



**July 22, 2020
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendance: Chris Donati, Alma Hernandez, Heidi Holly, Cheri Jasinski, Vicki Johnson, Pat Keelean, Mary Beth Lepkowsky, joyce ellen lippman, Doug Metz, Benjamin Peterson, Marco Quintanar, Aundrea Rivera, Angie Rodriguez, DeAnn Rosenberry, Lisa Valencia Sherratt, Sarah Slikker, Kathleen Sullivan, Lynda Tanner

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and check-in

Barbara Finch opened the meeting and introductions were made. Barbara asked folks to share what summertime activity brought joy to them as a child.

3. Approve Minutes, May 27, 2020

Cheri Jasinski motioned to approve the minutes from May 27, 2020 and Vicki Johnson seconded the motion. Pat Keelean, Doug Metz, and Benjamin Peterson abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Social Isolation Impact Summit: Ideas and Inspiration

<https://covia.org/services/well-connected/>

<https://www.artandhealing.org/stuckathome/>

<https://eisnerfoundation.org/resources/learn-about-intergenerational-solutions/>

Barbara and Cheri participated in an online Social Isolation Impact Summit in the beginning of July. Barbara shared a few links to free resources that were offered during the summit for anyone who is isolated at home and wanting more connection during this time.

Cheri shared that they also talked about intergenerational opportunities to get seniors connected to new technologies through innovative volunteer programs with youth. She added that the Motion Picture and Television Fund, co-sponsor of the Summit, puts on programs that they referred to as "Controlled Chaos" where folks entertain each other by reading poetry, singing, etc. Other topics included housing and homelessness, and the structural elements needed in communities to support the growing numbers of older adults.

Barbara stated that the Art and Healing website has opportunities for creative activities and watching short films. The Eisner Foundation site has information about intergenerational activities. It would be wonderful to pair up elders who are looking for something to do with kids who are needing some support.

Vicki stated that Dayton Aldridge was working on a project where he was pairing up seniors in public housing with a group of high school students. They had a meeting place in town where they were going to come together and the high school students were going to teach the seniors how to use social media. He was just getting that off the ground when COVID hit and everything got shut down. She hopes they can start this up again in the future.

Barbara mentioned the in-person intergenerational programs run by Friendship Center and Community Partners in Caring. Heidi stated that right before March 16th they had some Gold Projects lined up with public schools that are in their intergenerational program. They were sad that they could not continue that interaction and socialization with older adults and children. The people they serve can't get on a laptop, computer, iPad, or even wear a mask. It is difficult to do that interaction right now and it is disheartening.

Lisa V. mentioned that she is part of the Community Wellness Team and she brainstormed with Jina Carvalho of the Santa Barbara Response Network on a similar project. Their ideas included matching youth with elders through handwritten letters, emails, phone calls, texting, or even artwork. They would supply the materials, stamps, and try to make it the least intensive on caregivers and others. Benjamin mentioned that working through schools would be advantageous since some are looking for community service. Lisa asked folks to let Gloria know if they would like to be a part of a Work Group.

Pat asked **joyce ellen**: For those who operate Area Agency on Aging programs, are there any restrictions around involving youth in the services that they provide? joyce ellen will check on this but doesn't think so.

6. Meeting the Needs of Older Adults in the Age of COVID-19

- **Identifying needs and resources**
- **Streamlining referrals and access to services**

There has been a big effort through Family Service Agency and partner organizations to locate and meet the needs of isolated seniors in communities across Santa Barbara County. They have identified many people who were not previously connected with organizations and have been providing them with services and support. There is a concern about sustaining community based services to meet ongoing needs into the future. Barbara asked folks to share their perspective on needs and needed resources:

Vicki – There is a need for legal aid. The DA's office has a fraud hotline where they have received a lot of phone calls and people needing help because they are being taken advantage of or their family members are being taken advantage of financially. It does not rise to the level of criminal conduct, but it is clear that there is a lot of undue influence out there and seniors need legal assistance. It is not available in a meaningful way and it is a gaping hole in our services.

Question: What services does Legal Aid provide? Chris stated that Legal Aid will assist with conservatorship of a person only, but not with a conservatorship of estate. The Legal Aid office is not very accessible for older adults. It is on the second floor of the courthouse, up the stairs into a little room and usually there is a long line of people waiting to get assistance. From his perspective, there is a need to create awareness and to be proactive about creating powers of attorney. Too often people do not do it- they do not want to face the inevitable. There are similar concerns about advanced healthcare directives. Sarah added that there needs to be more education about the power that these documents have in the latter years, or if capacity is diminishing. There are a lot of people that do not understand or know how important those papers are and how much easier it can make situations that they might run into as they age. Vicki added that she often sees times where people have given

the power of attorney to the wrong person and how dangerous that is. Often it is someone that does not take action when they need to take action or somebody who uses the power of attorney to simply strip the victim of all of her or his assets. Vicki added that there are counties that have legal offices with attorneys who will go to court who will file documents and they are specifically designed to assist seniors. It would be nice to model after them. Folks suggested calling them and finding out exactly what they do, how they do it, funding, etc. Sarah stated that she wants to talk to Mark Contois and County Counsel about the cost to the community when these things are not in place. Perhaps they can create forms for the future because sometimes they can see it coming. Heidi shared that the Alliance for Living and Dying and Sansum both have volunteers that will help with advanced directives.

