



**November 17, 2021  
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Gabby Chambers, John Crowell, Chris Donati, Esmeralda Estrada, Jennifer Griffin, Joan Hartmann, Bob Havlicek, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Thea Hurst, Cheri Jasinski, Shannon Kenny, Maribel Landeros, Cynthia McNulty, Marco Quintanar, Anthony Rodriguez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Judi Sotelo, Frank Thompson, Jackie Valencia, Margaret Weiss, Jeanne West

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Supervisor Hartmann opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Report on Circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency**

#### **A. Receive and file:**

- i. An update that the State and County remain under a proclaimed state of emergency related to COVID-19; and**
- ii. Public Health Recommendation issued September 28, 2021 regarding social distancing.**

#### **B. Provide direction to staff about the location of the next meeting (Member Vote)**

Members motioned to approve for the next meeting to remain remote. Gabby Chambers, John Crowell, Margaret Weiss, and Thea Hurst abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the decision was approved.

### **3. AAN Business**

#### **• Approve Minutes, September 22, 2021**

Heidi Holly motioned to approve the September 22, 2021 minutes and DeAnn Rosenberry seconded the motion. Joan Hartmann, Judi Sotelo, Jackie Valencia, Margaret Weiss, Thea Hurst, Bob Havlicek, and Cynthia McNulty abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **4. Public Comment**

Holly mentioned that Friendship Center is looking for a food vendor for approximately 30 lunches, Monday through Friday. If anyone has suggestions for a hot lunch, please contact her at [heidi@friendshipcentersb.org](mailto:heidi@friendshipcentersb.org).

## 5. Master Plan for Aging: Local Voices, Local Action

Barbara went over the following highlights from the Master Plan for Aging: Local Voices, Local Action event on October 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- 121 registered, 100 attended, 34 completed the survey
- 16 people indicated they would like to receive ongoing communication
- 17 indicated a willingness to participate in work groups
- 8 interested in becoming AAN members

Four goals were set for the Master Plan for Aging event:

- #1: Educate and engage aging and disability communities in SB County
  - 18 AAN organizations, residential and day programs, city and county departments, higher education, funders, faith-based organizations, healthcare providers
- Goal #2: Activate advocates, elected officials, private enterprise, and community leaders
  - League of Women Voters, Grey Panthers, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), CityNet
  - Former Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Senator Limon, Assembly Member Bennett, Supervisor Hartmann, representatives for Supervisors Hart and Williams, member of the CA Senior Legislature
  - Private enterprise was also represented with over a dozen registrants
- Goal #3: Provide a platform for focused discussions about local implementation of the Master Plan
  - No technical issues but timing was a challenge
  - Provided simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and American Sign Language, also provided closed captioning
  - Asked if speakers created local relevance for the Master Plan- 70% of respondents said definitely, 30% said somewhat
  - 67 people stayed for the breakout groups
  - Google Document captured notes for each conversation
- Goal #4: Identify 1-3 initiatives to advance at the local-level
  - The three target areas that were chosen were Housing for All Ages and Stages, Caregiving that Works, and Health Reimagined
  - Themes and priorities emerged from the breakout sessions

Barbara suggested that a next step could be to convene a Master Plan Advisory Committee to coordinate work groups and develop the local plan.

Feedback from those who attended the event:

- Energizing and engaging. It has potential to create some future change.
- Fabulous event.
- There is a lot involved in each topic. Perhaps it would be wise to take one step (goal) at a time.
- Structure AAN meetings so that the focus is on one goal and getting citizens to attend and have their voices heard.
- It is important to have input from the Latinx and Mixteco communities in regards to the needs for their aging population
- Would like to see committees on all three topics.

- This group can also be a voice for aging within county planning processes. AAN was formed to advise the county and there are many different county plans underway. Transportation and recreation have not addressed aging adequately. We have to remind them to think about the changing demographics.

### **Comments on Housing**

- County Housing Authority focuses on housing for lower income seniors, families, and people with special needs. The regional assessment for housing is very broad. It incorporates the market rate units as well. The City of Santa Barbara formed their own housing authority back in 1960. In recent years, they have made an effort to house more people experiencing homelessness. Senior homelessness is one of the fastest growing demands they are seeing. It takes time to develop new housing- to go through the land use approval process, to structure the financing and then actually build it. On occasion, they acquire existing properties for the purpose of rehabbing them and creating additional housing opportunities.
- The Housing Element is updated once every eight years. There is an entire range of needs for seniors across income levels and across renter and owner types of housing, including convalescent care, licensed facilities, and mobile home parks. They have not seen much in the way of co-housing cooperatives around here but those are all alternatives as well.
- This may be an opportune moment to get the 2020 census data. Commercial sources of data are available to help us understand the distribution of the senior population and their needs. Lastly, the linkages between housing and the other county planning efforts could be noted in the Housing Element update.
- Cottage has their [Data2Go](#) information network that tracks a number of demographics, including housing data.
- There is a role for the cities and the County in the Housing Element. We need to show cities that there is a benefit to working together.
- The state has passed quite a few provisions and one of them is Senate Bill 35. It allows certain types of developments to move forward and receive approval and fast tracking if cities are not responsive. The state has different rules for how the process works, depending on the size of the property, the number of units, as well as whether it is for seniors, veterans, etc. The Housing Authority has taken advantage of this for some of their properties but have done so with local consultation in order to maintain relationships. The Housing Authority has more than 10,000 names of unduplicated folks on the waiting list for their 1,400 units. Regardless of what the data shows, there is a demand for additional housing. Having housing for the workforce is critical too. The funding for the missing middle is more challenging to structure financially because there are not as many programs at the federal or state level to accomplish that.
- Long-term care facilities, specifically assisted living, are not supported by the state. They are private pay and cost \$2,500 to \$12,000 per month. Some seniors are outliving their savings. Perhaps they sold their house and they were able to afford the \$7,000 or \$10,000 per month by selling their homes but now those savings are running out and they need placement. Family

members are taking them in but they are not trained to provide care, especially if they have mental health issues. In the future, there will be many more individuals who require care and families may not be able to help.

- Seniors need to be able to take care of their homes. Oftentimes seniors are utilizing their income for medical care and other costs.
- There is a need for housing with wraparound services. There is also a huge population that is undocumented that is aging and is working and contributing but that has absolutely no benefit no matter how many housing units are being built. What can be done now to incentivize people that already have property to consider working with the Housing Authority or County Housing to be willing to accept a voucher? It is important to involve city leaders and to have the same type of services countywide.
- We need an inventory of the various services for each community in the county. It is hard for planners to gather this information because they need everyone to contribute information (transportation, health care access, recreation, etc.) all with a focus on housing.
- The Recreation Master Plan is creating an inventory countywide. If there are other plans like this, perhaps we could monitor and voice support for the involvement of elders in those plans.
- Perhaps ask the County Planning and Development folks to talk to us about their process. Then we can ask them how we could best contribute to it. We have some ability to do some research and talk about the aging population, breaking it out by communities. We need to figure out what our skill set is and then try to match it to something that is doable. Invite cities that are updating plans and have them present. How can we be helpful? How can we meet mainstream our concerns?
- One of the suggestions from the breakout groups is partnering with UCSB and/or City College. Would there potentially be some students at UCSB that are research oriented that would help us with this? Supervisor Hartmann mentioned that she has worked with interns and you have to be able to supervise and articulate what you need and many are asking for some kind of compensation. You have to make sure that it fits within their schedule and that is not easy.
- An intersectional value of engaging local university students is workforce development. As part of the Caregiving Solutions Pilot, Prontopia is working on how to incentivize young people and advance vocational pathways in caregiving. This will be the largest growth sector as a percentage of the GDP over the next 20 years. We need to build intergenerational relationships between youth and the older adults in our community. Maybe they can have some intersections with some of the outreach that they are doing on workforce development and data gathering.
- Barbara asked Shannon and Cynthia if there are things around caregiving that they need from this group. How can this group serve their needs? They want to make sure they have the information that they need for making referrals, closing on those referrals, and identifying gaps where referrals were either not made available or they were not able to serve them.

- **Frank Thompson, Supervisor Hartmann, and Bob Havlicek** volunteered to be on a housing committee
- **Cheri Jasinski and Heidi Holly** would like to be on the caregiving committee
- **Margaret Weiss, Alma Hernandez, and Rynn Schumacher also** volunteered to join a committee.
- **Cheri:** Offered to get the data on the aging friendly communities to bring back to our next meeting.
- **Cynthia:** Historically, it is a huge issue getting agencies to be able to speak to each other, largely due to confidentiality issues. She is still new in her job and would appreciate help as she tries to figure out ways to streamline
- **Heidi:** There will be some funding available for caregiver respite on the first of the year and this respite will be able to help caregivers get a break. If anybody is interested in knowing more about this she can host a Zoom meeting to explain more about how the eligibility would work. You can reach her at [heidi@friendshipcentersb.org](mailto:heidi@friendshipcentersb.org)
- **Anthony:** At the Goleta Valley Community Center they converted one of the offices into a main office, TV room, library/ computer room, card/game room, and a ping pong room. There is also a band that plays out in the gazebo. They are working hard to create a comfortable and fun environment for seniors. They hope to open soon.

#### **6. Adjourn – Next meeting January 26, 2022**

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*