



Aging and Adult Services - Public Guardian Senior Affairs Commission

SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

KEY:
P: Present
NP: Not Present
E: Excused

MINUTES

KEY:
P: Present
NP: Not Present
E: Excused

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:	P	NP	E	Commissioners / Regional Council on Aging (RCA):	P	NP	E	DAAS-PG Staff Present:
First District				David Wilder, SAC Vice-Chair: East Valley RCA	X			Glenda Jackson, Chief Public Guardian
Linda Titus, SAC Chair	X			Toni Stepetz: Morongo Basin RCA	X			Dr. Krystal Rowe, MH Program Mgr II
Jim Welte			X	Gwen Alber: West Valley RCA			X	Loretta Sotile, District Manager
Second District				Priscilla Benedom: North Desert RCA	X			Cesar Bernal, Admin Supervisor II
Larry S. Grable			X	Terry Conaway: Colorado River RCA			X	Emily Bernal, Staff Analyst II
Linda Frost	X			Heather Lopez: Victor Valley RCA	X			Heather Granger, Supervising PHN
Third District				Penny Shubnell: Mountains RCA	X			Joseph Hernandez, Staff Analyst I
Lib Koenig	X			Guests:				Melissa Sesay, Sup SW, SAC Liaison
Dr. Deborah Nattress	X			Linda-Marie Griffey, Program Specialist,				Michelle Torres, Executive Secretary
Fourth District				Department of Behavioral Health				Josue Becerra, Supervising SW
Joanne Iavello	X			Lisa Hayes, Rolling Start Executive Director, Rolling Start				Berenice Parra, Social Service Aide
Sue Yoakum, Secretary	X			Caroline Von Flue				Emerson Leavitt, Interim Secretary I
Fifth District				(6) Unidentified Call-in Users				
Maricela Ferguson	X							
Arlington Rodgers	X							
Members At Large								
Daniel Burke	X							
Professional Members								
Denise Benton			X					
Ben Jauregui	X							

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; INTRODUCTIONS BY COMMISSION, DAAS STAFF, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Commissioner Chair Linda Titus, Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Commissioner Daniel Burke led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all lives lost in the Covid pandemic, as well as in appreciation for healthcare workers.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters within the Commission's jurisdiction. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes or less. State law prohibits commissioners from discussing or taking action on items not on the agenda.

- Commissioner Titus gave instructions for the public to make requests to provide public comments.
- Clerk of the Commission, Michelle Torres stated that there were no further Public Comments in the DAASSAC@HSS.SBCounty.Gov email inbox.



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3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2021 MINUTES

Motion to Approve: Commissioner David Wilder moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021.

Motion Seconded: Commissioner Heather Lopez seconded the motion to approve with one amendment.

There were no objections, abstentions or additional corrections. Motion carried; minutes were approved with one change to the date at the top of the minutes.

4. PRESENTATION: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Plan Update: Presented by Linda-Marie Griffey, Program Specialist, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

