

<b>COMMITTEE: GENERAL</b>	<b>DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2020</b>	<b>LOCATION: MARGARET TODD SENIOR CENTER</b>
<p><b>PRESENT:</b> Asimos, Barry, Bortel, Boutilier, Bradley, Brilliant, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Kwentus, Lamorte, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Saffran, Timms, Turner, Vreeland Long, Weingarten, Zeller</p> <p><b>EXCUSED:</b> Locks, Silverman</p> <p><b>VACANT:</b> CSL</p>		
<b>RECORDER:</b> Mandy Reyes		
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Thurs., March 5, 2020, San Geronimo Valley Community Center		

MINUTE SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
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<p><b>Call to Order</b> Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m.</p> <p><b>Approval of Agenda</b> The agenda of February 6, 2020 was approved as written.</p> <p><b>In Memoriam: Commissioner Ellie Bloch</b> The loss of Commissioner Bloch has been a tremendous blow to the Commission. The floor was opened to everyone to have an opportunity to say something in remembrance of Eleanor Bloch.</p> <p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b> The minutes of January 2, 2020 were approved as written.</p>	
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**Open Time for Public Expression:**

- John Reynolds, resident of the Canal and member of First United Methodist Church in San Rafael, and member of Marin Organizing Committee which is a group active in providing renter protection and affordable housing. Most recently they have been working to provide mental health services for young people in high schools and private wellness centers. They are also working on filling the gaps in senior services. He is here to be available and listen to what the Commission on Aging and other groups are doing for older adults in Marin County. He is interested in working with these groups to influence the Board of Supervisors and City Councils to move forward with providing the services that will fill these gaps in services for older adults. He's been at various meetings where Age-friendly has been brought up. He would like Age-friendly to include supporting older adults as activists.

**Aging and Adult Services Report:**

Lee Pullen, Director, Area Agency on Aging reported on the following:

- The California Department of Aging (CDA) budget looks good this year. There is about a 30% increase in funding for senior nutrition (home-delivered meals, congregate meals). Pullen would like the Health and Nutrition committee to be thinking about what is needed in this area; where other sites could be opened or increase in the number of serving days. Some of the money will be used for shelf-stable emergency meals. People who are already part of the congregate meal sites or home-delivered meal program will get 5 days' worth of these meals so that the next time there is an emergency, they will have food for 5 days. The intent is to get this done this summer before the next fire season.
- Last year, an advocate in the legislature wanted to see falls prevention take place across the state. Because of this advocacy, \$143,000 was put into the budget for this and needs to be used by June 30, 2021. The money can be used for education, going into homes to assess modifications that can be done, and paying for the associated costs.
- On a National Level, the Older Americans Act must be reauthorized every 5 years. The House and Senate have agreed to reauthorize the act for 5 more years. We will see a 7% increase in funding in the first year and 6% funding increase through 2024.

**Chairman's Report:**

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- Welcomed the new commissioner from Novato, Sylvia Barry. Chair Marchese will be assigning a mentor or mentors to Commissioner Barry.
- A demographic form was passed around for the commissioners to fill out.
- The seating arrangement within commission seating today is because Chair Marchese wanted to use it as an educational opportunity. He would like you to remember to take information back to your municipalities and persons who appointed you.
- The Executive Committee voted to continue with the rest of the commission's agreement to continue the annual May forum. Voting on this as a commission whole will take place later in this meeting.
- A meeting with Spahr Center is in the process of being arranged. Once set up, the committee will be invited.
- Chair Asimos will be identifying mental health resources that support the COA's efforts around dementia and other needs around the older adult population.
- Marchese had a meeting with Annie Chung. The Ad-Hoc committee will be outreaching to include people of color, etc. This will be coordinated with the outreach efforts already being done for the 2020 census hard to reach populations.
- Chair Marchese is going to set up a meeting with an expert regarding social media for outreach purposes.
- Vice-chair López and he have been discussing the lack of meeting space available to the commission. If you know of a space that the commission could use to hang their hats, please let them know.

- There is continued effort to meet with HHS Director Benita McLarin. A meeting has been set for March 9. If you have something you would like carried forward to this meeting, please let Chair Marchese or Vice-chair López know.

