

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE	JULY 24, 2017	LOCATION: 10 NORTH SAN PEDRO ROAD, RM 1018
PRESENT: Teri Dowling, Ellie Bloch, Salamah Locks, Ralph Marchese, Lee Pullen, Chris Asimos, Sybil Boutilier, Francie Bedinger PUBLIC:		
EXCUSED: Jody Timms, Marianne York ABSENT:		
RECORDER: Gary Lara		
Next Meeting: 10 N. San Pedro Rd., Conference Room 1018 - Monday, September 25, 2017		

MINUTES SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><b><u>Agenda</u></b></p> <p>Chair Locks called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Quorum established. The agenda was approved as written.</p> <p><b><u>Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The June 26, 2017 minutes were approved as written.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment:</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	

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**Chair's Report:**

Chair Locks reported the following:

1) MHSA Planning Process:

As a precursor to this discussion topic, Chair Locks reviewed the goals and vision that will guide the work of the Commission. Locks would like for this Commission to be on the map and for the people of the State to know the work of the Commission on Aging. Whenever older adults need a voice and representation, the Commission on Aging should be present at the table since they are the representatives of the County. With increased visibility, the Commission should focus on the following four goals:

- I. Representation of all older adults in Marin County
- II. Each Commissioner should expect to take an active and passionate role in the work that represents the city or town they reside.
- III. Increased communication and take it seriously. The Commission really wants the community to know their representatives. As an example, Locks would like to see Commissioners attend Board of Supervisor meetings and report back to the Commission on items that pertain to advocacy and interest of older adults.
- IV. Support of the age friendly process for all cities and towns. By the end of fiscal year 2017/18, all of the cities and towns in Marin should have their application submitted for age friendly status.

Locks noted she would like the Commission to attend the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> to hear the plan update on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The Commission had a strong presence at the recent public hearing of July 11th.

Locks also noted the importance for those commissioners that are appointed by the Board of

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Supervisors to set up an appointment in order to connect with their District Supervisor.

Commissioner Boutilier would like everyone to be clear on the rules of the Brown Act which specifically state that Commissioners are not allowed to speak about any activities of the Commission in a group setting.

Pullen noted that since the recent MHSA Public Hearing was a noticed meeting open to the public, there were no issues with violating the rules of the Brown Act. The problem arises when you have 12 or more commissioners present and they start talking about issues and how to solve them.

Commissioner Marchese noted the Commission cannot conduct business matters amongst themselves and noted that legal counsel should be sought from the County for guidance on this matter.

Marchese also mentioned he recently met with Dr. Suzanne Tavano, Mental Health and Substance Use Services Director at the County of Marin. Marchese felt this meeting helped to “open the door” in order to choose how the Commission can influence the work of mental health. Marchese also noted that Commissioner Asimos’ presentaton at the MHSA Public Hearing was well received with the content being accepted. Commissioner York’s commentary was also acknowledged.

Commissioner Asimos would like to see a Geriatric Specialist, not a social worker, as part of the MHSA Plan. A specialist has more in depth training on mental health issues. Asimos noted the presence of the Commission at the MHSA Public Hearing and the “stand up” in support of their comments was very powerful. At least 10 members of the Commission were present.

Commissioner Bloch would like to see a representative of the Commission sit on the Mental Health Board. Bloch would also like to find out who the mental health advocates are at the

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State level in order to have a conversation with them.

Commissioner Dowling also encouraged someone from the Commission to serve on the Mental Health Board. Currently, Commissioner York is only on the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

**Director’s Report:**

Director Pullen reported the following items:

- 1. The Commissioner presence at the MHSA Public Hearing and work on mental health issues has been quite impressive. The written Commission’s viewpoints were well stated, rich and strong without being aggressive.
- 2. Encouraged Commissioners to meet with their Board Supervisors in the next several weeks to underscore what they’re doing and to keep the work of the Commission on the minds of the Supervisors.
- 3. Recently met with Commissioners Locks, Marchese and Bloch to discuss agenda items for the meeting with the California Commission on Aging (CCOA) on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Pullen made it clear this is a meeting of the CCOA and the Commission on Aging is joining their meeting. We are fitting into their schedule.

Between 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. the plan is to highlight the work around the Commission: demographics, Commission work, AAI and standing policy around housing and mental health. The speakers during this segment will be members of the Commission.

Pullen will be having a conference call with Executive Director Sandi Fitzpatrick of the CCOA this Friday. In the coming weeks Pullen will have a follow-up meeting with Locks, Marchese and Bloch to review the latest agenda. The current plan is for the CCOA to go to Whistlestop to

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have lunch. While at Whistlestop, the Commission on Aging will have their business meeting and take a break at some point in order to have lunch at the hotel. Around 1:15 p.m. we will reconvene both commissions and highlight issues to take forward. Commissioners Timms and Boutilier will be asked to do the age friendly piece presented in the afternoon.

Pullen noted that Supervisor Sears currently has a conflicting schedule on the day of the Commission meeting. At the present time, she is unable to attend.

Lastly, there will be an opportunity for Commissioners to join the CCOA for dinner on Thursday evening (September 7<sup>th</sup>).

- 4. Pullen and several Commissioners will be attending the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco this evening to hear Dr. James Goodwin, a global leader in aging speak about age friendly.
- 5. The recruitment for Ana Bagtas' position is currently underway. The process is going quicker than normal. Depending on how many applications are received, the recruitment may close on July 31<sup>st</sup>. There was one question on the application that was not pertinent to the Aging Program Manager position that was mistakenly included on the application narrative. Hopefully this will not deter potential applicants. The expectation is to have a new program manager by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Action Item:**

None

**Discussion Items:**

None

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**Committee Reports:**

- **Planning:** Commissioner Boutilier noted the committee’s presentation on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tiburon Town Hall will be on isolation not depression. The committee would like to invite Mary McCall who connects socially isolated seniors and is very much pointed to the issues. Commissioner Timms will make contact with her. The committee will also reach out to Jane Ireland, HOPE Unit Supervisor to appoint a peer counselor to talk about their work.

In terms of social isolation, Asimos expressed a strong interest in addressing the needs of older adults that are considered “shut ins.”

Pullen noted that “peer” counselor means “senior” and does believe they conduct home visits.

Boutilier noted the committee will be meeting again in August to discuss the presentation further.

- **Health and Nutrition:** Commissioner Asimos noted the next meeting is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that time the committee hopes to finalize the plans for the General Commission presentation on alzheimers and dementia scheduled for January 4, 2018.

Carol Zeller will write an article regarding dementia for the winter issue of the Great Age newsletter.

- **Housing and Transportation:** Commissioner Marchese noted he is working with Commissioner Carol Zeller on how to address the issue of “elder orphans.”

Cheryl Longinotti introduced [Cycling Without Age](#), a new program where “pilots” use a special pedal-powered tricycle designed to give seniors rides. Marchese noted this discussion took place at their last meeting of July 19<sup>th</sup> and noted the relevance between transportation and

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connection issues. Many people still do not understand that being isolated equates to being disconnected. First Responders claim to know who the isolated people are but there are other indicators of being isolated.

Nicole Engler from [Technology4Life](#) gave an informative presentation about how their clients are able to utilize technology to enhance their daily lives.

Whistlestop has named John Byers the new General Manager of Transportation.

The Hilarita Apartments in Tiburon will undergo refurbishment now that they are being managed by the Ecumenical Housing Association (EAH).

There is an “unconfirmed” report circulating the developer for Victory Village in Fairfax has lost funding for the project.

The committee is still waiting to hear about training opportunities on how to navigate use of the SMART Train Rail System.

Commissioner Michael Hagerty is conducting a housing study analysis. Hagerty hopes to identify housing needed Countywide and what municipalities would be open to this idea.

- **Legislative Task Force:** Commissioner Bloch was unable to attend the last meeting and deferred the update to Commissioner Boutilier.

Boutilier spoke about the bill “Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017.” This bill has bipartisan support and is heavily endorsed. The task force decided to write a letter of support for this bill. Copies of this letter were distributed to members of the Executive Committee. Chair Locks noted she would like to have more time to review the letter of support before she signs it.

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The task force plans to draft letters of support for the five bills that are still alive. Program Coordinator Michele McCabe will draft the letters once Pullen has the opportunity to clarify this request from the task force. Pullen also noted the task force can put forward letters of support for bills as outlined in the policy platform set forth by the Board of Supervisors.

- **Public Information and Engagement:** Commissioner York was unable to attend today’s meeting. Gary distributed the latest version of the Public Information and Media Policy which will be reviewed and finalized by the committee at their final meeting as an Ad Hoc group in August.

**New Business/Other:**

Marchese spoke briefly about the Computer Science Department at Stanford University and their research that finds older adults benefiting from using technology to connect with friends and family. Additional information can be found at the following url: <http://news.stanford.edu/2016/11/28/oldest-adults-may-much-gain-social-technology/>.

Marchese noted the innovation center is looking for strategic partners and suggested the County of Marin might be eligible to adopt this program. Marchese also noted this topic could be presented at the September Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, September 25, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. - noon.