



**March 24, 2021
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendance: Kimberlee Alberts, Lisa Brabo, Kathryn Cherkas, Ashley Costa, Beth Diprieto, Rubayi Estes, Esmeralda Estrada, Jessica Guajardo, Alma Hernandez, Linda Honikman, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Shannon Kenny, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, joyce ellen lippman, Gail Marshall, Doug Metz, Jazmin Narez, Aaron Pankratz, Mary Lou Parks, Marco Quintanar, Olga Resquenez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Rynn Schumacher, Judi Sotelo, Lynda Tanner, Frank Thompson, Jackie Valencia, Margaret Weiss, Jeanne West, Ellen Willis-Conger

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. AAN Business

- **Approve Minutes, January 27, 2021**

Lisa Brabo motioned to approve the minutes from January 27, 2021 and Doug Metz seconded the motion. Rubayi Estes, Shannon Kenny, and Frank Thompson abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment

Gail Marshall announced the formation of a new Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network. They are a countywide volunteer, intergenerational, social and economic justice organization hoping to work independently and in coalition with others.

The Gray Panthers will provide educational programs of interest to older adults and those who share similar concerns. Their first program was with Public Health and Cottage on the status of the Covid vaccination process and they have another program coming up with the Assembly Members to talk about legislation in Sacramento that will affect older adults.

Gail shared that their webpage is in construction and would like to go through the approval process to link the organizations that are affiliated with AAN to their website.

4. Updates from the Central Coast Commission on Senior Citizens

- **Listening Sessions**
- **Governor's State Budget Proposal**
- **American Rescue Plan (HR 1319)**

joyce ellen lippman shared that their listening sessions are coming up and are using the Master Plan on Aging as the basic format. They have been fortunate to secure local experts to facilitate each of the listening sessions to hear the community needs.

joyce ellen shared the following concerns about the Governor's State Budget Proposal:

- Proposal does not include anything that would provide funds through Area Agency for the provision of services (which have increased)
- No increase proposed for IHSS workers
- No increase in the states supplemental payment portion of SSI/SSP
- AAA sent comments from their Advisory Council to the local elected officials.

Lastly, Joyce Ellen mentioned that they will not have any definitive information about the American Rescue Plan (HR 1319) until. They are still waiting on information from the State Department of Aging regarding the December 27th HR 133 stimulus package. She estimates that they will have a little over \$2.5 million from the American Rescue Plan, which is substantially more than they received with the Cares Act.

5. Housing & Community Development during COVID-19

• Project Roomkey

Kimberlee Albers has been convening a COVID-19 Homelessness Task Force since March. One of the amazing things that has come out of that work has been Project Roomkey, which was funded by state dollars and now with FEMA. Some of the newer and upcoming senior housing projects that have been completed during COVID-19 include: Gardens of Hope (89 units), Sierra Madre Cottages and West Cox Cottages. In a given year, about 14% of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County are over the age of 62.

The Task Force has been working on four key objectives throughout the emergency and meet every other week. The four objectives are:

- Prevent and mitigate COVID-19 impacts for persons who remain unsheltered through support centers and outreach, re-establishing access to showers, device charging, food and hygiene supplies.
- Sustain shelter capacity for persons not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 - Testing, vaccinations and Disease Control
 - Covering COVID shots for shelters
 - Good Samaritan Shelter – Santa Maria HS: 249 individuals served
- Enhance homelessness prevention and housing activities through increased funding for rental assistance and supportive services
 - Emergency Rental Assistance Programs through SBC United re-directed funds for COVID-response, resulting in over 100 permanent housing placements so far.
 - County received 13.3 million in federal 2021 Appropriations Act funds from the U. S. Treasury to provide direct assistance to renter households.
- Establishing non-congregate sheltering for persons at highest risk of COVID-19 complications.
 - Non-congregate shelter offered for: qualifying veterans, COVID +, and high risk of complications from COVID
 - Roomkey – A First-in-the-Nation Initiative to Secure Hotel & Motel Rooms to Protect Homeless Individuals from COVID-19
 - South Services at hotel include: shelter, meals, transportation, security, Behavioral Health Services, PHN, Case Management, and Housing Navigation
 - Waitlist is open for 55+ years of age with underlying medical conditions. You can coordinate with Katherine at (805) 729-1892
 - **Results:** 173 served, 75 have transitioned to permanent housing, on-site vaccinations, and linking to IHSS

Members had the following questions:

- How do you keep this going and how long can you keep going with your current funding? Kimberlee stated that the Biden administration extended the FEMA

declaration for non-congregate shelter for Roomkey until September 30th. They are working on other ideas. The state came up with Homekey after the success of Roomkey, to purchase the same hotels that they were using on a rental basis. Santa Barbara had a hard time finding hotels for sale. They are still on this hunt and they anticipate more Homekey funds coming with the governor's proposed budget. The American Rescue Plan potentially has a quite a bit of funding that could be used to purchase hotels that could be used as non-congregate shelters. They have a few things on the horizon but don't have a source identified to pay for the immense amount of services needed.

- Is this program available in a small town like Lompoc? They are serving countywide but they are transporting to the South County location.

6. Master Plan for Aging Playbook

- **Local Data**
- **Local Priorities**
- **AAN Event to Engage Local Leaders**

The SCAN Foundation has invited the Adult & Aging Network to have a local event to discuss implementation of the Master Plan for Aging. They would like us to pick one or two goals to focus on and follow their Local Playbook to engage the local community. At the last meeting, folks came up with a few areas that they wanted to dive deeper in. Judi Sotelo, from the Department of Social Services, shared a PPT presentation on Santa Barbara County's Local Data on the Five Bold Goals for California's Master Plan for Aging (see attached). Barbara and Judi went over the Five Bold Goals:

- Goal 1: Housing for All Ages and Stages
- Goal 2: Health Reimagined
- Goal 3: Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation
- Goal 4: Caregiving that Works
- Goal 5: Affording Aging

Members had the following comments/questions:

- Housing section - When it said 1% of population (all population and subsidized housing) it doesn't consider housing insecurity, which ties into affording aging data? Judi stated that housing is mentioned in different goals. This was brought up because many older adults are housing insecure, even if they are currently housed. They are at risk of losing their housing so it nearly dramatically underestimates the housing insecurity as opposed to potential homelessness.
- Life expectancy section – Is it possible to show the social determinants by race? Yes, the data is available on the PPT and the website. Barbara added that social determinant data is available from the Healthy Places Index but she is not sure if that breaks it out by age.

Barbara mentioned that the Dashboard will continue to be developed and you can see what indicators are in progress on their website. There is also a lot of data locally from different sources (like the Livability data). Once folks decide what topics they want to focus on, a workgroup can be created that can look at all the data sources around a particular issue and that way have the most accurate view of that issue. Barbara briefly went over the [Seven Plays to Build Communities for All Ages](#).

Barbara suggested having the local event after the Listening Sessions and after Joyce Ellen has had a chance to put some of the information together about what the community is concerned about. The AAN Priorities are:

- More Housing Options

- Bridging Health Care with Home & Community Services
- Closing the Digital Divide
- Protection from Abuse & Neglect
- Virtual Care Expansion
- Protection from Poverty and Hunger

The goals of the virtual event are to educate and engage aging and disability communities and advocates, educate and engage elected officials and provide a platform for participation, identify an initiative to advance at the local-level, and provide opportunities for engagement. Anyone that wants to work on this can join, including Aging 2.0 and Gray Panthers. The Agenda and Activities can include an MPA Overview, focused discussion and interactive breakout sessions.

Cheri added paid caregivers as an area of concern (In-Home Support Services).

Mary Lou questioned the section that showed no Caregiving Resource Centers. When they funded the three hospitals to do the Caregiver Support Networks, they do include a caregiver resource center. Joyce Ellen mentioned that they are looking at definitions and data from the state. It is not an accurate reflection of our community; it is solely a reflection of the state data. Barbara mentioned that when they present to our local folks, they will present with local data as well. Rubayi shared that they will have three years of Caregiving Initiative data late April. She can provide parts before, if needed.

Joyce Ellen recently got their annual report from the state and it mentioned that Santa Barbara lost population of seniors (2%). She asked Judi if there was any data in regards to this topic. Judi does not have data and will check with Mark Contois.

Barbara invited folks to join a Planning Committee for the event. She would like to try to align the event at a time when elected officials can participate and suggested having it in the fall. The following folks volunteered: DeAnn Rosenberry, Shannon Kenny, Frank Thompson, Joan Hartmann (contact Gina), Cheri Jasinski (after June). Ellen Willis-Conger suggested having representation from the underserved community in planning these events, like the Promotoras. Barbara also suggested inviting the Latino Elder Outreach Network. Shannon Kenny shared that they are working on some national data initiatives related to the connections between the age 65+ population, the age dependency ratio r.e. unpaid caregivers, and localized labor supply of paid caregivers

7. Announcements

- Alma Hernandez – The County is going to have week-long vaccination clinics starting in Lompoc. Registration opened today and it will be from March 28 – April 3 in Lompoc, then Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. This is for anyone that is 16 and over with health conditions and 65 and over.

8. Adjourn – Next meeting May 26, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz