



September 25, 2019

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Attendance: Ashley Costa, Chris Donati, Lauren Ferguson, Elizabeth Franco, Jenn Griffin, Alma Hernandez, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, joyce ellen lippman, Patricia Low, Karen Ortiz, Marco Quintanar, Angelina Rodriguez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Lisa Valencia Sherratt, Lenda Smith, Margaret Weiss, Megan Young

Special Guests: Jan Koezler, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Alma Hernandez opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Approve Minutes, July 24, 2019

joyce ellen lippman motioned to approve the minutes from July 24, 2019; Cheri Jasinski seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

joyce ellen lippman distributed handouts on the 2020 Census. She stated that seniors are considered among those that are hard to count. These handouts have been distributed at an event for the Latino Elder Outreach Network and the 2019 Senior Expo and are available in English and Spanish. Lisa and joyce ellen would like to make a presentation in January or February to talk about efforts that they will be making to try and be sure to get every senior counted.

4. AAN Regional Coalition Report

- **2019 Master Plan for Aging**
- **Insights from Greater good Studio**

Barbara and Jennifer attended a two-day event sponsored by the SCAN Foundation in Sacramento. The first day was a forum on the Master Plan for Aging and the second day was an Advocacy Day where they joined Ventura County and visited some of the legislators. At the forum, they stressed that the Master Plan for Aging is a blueprint for connecting all ages and not just older adult and people with disabilities. It is about how we create communities that support all ages. Everyone will be impacted by shifts in our demographics. In addition to the Executive Order that came from Governor Newsom, a Stakeholder Advisory Committee has been established and there is a call-in number and a website available for updates on committees. There are subcommittees and task forces focused on long-term care, research, homelessness and Alzheimer's prevention. Along with this, there are bills about the Master Plan for Aging, housing, Long-Term Services and Supports and many others. Our California Health and Human Services website has a "Together We Engage" campaign. They want input from people about their ideas on what should be included in the Master Plan. It is available online and you can submit ideas electronically.

Barbara went over the packet that was given to the legislators. It is available on the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports website. Everyone was impressed with the periodic table that shows 105 programs that are addressing senior needs and are spread across 20 different departments within our state government. There were also recommendations about the California Master Plan that came from the California Collaborative. The SCAN Foundation is funding the Greater Good Studio to do a human centered design process. They went out into five different communities and captured the voices of California seniors and folks with disabilities. The Greater Good Studio will be compiling all of their data and putting out a report in October. Click here for video: <https://www.thescanfoundation.org/initiatives/california-master-plan/california-master-plan-for-aging-forum/>

5. Public Safety Power Shutoff: Preparation & Planning

Alma Hernandez shared a letter from Supervisor Joan Hartmann and Supervisor Das Williams regarding the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and the potential impacts of a power shutdown, especially for aging and medically fragile residents in Santa Barbara County.

Lisa Valencia Sherratt, 1st District Office Representative, stated that throughout California, PG&E, SCE and San Diego Gas & Electric Companies are implementing additional precautionary measures to help reduce the risk of wildfire (see attached PowerPoint). One of these measures is the PSPS program for the purpose of public safety. This was prompted when CalFIRE statistics showed that nine major wildfires started due to damaged, energized electrical infrastructure. The factors for a PSPS are:

- A red flag warning
- Low humidity levels
- Forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 MPH and wind gusts in excess of approximately 45 MPH
- Condition of dry fuel
- On-the-ground, real-time observations

The PSPS can last as long as the potentially dangerous weather conditions exist, plus the time it takes for the power company workers to inspect and repair any damage. All residents need to be prepared to endure a power outage lasting 5-7 days and be aware that the power outages impact the whole community and can make it difficult for people to meet their basic needs. It can also disrupt communications, water, air conditioning and transportation, close retail businesses, grocery stores, ATMs, cause food spoilage, prevent the use of medical devices, prevent use of electric gates and doors and many others.

When possible, they will provide customers with advance notice prior to turning off the power. They will also provide updates until power is restored. They will attempt to reach customers through calls, texts and emails using the information they have on file as well as pge.com, social media channels. Local news and radio outlets. The timing of the notifications will be 48 hours before power is turned off, 24 hours before power is turned off, just before power is turned off, during the public safety outage and once the power has been restored. For persons dependent on electricity, it is advised that they make a plan with a person, group or organization they trust to locate and get them to a place with electricity. They should plan to have a backup power source and a backup location. They also need to enroll in PG&E/SCE's "Medical Baseline" program to receive extra notifications of a possible power outage. Everyone should sign up for alerts, make a plan, plan for alternative methods of communication with family, neighbors, school, work, etc. and do CERT training. You can register for alerts at: <https://readysbc.org/>, <http://www.nixle.com/>, <https://www.pge.com/>, and <https://www.sce.com/>

6. Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

• PSPS Planning for Vulnerable Populations

Jan Koepler, from the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SBCEMSA) at the Public Health Department (PHD), stated that they are very involved in disasters. For PSPS, their role is to identify needs and evacuating medically fragile populations. They are responsible for the medical health branch at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and lead the county's volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. They also run a Disaster Healthcare Partners Coalition that assists long-term care, outpatient, hospitals, and agencies to prepare disaster plans that are in coordination with the county plan. If no one is there, they can also activate the call center. Jan discussed the following roles of PHD and EMS Agency:

- Work collaboratively to prepare agencies, facilities and individuals for long-term power outages.
- Identify methods to identify persons most at risk during PSPS
- Work with cities to identify potential shelters with generators
- Alert agencies and facilities that PSPS is eminent, help facilities prepare to assist clients
- Recommend hotline and shelter activation for electrically dependent individuals
- Support and assist agencies, facilities and community
- Provide evacuation of facilities if necessary

Jan distributed "My Power Outage Emergency Plan" that can be used to prepare for the power outage. Individuals at risk are individuals who depend on electrically powered equipment to maintain health status, are unable to safely manage activities of daily living without power, or have no access to shelter with friends, family or hotel in the event of a power outage. They are asking health care providers and home health agencies to identify and provide the guide to their electrically dependent patients/clients. Currently, they have lists from home health, home care, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Medicare, Social Services, dialysis, PGE/SCE, California Children's Services and others. Joyce Ellen mentioned that AAA has a client database for services that they fund. Joyce will share this with Jan. It was also suggested to check with the Housing Authority, Jodi House, Braille Institute, Homeowner's Association, Peoples' Self Help Housing, faith-based communities and other CBO's.

After the most recent PSPS, they learned that home health agencies could not easily identify their clients in the affected circuits. Clients called stating that they did not know how to prepare and some of the data on impacted folks from Medicare was 3-6 months old. They also learned that it is difficult to predict if an electrically dependent shelter is needed. Cities and county should be prepared to provide shelters and cooling centers. Red Cross will not provide shelter for PSPS events. The goal is to identify suitable buildings with power outlets with and without generators. There are possible shelter sites in Goleta and Lompoc but they still need Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Santa Ynez and Santa Maria (Marian West pending). Jan also mentioned that Edison will send the notifications to the person on the utility bill but not the renters. Currently, there is no "searchable" map but they are hoping to get a list of the circuit names.

Lisa concluded by sharing a template of a Continuity of Operations Plan that can be used with their agency.

7. Adjourn – Next meeting November 20, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz