



AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES  
PSA 26

ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 2, 2020

9:30am

Zoom Meeting

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**AAA Advisory Council Members Present:**

Paul Branson - President

Linda Schoeller-Boyle

Janine Smith-Citron

**AAA Advisory Council Members Not Present:**

Joan Walter (excused)

Nancy Nanna - Vice President

Lynn Schlapkohl

**AAA Staff Present:**

Dena Eddings-Green - AAA Program Coordinator

Amber Madero – AAA Staff Services Analyst

**Others in Attendance:**

Eileen Bostwick, Heather Haydon, Lisa Morrow, Jill Rexrode

**1. Welcome / Announcements:**

The meeting was called to order by Paul Branson at 9:33 am. There were three (3) Advisory Council members present out of a total of six (6) active members. Introductions were made all around.

**2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items:**

- None

**3. Action Items**

- Approve Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2020
  - ❖ Approve Meeting Minutes August 3, 2020  
M/S Janine/Linda All in Favor 0 Opposed
- Press Release
  - Janine stated she would like to create a press release to form a more active committee structure and gain more membership from the community and she would like to prioritize 1 or 2 committees, Paul said that after reviewing the

bylaws the Advisory Council can create an adhoc committee to focus on a certain topic.

- Linda asked if the committees would be consolidated, Janine explained that the idea would be to garner more membership from the community to serve on the committees on the most important topics.
- Paul stated he would like to make the Advisory Council a more active body by inviting members of the public to be involved in the subcommittees.
- Dena stated one of the biggest concerns right now is isolation among the senior population, at the state level a major concern is how to bridge the digital divide.
- Dena stated that wellness calls are a major focus at many senior centers during this time to reduce isolation.
- Dena suggested another area of focus could be health promotion, which could focus on best practices for sanitizing and how to put on and take off Personal Protective Equipment.
- Linda mentioned art groups that met weekly and brought own art supplies prior to the pandemic, they are now doing it over zoom. Linda stated if anyone was interested they just need to contact her and provide their email to sign up, Dena asked Linda to send the informtioan to AAA staff so they could forward the information.
- Janine stated she would like to start with adhoc committee for community involvement and health promotion.
- Janine stated the next step would be to identify community champions that would be beneficial to solicit for these committees and to create a structure/timeline for the committees goals.
- Janine stated the press release would be to invite people to join the subcommittees. Paul stated there are a lot of people that may have thoughts on these topics and would like to get involved and would like to see outreach to more general demographics.
- Dena stated interested parties should contact AAA staff and so that they could coordinate with Advisory Council members regarding the publics interest.
- Paul requested that Janine create a press release and send it to him and AAA staff prior to publication, so that AAA staff can help promote it.

#### **4. Review and Approval of Membership Applications**

##### **Jill Rexrode**

- Jill introduced herself to the Advisory Council and stated her interest in applying was because it is important to be up to date on the issues and challenges that seniors face and she would like to be a part of the solution.
- Dena stated that Jill would be great fit, she has a lot of connections with agencies, and would be a great asset to the Advisory Council.
- Paul stated he was very impressed with her resume.

##### **Lisa Morrow**

- Lisa introduced herself to Advisory Council, she is the Executive Director of the Lake Family Resource Center (LFRC) and newly appointed Executive Director of the Lakeport Senior Center, she also stated that being a part of the Advisory Council would be a great partnership for the groups of clients both agencies serve.
- Dena stated Lisa has worked hard on rebuilding the relationship with the Lucerne Senior Center, she is an amazing addition to the Lakeport Senior Center, and LFRC is a very involved non-profit that would be a great addition to the Advisory Council.
- Paul stated he is very impressed with what has been accomplished with the Lakeport Senior Center already since the change in leadership has occurred.
- Janine stated she worked with Lisa at LFRC, she is very professional, has great intentions, and has done a great job rebuilding relationship with Lucerne Senior Center.
- Dena stated that AAA staff will add the nominations to the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Governing Board Meeting agenda.

M/S Janine/Linda All in Favor

#### **5. Presentations**

##### **Ukiah Senior Center**

- Heather Haydon, Executive Director of the Ukiah Senior Center, shared a power point presentation about the services offered at the Senior Center.
- Last FY the Ukiah Senior Center prepared 6056 meals, and there have been many more meals since Covid-19.
- The Ukiah Senior Center Transportation program over the last year has served 700 clients per month and driven roughly 28,000 miles.
- Since Covid-19 the center has seen an increase in the amount of Outreach being done.
- The center has a contract with the County of Ukiah to provide Information & Assistance and has provided 3490 contacts with seniors to provide assistance with resources and other needs.

- The Lunch Bunch program is currently on hold due to covid, but up until March they had 1337 billable days with an average of 20 people each day.
- The center has a program for Senior Peer Counseling where volunteers provide peer counseling to seniors in the community, right now this program is being provided over the phone and there were 540 hours served in past year.
- The center hosts dances quarterly which average 120 people, they hold an ice cream social monthly, and they also offer bingo and bunko.
- There are weekly classes taught by volunteer teachers, which include Tai Chi, Chair excersises, and writing.
- Paul asked if Heather had an update regarding the issue with Mendo Transit Authority. Heather stated that roughly 2 months ago there was a leadership change and there is a good partnership now.
- Heather shared the positive feedback that the center has received regarding the services that are offered to seniors.
- Heather expressed how grateful she is for the volunteers and all of the work they do for the Ukiah Senior Center.
- Since Covid the center is serving about 50 meals a day.
- There has been a decrease in ridership since Covid, and the transportation program has cut back to 2 days per week instead of 3.
- Ukiah Senior Center staff call clients weekly to check in and see if they need resources or just to talk.
- Currently there is a focus on looking at how center can support seniors during covid, and they have created a new senior chat line where clients can call in from 10am-4pm Monday through Friday and they partnered with the Mendocino College nursing program in May who had 8 students that needed to complete intern hours. The students came in and helped follow up on seniors to provide resources and information.
- Looking forward, the main focus is creating community for our members, to make sure needs are met, and the capital project to build a new facility on Brush Street.
- Janine stated she appreciated the well rounded quality of services the center provides, and the attention given to vulnerable seniors.
- Eileen stated how much she appreciates the transportation program, they are professional, courteous, and safety concious.
- Paul stated he is impresed with approach the center has taken and the adapability to deal with needs as they arise, very inspiring. Paul extended an invitation to Rachel to join the Advisory Council.

## **6. Covid-19**

- **Impact to Senior Services**

- Dena provided an update regarding the ombudsmn program, they are not currently entering facilities but are able to if needed. All investigations are able to be done remotely, outdoor visits are happening in Mendocino County, ombudsman staff are doing self evaluation before entering a facility and PPE is being used if entering.
- Paul mentioned that he saw on social media that both counties have facility outbreaks and asked if AAA staff had an update regarding that, Dena stated staff did not have any additioanl information on that at this time.
- Dena stated AAA staff polled contractors regardng air quality issues, Lakeport did receive some calls and referred them to purple air websire. Middletown also received calls regarding the air quality. AAA staff informed centers that the Middletown Library could be used to get a repreive from the poor air quality.
- Amber provided an update on meal services. AAA staff is collecting data weekly. For the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1210 clients received 5376 meals, there was 185 reassurance phone calls, 24 Title IIE Family Caregiver calls, and 102 outbound calls for the Title IIIB program.
- Linda asked which centers are open and providing services, Dena explained none of the centers are open to the public but all are still providing meal services either through delivery or pick up. Jill stated their center has outdoor table spread 6 feet apart so seniors can visit at meal pick up.

## **7. 2020 Census in Lake & Mendocino Counties**

- Dena current self-response rate for Mendocino County is 54.8%, the current self-response rate for Lake County is 47.8%, and the current self-response rate for California is 68.4%. Response collection ended on 9/30.
- A lot of outreach has been done in Lake and Mendocino Counties regarding the census, flyers and other handouts were distributed through meals for children and back to school supplies that were handed out.
- Eileen stated a lot of people did online response and are still receiving calls that they had not completed the census yet and she is concerned that there may be a lot of responses that are not getting recorded.
- Paul stated he did it online and had someone come to his door to ask about home across his street that is used as a vacation home.
- Jill stated they had two census workers at the senior center last two week on Tuesdays and Thursdays to check that clients had filled out the survey and also provided handouts and other assistance regarding the census.

## **8. CSL Representative Report and Recruitment**

- **Senior Assembly Member**
  - Lynn not in attendance, Paul stated the Advisory Council still needs a senior assembly member.
  - Dena explained the requirements of the assembly member and if they know if anyone please let staff know, Jill asked Dena to send her the information as she knows of someone she felt would be a perfect candidate.

## **9. FY2020-21 Contract Updates**

- Dena stated the FY2020-21 contract for Lakeport Seniors Center was approved with an October 1, 2020 start date, the other FY2020-21 contracts were delayed because county counsel was overwhelmed, but are finalized now. AAA will be to receiving the second round of CARES Act funding since our PSA has hit 25% spend of FFRCA benchmark. The money is set to be released next week and will supplement the current contract/
- Jill asked when centers would receive CARES Act, Dena stated AAA would receive the money next week and would disperse to centers as soon as possible.

## **10. Master Plan on Aging**

- Paul stated the Plan should be released in December, at the TACC meeting it was discussed that the LTSS subcommittee has been focused on skilled nursing facilities and how to transition clients back to community, but the Governor did not approve the plan.

## **11. Committee Meetings**

- Community Involvement and Advocacy Committee
- Nominating and Membership Committee
- Legislative Committee
  - Paul mentioned the upcoming election
- Elder Abuse Prevention Committee
  - Dena stated would like to be done remotely, will be contacting UC Davis
- Needs Assessment/Health Promotion Committee
- Area Plan Committee
  - Dena explained the Final Area Plan has been submitted to CDA

## **12. Presidents Report**

- TACC meeting was held via zoom, Paul discussed a presentation on Nevada County which is a rural county in California that has an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), the lead agencies are the regional center and the AAA for that county. There has been discussion among our counties about creating an ADRC but have not heard anything further.
- Jim Steel was able to secure some funding through the Federal Agriculture Department Rural Communities Initiative to begin the planning and physical rehab of the Lucerne Senior Center building.

**13. AAA Staff Report**

- Nothing more than what was shared in earlier topics.

**14. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**9:30am**

**Zoom Meeting**