- Ms. Linda-Marie Griffey provided a presentation on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Plan Update.
- Work is focused on creating strong, sustainable communities, and affordable housing for all.
- Field Office Management, which is focused on customer service in any form, working with local communities, and providing information and support to their customers, and supporting local needs.
- San Bernardino County has an unemployment rate slightly higher than the State average.
- Home ownership in SB County is higher than the State average.
- Percentage of vacant housing is higher than State average.
- Cares Act provided \$2.4 billion in additional resources for housing and other COVID 19 relief.
- Fair Housing and Opportunity Act awarded \$2.5 million in grants to address housing issues.
- \$50 million is available to assist the elderly in housing needs.
- \$2.2 million is going to Native American programs.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a temporary moratorium preventing the eviction of renters, which lasts until December 2020.
- Income-based rent payment is also a part of programs in California.
- MHSA permitted its borrowers to enter into forbearance on their monthly mortgage.
- California Neighborhood and Renters Vulnerability focuses on the broad vulnerabilities of communities related to Covid-19.
- Housing Authority and Affordable Housing are in high-demand and limited, based on funding.
- San Bernardino County (SBC) offers senior housing for ages 55 and higher for Fontana, Montclair, Redlands, San Bernardino, Twin Peaks, Yucaipa, and Victorville.
- Senior project based housing: Housing Authority operates 12 senior project based housing, six have open waiting lists.
- Family project based housing: In addition to the senior project housing, there is also family project based housing available.
- Commission Wilder requested the list of Department of Behavioral Health workgroups be sent to Michelle Torres for distribution to the Commission. Linda-Marie agreed to send the list.
- Commission Wilder commented that transportation access, especially in the Valley are not addressed often enough. Mental Health is not covered under paratransit rules. There needs to be Lyft, Uber, or something else to allow access to services without hiring a driver.
- Linda-Marie commented that telehealth is being expanded which may help to address some transportation issues. She asked that a comment form be filled out.
- Commissioner Jauregui commented that Inland Empire Health Plan will transport to County service providers and advised attendees to call member services for assistance.
- Linda-Marie provided contact information and urged attendees to provide comment via the stakeholder comment form.
- Commissioner Titus thanked Linda-Marie for her presentation and invited her to the Healthy Aging Standing committee, as the group had just discussed having a DBH representative attend yesterday.
- Linda-Marie will connect with Michelle for meeting information.



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5. SAC CHAIR'S REPORT: Commissioner Linda Titus

- Commissioner and Chair Linda Titus reported that she combined Chair report with Executive Committee report.
- She extended her thanks to all attending for all they do in service to seniors and the disabled.
- Commissioner Titus extended a welcome to new Commissioners and provided a brief overview of the standing committee structure.
- Commissioner Titus chairs the Executive Committee meeting; Chairs and officers typically attend, but guests are welcome. The Executive Committee recently reviewed the SAC Handbook and provided revisions.
- Commissioners were asked to align themselves with at least one standing committee.
- There is an ethics training required in the first year of service and maintained every two years thereafter.
- New Commissioners will receive a welcome packet and additional information.
- For general questions and information regarding services, Commissioners and guests may reach DAAS-PG at (909) 891-3900, for In-Home Supportive Services, please call (909) 891-3700.
- While the Great Plates program is no longer taken on new participants, there are existing nutritional programs to meet the needs of seniors or the disabled experiencing food insecurity by calling (800) 510-2020, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. Current GPD participants may call (888) 743-1485 for any assistance.
- To report elder abuse, Adult Protective Services can be reached on the 24/7 hotline at (877) 565-2020.
- The Senior Vaccination efforts are moving along. Seniors are being vaccinated in great numbers, testing is up, vaccinations are up and cases are down. Commissioner Titus reminded everyone to continue to wear masks, social distance and keep gatherings to immediate families to get the pandemic under control.
- Commissioner Titus thanked the Chairs of the other standing committees for the work they do.
- The Access Committee addresses issues such as transportation, housing and technological services.
- The Nutrition Committee does site visits and have developed a site checklist during this COVID-19 grab-and-go phase. Additionally, the committee has worked on securing insulated bags to provide participants to use when picking up their meals from the grab-and-go sites.
- The Healthy Aging Committee is responsible for the research and development of the monthly "Did You Know" publications designed to keep everyone informed of community and health activities and information.
- The Intergenerational Committee partners with the Kinship to deliver reports to the Commission, focusing in the behavioral health of our communities.

6. DAAS-PG DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Chief Public Guardian, Glenda Jackson on behalf of Director - Public Guardian, Sharon Nevins

- Glenda Jackson reported that the Department has selected a new Deputy Director, David Quiroz, who replaced Nancy Olsen. Mr. Quiroz used to work for DAAS, was a Social Worker II for the IHSS, had promoted to Supervisor before leaving the department. He was not present in today's meeting, but will be in the next meeting.
- Ms. Jackson welcomed Ben Jauregui as a commissioner. He is involved in many programs and activities. She also welcomed other new Commissioners. Sharon Nevins is available for any of you as you embark on adventure beyond retirement.
- Glenda Jackson thanked Linda-Marie for MHSA presentation.
- For some of the new commissioners, the Department has a long established history with the Department of Behavioral Health, particularly with MHSA as the AgeWise program is funded by MHSA. There is an occupational therapist that works with the housing program to collaborate on services to those individuals. Adult Protective Services (APS) and InnRoads, have social workers assigned to reach out to outlying areas. MSSP work with MHSA to rec funds to reach meet needs. Appreciate collaborative partnership. *... Continued on next page.*



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DAAS-PG DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Chief Public Guardian, Glenda Jackson on behalf of Director - Public Guardian, Sharon Nevins
(Continued from previous page.)

- Senior Vax Plan – Sharon Nevins is meeting with the CEO and other departments to coordinate vaccinations of seniors 65 and older. This week there are two events. The first in Crestline. Commissioner Shubnell had to leave to help with the dry run. There are 150 vaccination slots available. DAAS staff will assist onsite to schedule 2nd vaccination. The goal is that there will be at least two events in every supervisory district and attend event every day. Commitment of BOS, CAO and DAAS-PG.
- Great Plates Delivered extended until March 8, 2021. The BOS approved a contract with Nybll, to pick up those being transitioned out of GPD program. Nutrition provider. No one will go without a meal. This will address food insecurity throughout the county. On behalf of Sharon Nevins and our department, we thank the Commission for their dedication and hard work as we work together to need needs of those entrusted to serve.
- Commissioner Titus thanked Glenda Jackson for the report and thanked staff for all we do for the community.

7. ITEMS FOR ACTION

- None at this time.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 minutes each)

A. ACCESS COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month; 11:00 a.m.; Conf. Rm. B; David Wilder, Chair
Dial-in: 1-701-802-5453 / Access Code: 6851300#

- Commissioner David Wilder discussed the technology gap, and how the expense of running hotspots has affected the senior community.
- Commissioner David Wilder reported that some of the issues covered at last access meeting. Still having difficulty with Morongo Basin Transit Authority. They run a fixed route but only run paratransit for a few hours per day. They must run the same hours of fixed route. He has brought it to the attention of Caltrans, as there are many seniors in Morongo Basin that could benefit from paratransit.
- Paratransit is not optional, it is mandatory. If they lack the staff to comply, they must use Uber or some other process.
- Paratransit Inc houses dozens of vehicles in Sacramento that could be utilized.
- Alternative Housing Unit program provides assistance for seniors looking for housing.
- Rolling Start is going to delivery Chrome Books to the Public Guardian. Rolling Start assists with technology training.
- The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM.

B. HEALTHY AGING COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month; 11:00 a.m.; Conf. Rm. B; Penny Shubnell, Chair
Dial-in: 1-701-802-5453 / Access Code: 6851300#

- Commissioner Titus reported the meeting covered “Did You Know?” which discussed diabetic meals and distribution and Alzheimer’s Association online education programs that are available.
- She also mentioned they discussed upcoming Did You Know meetings and outdoor activities for seniors.
- The Senior Medicare Patrol will be an upcoming discussion topic.
- The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM.



