportation during an active PSPS
 - Other needs before and during PSPS events
- Join the effort to prepare the county for PSPS events
 - Update your org's info <https://211santabarbaracounty.org/for-agencies/>
 - Call via phone: 805-922-2243 ext 211
 - Register for alerts:
 - SoCal Edison - <https://www.sce.com/mysce/login>
 - PG&E - https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/outages/public-safety-power-shutoff/pssp-updates-and-alerts.page

***Full presentation attached**

Comments:

- Call when there is not a current event going on to get prescreened
- Contact Glenda to update organization information on the 211 website
- If you know of someone in need of services, refer them to Glenda or 211

6. Department of Behavioral Wellness - Community Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

Dr. Jonathan Martinez - California State University, Northridge gave a presentation on the Behavioral Health Needs Assessment being conducted with the Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell).

- BWell is charged with meeting mental and behavioral health needs of the community. Maria Arteaga specifically requested reaching out to the AAN so that the needs of older adults and people with disabilities can be considered.
- They will be holding qualitative focus groups – 90 minutes in person or online – and are particularly interested in consumers of mental health services.
- Started the needs assessment by meeting with providers and advocates and are looking for assistance with recruitment.

Comments:

- *What is the plan and goal for the information collected?* All of the data is de-identified and goes into a larger needs assessment report. Data is aggregate – for example older adults will be grouped into the larger population
- Surveying older adult consumers can be challenging, especially distinguishing mental health needs vs dementia. Caregivers have information that could be useful – perhaps have a focus group with consumers and their caregivers.
- Issues can be complex, for example, systems for Adult Protective Services are voluntary – people who are deep in substance abuse often refuse help
- If someone is interested have them contact us to place them in an appropriate group
BWellBHneeds@gmail.com
- *If the survey identifies a few top needs, is there funding for BWell to address those needs?* Jonathan replied that the goal is to make sure that everyone's voice is heard and if there are changes that can be implemented, the goal is to do so.
- *Accessibility has been difficult for older adults experiencing mental health issues, is this being accounted for?* We know that we will miss a segment of the population due to barriers to attending. There will also be an anonymous survey – advocates can help consumers complete the survey as another avenue to collect data.
- *Will the report be public once it is completed?* The report eventually becomes public.
- *How many participants would you need for a focus group?* 10 participants is ideal. We place people in groups based on a key demographics such as age or language.
- Since this is countywide and the needs are so different I encourage everyone to share the flyer as we have varying needs within each region.
- Survey will be digital with paper copies available but the data from paper surveys will need to be entered in the database.
- Efforts are rolling out over the next year

7. Announcements

- Cheri Jasinski is resigning from AAN, this will be her last meeting
- Senior Expo is on for October in Santa Barbara – first Thursday
- People from this group are actively pursuing grants to improve opportunities for older adults
 - ILRC – applying for a Local Aging and Disability Action Planning grant
 - FSA - applying for PEARLS grant to encourage active rewarding lives – will be able to do case management for seniors; also applying for a grant to support caregivers
 - Many of these proposals have a requirement to engage the community and consumers
 - The [MPA Annual report](#) shows progress

8. Adjourn – Next meeting May 22, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Martinez