



**July 28, 2021  
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Natalia Alarcon, Mitch Besser, Mark Contois, Ashley Costa, Rubayi Estes, Lauren Ferguson, Rob Fredericks, Jennifer Griffin, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Shannon Kenny, Valerie Kissell, Renee Kuhlman, Maribel Landeros, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, joyce ellen lippman, Allison Marcillac, John McReynolds, Mary Lou Parks, Marco Quintanar, Josefa Rios, Anthony Rodriguez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Rynn Schumacher, Joel Shapira, Judi Sotelo, Lynda Tanner, James Teiser, Frank Thompson, Jackie Valencia, Barbara Wiley

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

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

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. AAN Business**

- **Approve Minutes, May 26, 2021**

Cheri Jasinski motioned to approve the minutes from May 26, 2021 and Shannon Kenny seconded the motion. Natalia Alarcon, Rubayi Estes, Valerie Kissell, Renee Kuhlman, and Maribel Landeros abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **3. Public Comment**

May Lou Parks briefly shared about the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) project, which started in 1989 in Oregon. It has been a very successful project and they are looking to implement this in Lompoc to help the police and the community. It provides a social worker or health care worker to ride along with the police department and who does not carry a gun. In many cases, they have helped with deescalating situations, health and welfare checks, crisis counseling, suicide prevention, assessment, and intervention, conflict resolution and many more.

### **4. Update on Elder Nutrition**

joyce ellen reported that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> over 750 seniors have received meals. The vendor is Mom's Meals and it delivers ten refrigerated meals every two weeks. This month has had a lot adjustments with wrong addresses and wrong apartment numbers but folks have raved about the food and the transition appears to have gone fairly well. She added that seven of the ten meals are

diabetic friendly. They also started taking referrals about mid-month so if folks know of any seniors who are hungry and need a meal, please refer them to joyce ellen.

## **5. Master Plan for Aging: Caregiving that Works**

- **Family & Friends Caregiving Support**
- **Good Caregiving Jobs Creation**

Barbara stated that we are committed to looking into the local implementation of our Master Plan for Aging and as part of that process we want to identify one or two focus areas. She added that caregiving is something that has been a priority in our community for several years and it has also created some momentum in other areas. Folks will be presenting on Prontopia Community Caregiving Solutions and the Santa Barbara County Community Caregiving Initiative. Barbara encouraged folks to see if they think one of the topics should be one of the focus areas and to think about partners that they want to engage who would be important to this conversation.

## **6. Santa Barbara County Community Caregiving Initiative**

- **Update and MPA Discussion**

Rubayi Estes, at the Santa Barbara Foundation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Master Plan for Aging Goal 4: Listening Session, Community Caregiving Initiative (CCI), what the next steps will be for CCI caregiving in Santa Barbara County, and snippets of their latest assessment that has data on the last four years (see attached PPT). The report will be hosted on a website for public access.

Ashley added that there were a lot of strategic projects within each community or each agency that addressed place-based or strategy-specific interventions. Ashley gave credit to the Santa Barbara Foundation and also to collaborative partners who have played a key role in their projects since day one. By conducting a caregiver needs assessment in Lompoc, they learned that one in seven people were caregivers. There were great services for seniors, but there was not a lot of coordination and collaboration specific to caregiver support. As a group, they identified some of the key interventions that were needed, including cultural competency and a focus on the Hispanic/Latino community. They focused on counseling, education, respite, and referral and started an outreach campaign called Caring Together Lompoc. Right now, the focus is on sustainability and how to ensure that support for caregivers continues. Caring Together Lompoc was recently rebranded as Caring Together Santa Barbara County and it has been taken over by Family Service Agency. Ashley added that based on today's presentation, she feels that the Master Plan for Aging Goal 4, Strategy A: Family & Friends Caregiving Support, is a great way to move this forward because much of the work has already been done. She asked folks to share their thoughts on what is needed as we move this forward.

Folks shared the following:

- **Cheri:** It is important to consider caregiving fatigue because not only is there literal fatigue of those who are actually in the trenches but there is also caregiving fatigue for those of us who are in organizations who have been doing work or are trying to move it forward.
- **Ashley** mentioned that one of the things they learned over and over again is that there is a very robust path for referral and tracking but there are barriers around sharing information. Having cooperative agreements in place could help support a client or caregiver. Barbara mentioned that Cottage Health is leading a project to identify a HIPPA-compliant referral platform for the ACEs Aware Network of Care.
- **Rubayi** added that the current administration appears to prioritize the Care Economy. There may be more cohesion from the health sector in the coming years, similar to the progress being made around early childhood.
- **Shannon** added that the private sector is interested in the care economy as an important market, ranging from startups to established companies. She recognizes the caregiver burnout but feels that we have a great opportunity across the public and private sector to advance awareness of this and its benefits.
- **Mary Lou** would like to see trainings for caregivers on how to use portals and electronic health platforms. Shannon shared that their project does light technology assistance at home. They can't engage with sensitive information, however, they are working on a separate pilot that supports Telehealth with regards to access to technology and connectivity.

## 7. Prontopia Community Caregiving Solutions

Shannon Kenny, from Prontopia, presented the details about a workforce development pilot in paid caregiving that they will be initiating in August in Santa Barbara County. Prontopia is a global company that has operations in North America and Europe. They have developed an unusual way of identifying and onboarding people who are interested in helping their community. Within their technology platform, they continually analyze data to understand how to incentivize people to serve the community's greatest need when it comes to human services. She asked for outreach and communication from anyone that is interested. Please email at [santabarbara@prontopia.com](mailto:santabarbara@prontopia.com) (see attached PPT).

### Additional information provided following questions/comments:

- Prontopia is a three year old public benefit corporation. They have operations in North America and have a large presence in Europe. Their technology platform has developed a unique and innovative capacity to onboard human services providers that perhaps otherwise wouldn't have pursued these jobs. They work on evaluating and understanding the data together with community stakeholders. This is new for them in North America and they are currently in discussions in five other localities in North America for variations of this.

- Is this mostly at the nonprofessional level of caregiving or are caregivers able to fulfill some of the medical functions usually done by registered nurses? They are getting information and pushing it out to Aging 2.0 and other community collaborators about advancements in reimbursement and the tasks that personal care providers are able to do. Since they are providing simple assistance at home they are also able to collect data. She thinks it is a great option to expand access to care and make more care workers available. They do not do any tests or procedures that require licensure / certification, but they do make referrals to local area partners. Shannon added that the work of AgeWell Global in Florida, Cleveland, New York, South Africa, and Ireland has generated significant results in improving care, and advancing community peer-to-peer care trainings. Reports on these global pilots to date can be viewed on the Agewell Global website.

**Anthony:** Folks will definitely benefit from this. He thanked Shannon for having this for people that need it and who are trying to balance work and take care of their families.

#### **8. Announcements**

- **Shannon** can be reached at [shannon@prontopia.com](mailto:shannon@prontopia.com). She will gladly add anyone to their mailing list, through which they will be distributing informal reports on their progress.
- **Rob** shared a video of their Gardens on Hope development: <https://vimeo.com/546879980>

#### **Topics for future meetings:**

- CAHOOTS
- Update on Prontopia
- Update on CCI
- Housing that includes this caring component
  - Work with Frank Thompson & Rob Fredericks

#### **9. Adjourn – Next meeting September 22, 2021**

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*