

**PLACER COUNTY
OLDER ADULT ADVISORY COMMISSION
11232 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 886-3683**

**MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2023**

Attendance

Members Present: Karen Flanagan, Russell Loop, William Reed, Claire Buckley, Ben Eagleton, Eldon Luce, Michelle Nevins, Kristina Blocker, Peter Rogosin, Murial Moore, and Stephanie Vierstra

Members Absent: Cheryl Moore, Clayton Wyatt, and Jim Williams

Public: Cindy White, Marcia Hansen, Rebecca Hensley, and Hermy Almonte

County Staff: Colby Hytoff, Jim Holmes, and Christina Simkins

Call to Order: Loop called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

Commissioner Absences:

- It was moved and seconded to approve **Cheryl Moore**' absence; the motion carried.

Approve 01/17/23 Meeting Minutes:

- It was moved and seconded to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes as corrected; **the motion carried.**

Executive Committee Report:

- **Loop** reported that both his and **Reed's** seats expires on 05/06/2023. Both have agreed to be reappointed to their seats.
 - It was moved and seconded to reappoint Russell Loop to seat #3; **the motion carried.**
 - It was moved and seconded to reappoint William Reed to seat #7; **the motion carried.**
- **Luce** reported on Auburn Fairgrounds Access Update. He informed the group that the Gold Country Fairgrounds had decided to close the fairgrounds to vehicles. When informed of this, he had notified Supervisor **Holmes** and Tink Miller (Placer Independent Resource Services (PIRS) that this would severely limit access to the fairgrounds to older adults and people with disabilities. Tink wrote an excellent letter

citing the laws this decision would likely violate. The Fairgrounds Board then decided to study the situation for 6-months before implementing the change in policy. **Luce** suggested that, although the Board of Supervisors had no direct authority of the Fairgrounds, that they did have influence and that it might be helpful to inform the Board of Supervisors the OAAC had taken a position of opposing any changes in Fairgrounds policy or practice that would limit access to older adults or people with disabilities. There was general agreement that **Luce** would work with **Hytoff** on addressing the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

- **Luce** reported that AAA4 is recruiting for membership on their Advisory Council. He informed the group that the AAA4 Advisory Council has two positions for Placer County open. These positions are designated to be appointed by the OAAC. He explained a little about the Council. Claire is a member of the Council and explained in more detail the role of the members. **Luce** asked anyone interested to contact him.
- **Luce** reported on the Master Plan on Aging Update. He informed the group that the OAAC Chair and he were working on integrating the Master Plan on Aging Needs Assessment into the OAAC Annual Report with the recommendation that it form the basis for OAAC Goals over the next 5-years. Supervisor **Holmes** mentioned he had read the NA and was impressed and that he had sent copies to the other Board of Supervisor members.
- **Hytoff** reported on Access To Technology Program Update. The CA Dept. of Aging approved approximately \$649,000 to Health & Human Services provide technology and digital literacy training to adults aged 60 and over and people with disabilities. AAA4 will be operating the program for both Placer and Sacramento Counties. AAA4 hired a Digital Navigator for program intake and client support and may hire a second Navigator soon. We met with several vendors and contracts are finalized for device purchasing - iPads, Chromebooks, Claris Companion and ElliQ. We contracted with GetSetUp for digital literacy training. They will call the ATT recipient when they receive their devices to offer phone support. They also have an excellent online platform with digital literacy courses and live instruction. If needed, we can offer in-home device set-up with Geeksquad. We are very close to launching - flyer to come.

Public Comment:

- Hermy Almonte – Wanted to comment about Supervisor Holmes’ report about the new tent city. Prior to retirement Mr. Almonte spent 30 years working in homeless housing and he was very happy to hear about the tent city program.

County Report: Holmes

- **Holmes** read the Placer County Master Plan for Aging Needs Assessment with interest and was pleased with report. Every year we have similar issues. He visited senior center, and the Executive Committee will be coming to Board of Supervisors at next meeting or in March to give an update. Also update for Auburn Interfaith Food Closet coming to Board of Supervisors.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday with Placer Transportation Agency to discuss the unmet Transportation Needs Assessment. He pointed out challenges folks are having with transportation. South Placer Transit Express Services has funding to put into place. This would increase transportation opportunities in those city regions.

New homeless camp was set up with 50 tents in a fenced area to keep it safe. There are currently 44 tents now. Two trailers for showers and restrooms with port-a-potties at end of fenced area. The camp is located next to a building for cooling and heating events as well. This will be a six-month program.

The Gold Country Fairgrounds accessibility issue was discussed. There are concerns about traffic, safety, and fire department access, changes to address, and etc. that could jeopardize fairgrounds access for those with disabilities. There will be a meeting with the fairgrounds Executive Director on February 23, 2023 to discuss the issues. There will be a plan in place for access with people with disabilities, but nothing set in stone yet. If we take situation step-by-step it should work out for everybody.

- M. Moore asked a few questions.
 1. Transportation in Placer - Needs are in outlying areas Foresthill, Auburn, etc. is there any movement on it? **Holmes** informed that they have been looking for solutions for years, but cost is a concern. They continue to look for ways to accommodate that.
 2. Dewitt Homeless – What is the outcome of creating the camp. **Holmes** informed that there was an agreement made with attorney and there have been some success stories already. One couple used lawsuit funds to buy an RV and go to live with family. There are still five tents outside of encampment and have to move slowly to transition those folks.
 3. Campus of Hope – Any hope this will materialize? **Holmes** informed that there have been talks with the Gathering Inn. They would need buy-in from Roseville, Rocklin, and surrounding cities. Hoping tent city could become a template for other cities/communities.

Presentation: Simkins

- **Simkins** presented on VITA Free Tax Assistance Program. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:
 - Earned less than \$66,000

- Persons with disabilities
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers
- Limited technical resources or skills
- VITA/TCE services are not only free, but they are also a reliable and trusted source for preparing tax returns.

CALL 211 to schedule an appointment. **Allen** is to send out PowerPoint presentation.

Staff Report: Hytoff

- Placer County Older Adult Program Statistics - **Hytoff** provided the following Placer County Older Adult Services program statistics:
 - Adult Protect Services (APS) – In December 2022, there were 242 new APS referrals, of which 191 became APS cases. There were 328 reports of abuse by others and reports of self-abuse (physical self-neglect).
 - Abuse by others – 4 reports of abandonment, 4 report of abduction, 192 reports of financial abuse, 6 hording, 15 reports of isolation, 41 reports of neglect, 19 reports of physical abuse, 46 reports of psychological abuse, 1 reports of sexual abuse. Abuse by self – 136 reports were self-neglect. There were 69 of physical care, 35 of residence, 19 of financial, and 13 hoarding.
 - Senior Peer Counseling – In December 2022, there were 8 clients screened for services and 3 was connected to counselors. There were 6 counselors who had 70.15 volunteer hours.
 - In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) – In December 2022, IHSS had 4,290 IHSS recipients and 4,156 providers. There were 98 new applications, 73 new approved cases and 47 terminated cases. The Public Authority Registry served 1,826 recipients with 954 registry providers, 3 orientations, including 10 registry matches and 67 provider referral lists sent to recipients.

AAA4 Reports: Hensley

- **Hensley** reported on current activities at AAA4.

Older Adult Legislation: Flanagan

- **Flanagan** reported on CalGrows Innovation Fund and Expansion of Elder Abuse Restraining Order Statute. CalGrows announce that the California Department of Aging (CDA) has informed 78 organizations across California of CalGrows Innovation Fund grant awards, with a total of \$89 million awarded to further the state's commitment to growing a resilient caregiver workforce. The Expansion of Elder Abuse Restraining Order Statute, Assembly Bill 1243, passed in 2021, takes effect on January 1, 2023. The bill expands Welfare and Institutions Code section 15657.03, which allows California courts to issue restraining orders to protect elder and dependent adults from abuse.

Older Adult Housing Report: Eagleton

- **Eagleton** reported on New Affordable Housing Laws – Effective July 1, 2023. California Assembly Bill 2011 creates a streamlined ministerial approval pathway for some multifamily projects situated on land that is zoned commercial. The projects must pay prevailing wages for construction and must meet specified affordable housing targets. Senate Bill 6 does not provide the same streamlined ministerial pathway as AB 2011 for housing projects, but it does allow for residential use of land that's zoned commercial without any rezoning. Applicants under SB 6 must commit to paying prevailing wages for construction and meet skilled and trained workforce requirements. These laws are designed to boost housing production and affordability by transforming unused retail spaces into new homes and planned communities.

Older Adult Cultural Competency Report: Buckley

- **Buckley** reported on the Advisory Counsel of AAA4. They had a diversity committee was suspended during strategic planning process. Belief that DEI should be embedded in everything we do and trend in many organizations. AAA4 intends to embed this in everything they do.

Member Report:

- **Loop** reviewed his report form that he had submitted.
- **Flanagan** reviewed her report form that she had submitted.

Member Announcements:

- **Luce** mentioned that the next meeting is in person at Auburn Animal Shelter. An emphasis was made that Commission members notify **Allen** if they will not be attending the in-person meetings.

Adjourn Meeting:

- It was moved and seconded to adjourn the February 21st meeting. **The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.**

Next Meeting

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

In-Person Meeting: Auburn Animal Shelter, 11232 B Ave, Auburn, CA, 95603