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C. **INTERGENERATIONAL COMMITTEE**

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month; 10:00 a.m.; Conf. Rm. B; Linda Titus, Chair
Dial-in: 1-701-802-5453 / Access Code: 6851300#

- Commissioner Titus reported that Jerome Poland joined us again.
- We are moving forward with our subcommittee.
- Next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

D. **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month; 1:00 p.m.; Conf. Rm. B; Maricela Ferguson, Chair
Dial-in: 1-701-802-5453 / Access Code: 6851300#

- This agenda item was differed, as there were no developments to report.
- The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

E. **NUTRITION COMMITTEE**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month; 10:00 a.m.; Conf. Rm. B. Commissioner Gwen Alber, Chair
Dial-in: 1-701-802-5453 / Access Code: 6851300#

- Commissioner Wilder reported that the Nutrition Committee is not an overseer at the nutrition sites. They serve in an advisory role only by conducting secret shopper visits. We do not identify ourselves, we only observe.
- The group identifies very specific issues and how seniors interact with the nutrition sites.
- A person over 60 cannot be denied a meal if they cannot pay.
- The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

9. **REGIONAL COUNCILS ON AGING (RCA) REPORTS** (3 minutes each)

A. **COLORADO RIVER RCA**

Commissioner Terry Conaway. Meeting to be scheduled.

- Commissioner Wilder reported that this agenda item was differed, as there was no new report available.

B. **EAST VALLEY RCA**

Commissioner David Wilder; 1st Thursday of the month; 9:00 a.m., Redlands Senior Center on Lugonia

- Commissioner Wilder reported that this agenda item was differed, as there was no new report available.
- The next teleconference meeting is March 4, 2021 at 9:00am. If you would like to attend, send Commissioner Wilder an email.

C. **MORONGO BASIN RCA**

Commissioner Toni Stepetz; 4th Thursday of the month; 12:30 p.m., Yucca Valley Senior Center

- Commissioner Toni Stepetz reported that she has personally gotten involved in Covid testing for seniors. She has contacts that can assist with getting seniors tested.

D. **MOUNTAIN RCA**

Commissioner Penny Shubnell; 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m., Leisure Shores Senior Center, Crestline

- Commissioner Shubnell was not available to deliver a report.



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E. NORTH DESERT RCA

Commissioner Priscilla Benedom; Meeting to be scheduled.

- Commissioner Priscilla Benedom reported that the senior center hours are still Monday – Thursday 9:00am to 11:00am.
- Many calls that she has received involve the vaccine and when it will become available locally.
- She will be working with the Health Department and DAAS to deliver the vaccine to the community.
- She wants to give a big thanks to the Community Action Partners that provided surplus items, toilet paper, potatoes and other items.

F. VICTOR VALLEY RCA

Commissioner Heather Lopez; 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m., Victorville DAAS

- Commissioner Heather Lopez reported that meeting numbers are growing slowly.
- She states guests can go to the website to download and review meeting notes.
- The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9:00am.
- The website is www.rcavv.org. The email is rcavv@rca.vv.org.

G. WEST VALLEY RCA

Commissioner Gwen Alber; 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., Montclair Senior Center

- Commissioner Joanne Iavello provided the following update on Commissioner Gwen Alber's behalf.
- She stated that a group of eight senior women delivered a set of valentine cards to the local hospital that had a great, positive effect.

10. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None at this time.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Wilder commented that Lauren Valles, Program Specialist at Program Development Division (PDD) provides a report on current legislative bills of interest that impact seniors and the disabled. She will follow any pending legislation as long as a justification is provided to PDD.

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Commissioner Wilder suggested Micki Nozaki, Project Director from Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to report on the impact on the State at a future meeting.



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13. NEXT MEETING:

Presentation

Area Plan on Aging Update 2021 - Presented by Emily Bernal, Staff Analyst II / Interim District Manager, Department of Aging & Adult Services - Public Guardian

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Join the meeting via Webex at <https://hs-sbcountry.webex.com/join/daassac>, or Dial-in: **1-213-306-3065** / Meeting number (access code): **146 770 9426 #**

14. ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Wilder motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Frost seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Chair Linda Titus adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.

Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made by contacting the DAAS Senior Affairs Commission at DAASSAC@hss.sbcountry.gov, or at (909) 891-3917, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Written material for this meeting is available by request.

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20 DATED MARCH 17, 2020, WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.