**Vice-Chairman's Report:**

Vice-chair López reported on the following:

- The committee chairs report writing meeting with Commissioner Weingarten was a big success. Please get reports to Amy or Mandy one week before the General meeting. The second session date is TBD.
- López was invited to a conference called Raising the Bar - A Workforce Development Conference for the North Bay Region on Feb. 4, 2020. The keynote speaker was Anmol Chaddha, Research Director, Equitable Futures Lab, Institute for the Future. He is coordinating the California Future of Work Commission. Chaddha is working on innovative solutions to the problems of social inequality in response to ongoing economic and technological transformation. López went to the following sessions:
  - ❖ Workforce Development Boards
  - ❖ Beyond Jobs: Elevating and Supporting Irregular Employment
  - ❖ New State Workforce Agency
- The Master Plan for Aging is holding weekly seminars – Webinar Wednesdays. Beginning January 15, 2020, *Webinar Wednesdays* will delve into a single topic each week. The last meeting was on January 29, 2020 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and discussed housing. Here is a link to the transcript: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Transcript-Webinar-Wednesday-Housing-1-29-2020.pdf>. To join the webinars via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/109242877>. Webinar presentation will be posted prior to the webinar.
- Justice in Aging  
Informing the Master Plan on Aging - [Increase Income for Seniors and People with Disabilities who Receive SSI/SSP](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued ‘new guidance’ encouraging states to fundamentally and radically change their Medicaid programs by accepting a cap on federal funding. This is an attempt by CMS to bypass Congress’s rejection of this policy. Implementing block grants of any size or shape in any state would greatly harm older adults, people with disabilities, and millions of families who depend on Medicaid, most especially people of color.

**Ageing 2020 Aging in America Conference: Examining the Needs of Today’s Diverse Older Adults**

March 24 – 27, Atlanta, GA

**Justice in Aging** has joined AARP and the Center for Medicare for Advocacy in submitting an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to expedite its review of the case challenging the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

**Action Item:**

- Approval to Host Annual Forum in May – the committee voted to hold the forum.

**Committee Reports:**

Health and Nutrition (Asimos):

- Last meeting was Jan. 27. The Area Plan goals were reviewed for 2020-2024. They focused on their objectives. The next meeting is March 23. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Housing and Transportation (Bortel):

- The committee passed their objectives at the last meeting.

Ad-hoc Committee (López for Silverman):

- The Ad-hoc committee held their first meeting. They discussed the appropriate role for the committee. What does advocacy really mean? They discussed the need to work with other organizations to both strengthen their work and avoid duplicating efforts. The committee concluded that it would be worthwhile to pursue the prospect of becoming a standing committee. The next meeting is Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m. at 10 N. San Pedro Rd. in room 1025. The committee would like to work on the following in the long run: speaking about the

commission to groups, bringing outsiders to participate in the Commission on Aging processes, and encouraging people to join the commission meetings.

**Planning (Brilliant):**

- Next meeting is Feb. 12 at 11:45 a.m. and they will be reviewing the committee objectives.

**Legislative (Boutilier):**

- The committee did not have a quorum at the last meeting, and she would like to invite and encourage new members.
- They are having a short meeting after today's COA meeting to vote on the objectives for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Age-Friendly County of Marin Update:**

- Director Pullen noted the County of Marin Age-Friendly Plan was presented to and approved by the Board of Supervisors at the end of January.
- Timms, Age-friendly Fairfax, noted that there were 11 people at the check-in meeting. May 2 is Heritage Day in Greenbrae. They will have a table there and would like to know if the COA will have a table? Next Age-friendly Network meeting is Feb. 18 and they will be look at the relationship between the county and the cities.

**New Business:**

- Commissioner Dowling - A candidate's forum was held at Whistlestop on Feb. 5. Aging Action Initiative (AAI) cosponsored it with League of Women's Voters. It was exceedingly well organized, and all questions were around aging.
- Commissioner Timms – Applications for Fairfax Village will be accepted beginning Feb. 15 for low income for older adults. Please get the word out.

**Commissioner Updates:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Mar. 5, 2020 at San Geronimo Valley Community Center.