Heidi added that there is a tremendous need for respite care because of the vulnerable populations who are now sheltering at home with their caregivers. Since they closed in March, Friendship Center has seen a higher of placement in long-term care facilities due to caregiver burnout. It has been tremendously stressful for caregivers to provide the 24/7 care. Friendship Center has done drive-in activities where the caregiver and care receiver pull up in cars and they do some activities in the parking lot. Even though they are still with them they are not getting that actual respite care. Typically, Friendship Center services will deter long-term care for up to two - three years.

DeAnn – At FSA, they have had great successes with people that have been referred to Legal Aid, specifically when it comes to evictions. She feels there are limited services that Legal Aid can provide but wanted folks to keep in mind that they are at least worth a shot sometimes. She has spoken with Kendra from Coast Caregiver Resource Center and she told her that she is trying to give away hours for respite and people will not take it. She is not sure if there is a lack of awareness or if people do not want other folks in their home. Kendra and DeAnn are repurposing some of her funding from a private fund because she can't spend her respite hours. There is an income level and this could be a factor.

Benjamin – In regards to the Legal Aid Foundation, are folks aware of the need for these resources? Vicki mentioned that they are aware of the needs but may not have the resources. If you have a tricky situation that requires intervention with a civil lawsuit, they don't have the ability to do that. Benjamin added that Sansum and the Alliance for Living and Dying Well seem like great resources that they can be pointed to. Heidi has been a volunteer for the Alliance and has done the workshops at Sansum for a number of years. If she can be a resource to anyone, please contact her.

Barbara asked **Heidi**: Has the Alliance been covering both the healthcare directives and the legal power of attorney? The workshops through Sansum have been primarily using the Five Wishes and Cottage has come up with their own Advanced Directive for the healthcare system. It is a legal document but it is not a power of attorney for finances, it is strictly the healthcare agent.

Doug asked **Barbara** if Susan Plummer is part of AAN because he feels that she would be a good person to have on this group. She is the Director of the Alliance for Living and Dying Well. Doug will send Barbara her contact information.

Pat – Partners in the Isolated Seniors project are concerned about the need to continue feeding seniors. FSA has seen a 60% increase and, looking at the California Department of Aging budget update that was sent out on Monday, anticipates an 88% increase in meals served compared to the prior fiscal years. Starting July 1st, CAC was contracted to provide about 11,000 meals monthly and for the last three months they have been providing roughly

15,000 meals monthly. They are still receiving calls from seniors requesting the meals. It is an area of concern for them moving forward as the COVID pandemic continues.

DeAnn – Lynn Carlisle, from Cuyama FRC, conducted a survey with meal recipients and asked what percentage of their daily food intake was covered by the delivered meal. The responses she received was that one meal is 90% of what that senior is eating on a daily basis. A lot of a lot of the services do not have meals on the weekends.

joyce ellen - When you look at the needs assessments that AAA does and the calls that they have received since COVID, nutrition is the number one need. They are funding upwards of 600 additional meals a day around the county with the CARES money. The additional in-home services, mental health services, and respite care is all funded with temporary money because it is CARES money. They are still getting calls at their office from people looking for meals. These are major issues that have never been adequately funded. Different organizations have received CARES funding, but what do we do when CARES ends? How do we develop more permanent resources for senior services, disability services, food resources in our community?

Lisa V– She has been hearing about gaps from different folks – agencies, community groups, etc., and she has been putting together as much of a comprehensive list of these needs and a budget for any opportunities of funding that come from CARES. She added that another round is coming, the Heroes Act. It is not sustainable in the long haul but it will help keep getting us through. She stated that folks need to work together using strengths, benefits and resources, like student interns. How will they reorganize themselves to work in partnerships in new ways? If you have any COVID related budgets, please let Lisa know.

Barbara stated that we did not get to discuss the universal referral form. She asked Pat to forward anything she would like to get sent out to the group in between now and the next meeting.

7. Updates and Announcements

- Cheri will send information on the Town Hall about the Master Plan for Aging
- Heidi announced that their new Operations Director is Ellen Willis-Conger.

8. Adjourn – Next meeting September 23, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz