

<b>COMMITTEE: GENERAL</b>	<b>DATE: MAY 7, 2020</b>	<b>LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE</b>
<p><b>PRESENT:</b> Bortel, Barry, Boutilier, Brilliant, Brinkmann, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Kwentus, Lamorte, Locks, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Silverman, Timms, Turner, Vreeland Long, Weingarten</p> <p><b>EXCUSED:</b> Asimos, Bradley, Safran, Zeller</p> <p><b>VACANT:</b> None</p>		
<b>RECORDER:</b> Mandy Reyes		
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Thursday, June 4, 2020, Zoom Teleconference		

MINUTE SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/RESPONSIBLE PARTY
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<p><b>Call to Order</b> Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.</p> <p><b>Approval of Agenda</b> The agenda of May 7, 2020 was approved as written.</p> <p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b> The minutes of April 2, 2020 were approved as written.</p> <p><b>Open Time for Public Expression:</b> None</p>	
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**Commissioner Updates:**

**Barry (City of Novato):**

- Joined Age-friendly Novato and is the newest member of the committee.
- Has been keeping her community apprised of the Marin County HHS COVID-19 updates.

**Bortel (CSL):**

- There are only 3 things the Legislature will let them propose this year. 1.) the virus, 2.) homelessness, and 3.) affordable housing. This means they are somewhat restricted on Legislative plans. They are all due in by the middle of June. If you have any ideas on these 3 proposals bring them to Commissioner Bortel.
- The annual session in the fall has not been determined.
- It is unknown if the senior fair will be happening.

**Boutilier (City of Sausalito):**

- Sausalito has put out hangers on every household door with important phone numbers.
- General Plan update – last December the city council agreed to put in some new housing, but in a recent working group meeting they seem to have forgotten that. The group is working hard to get the housing back in.
- There are a lot of meal programs going on. The city was confused about how to apply for Great Plates and hopefully the application was received. Various groups are providing meals and groceries.
- The Age-friendly committee have identified volunteer captains for every neighborhood cluster (20-30 homes) and they will be interviewing neighbors to find out what their needs are.

**Brilliant (City of Mill Valley):**

- There has been a local support group that has set up a community support. It is staffed by the rec department and answers questions for residents about services that are being provided. This will be answered by a staff person Monday – Friday for 4 hours per day.
- Marin Food Bank is distributing food at Tam High School on Fridays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. It is a drive-thru service. There were over 200 cars that came to get food.

- Everyone is working on local support services. Phone number is 415-384-9650 and email is [communitysupport@cityofmillvalley.org](mailto:communitysupport@cityofmillvalley.org).

Brinkmann (CSL):

- Commissioner Brinkmann sat through her first meeting. One of the legislatures had a proposal for tax payments and having an option for all older adults to have the option of paying monthly instead of twice per year.
- She participated in Sausalito's hanger distribution. It was a very successful project.

Dowling (City of Ross):

- Town of Ross chose not to do door hangers. Chief of Police commented that a lot of people in gated homes and putting a door hanger on a gate does not seem to work. Online communication has been the best way to reach the older adults in the community.
- In terms of Age-friendly, a lot of it is on hold. Dowling is drafting the strategic plan now and it will be presented at the June Town Council meeting.

Etemovic (District 4):

- West Marin is doing well. Commissioner Etemovic has had check-ins with local nonprofits providing services to older adults. They seem to have enough volunteers.
- She has participated in an interview with KWMI, the local radio station, letting older adults know the services that are available.
- Local Pt. Reyes Disaster Council has a great website with all kinds of links to services.
- Coastal Health Alliance holds a public meeting every Wednesday.
- She had a meeting with Supervisor Rodoni and let him know the concerns that she thinks will need to be focused on with regards to older adults.
- Marin Recovery Website, there was some concern that the website does not include nonprofits or community-based organizations and there was no information on when older adults will be able to return to the community.

Gunn (District 5):

- Novato Villages task force had their first meeting in 18 months. The 3 commissioners from Novato are heading this up, Jean Gunn, Sylvia Barry and Lauren Vreeland Long. The second meeting is next week, and they are recruiting others. They intend to improve their website.
- During the month of April, Novato Village had 110 requests. Primarily shopping and companionship calls. They reached 100% fulfillment rate on these requests.
- Marin Villages has received a grant from the county that allows them and Novato Villages to provide services to non-members during the pandemic.

Kwentus (City of Tiburon):

- In Tiburon there has been a lot of coordination with the town to support their residents. They set up a COVID website for the town that anyone can access. The police department is taking daily calls from anyone who feels isolated or needs help. Local restaurants and businesses are being supported by the community. They started a Go-fund me account. Those businesses are seeing what they can do to support older adults. The local library is making itself available to be virtual in all regards.

Lamorte (City of San Anselmo):

- Helping Age-friendly San Anselmo and the Ross Valley Village. The newsletter that goes out includes activities from both. They are exploring the best way to meet people's needs.

Nuessel (District 2):

- Listening to the daily video updates from HHS. Tonight, there is a Katie Rice Zoom call. San Anselmo and Fairfax have both done excellent jobs with the Age-friendly groups doing the door hangers.
- Ross Valley School District is offering weekly meals in a box pick-up.

Silverman (District 3):

- Has been participating with the Aging Action Initiative's Inform and Connect academies.
- He is a school volunteer at several schools. He has been doing a lot of Zoom training.
- He and his wife have been participating in Mill Valley Maskateers. They are making masks to be donated.

Timms (City of Fairfax):

- Timms spoke before the Fairfax Town Council, checking in on activities of Commission on Aging (COA) and Age Friendly Fx (AFFx) during open time.
- She has been advocating on Fx Coronavirus Task Forces, also Marin (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) VOAD meetings.
- AFFx has been on hold but now planning two forums, May 22-Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults and May 29 Being an Ally (Race and Gender in particular); also, monthly breakfast will happen on May 20. Focusing on getting a NRG Coordinator; trying to tie our work into Age Forward's 5 priorities and eager for that hiring to happen.

Turner (District 3):

- The senior center has been delivering meals Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mondays are brown bag in coordination with the food bank. There have been 96 deliveries. On Wednesdays, in coordination with Extrafood.org, they do lunches for older adults. There are 112 lunches that get delivered. On Fridays in coordination with Whistlestop and Conscious Kitchen, 120 meals get delivered. They get two meals per person for the weekend. They also include activity sheets and essential items such as toilet paper, razors, bar soap, etc.
- They have a designated person who makes daily companionship phone calls.
- Turner has resigned from the Marin City Community Service District.
- Today, May 7, the Marin County Department of Public Health is conducting a test site in Marin City. You must have symptoms.

Vreeland Long (City of Novato):

- She is back at work in the skilled nursing facility and seeing some outpatients in their homes.
- She has joined Novato Villages and she attended their Zoom happy hour and will be giving a talk to the group soon.
- She became a volunteer with Social Call. She has a lovely lady she calls once a week.

Weingarten (District 2):

- Age-friendly in San Anselmo has 142 volunteers. They are reaching out to the Angels, a new volunteer force on Nextdoor to work with them.

- They hung door hangers throughout the town.

### **Aging and Adult Services Report:**

Director Lee Pullen reported on the following:

- Ombudsman is working in conjunction with public health and the hospitals.
- The county and state budget are a wait and see at this point. The intention by the state legislature is to do a framework of the budget so that they meet the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and come back in August with the real budget for the next fiscal year once it's known what state revenues have come in for the year.
- This week we had originally planned to be issuing announcements of awards for contracts for the next 4 years which has been postponed.
- The Family Cares Act has brought in \$180,000 to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). \$110,000 is being used to offer economic assistance to older adults. We are contracting with Canal Alliance, Community Action of Marin and Marin Center for Independent Living to offer \$500 grants to people age 60+ if they or someone in their household has been economically affected by COVID-19.
- We are able to support Spahr and their telephone reassurance program with a \$10,000 grant. This program checks in with older adults to give emotional support and ensure their needs are being met.
- The Information and Assistance (I&A) office, also known as 457-INFO, has been busy with calls. Last April they had 1,150 incoming calls. This April they had over 2,000 incoming calls and 400 emails. Much of that was about food and food resources and how to get to the food resources. Two food programs that are happening are the grocery distribution program and the Great Plates program.

Program Manager Jenay Cottrell reported on the following:

- Even people who can afford food and are 65 and older are being told they need to shelter in place. So, grocery shopping is difficult and there is a need for help with grocery shopping. We are working with Jewish Family and Children's Services and San Geronimo Valley Community Center to get nutritious bags of groceries out to community members who are in this gap. This started the first week in April and so far, to date, more than 1,000 bags of groceries have been delivered. The Registered Dietitian for the AAA has analyzed the food going into the bags to ensure they are meeting dietary guidelines and has determined each bag contains 12 meals. This has been

a fantastic effort. It's anticipated that the grocery delivery program will be able to run through the first week of June.

- Additionally, there is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) meal delivery program which involves working with restaurants. A plan has been put together and is going to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). If it's approved, it will be a two-week pilot to serve 1,000 people 3 meals per day. There are qualifications for this program. If all goes well, the program will be extended through June 10. There will be a news release going out so that the public will know where to call to sign up.

**Chair's Report:**

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- There are now nine commissioners that are affected by term limits or resignations of the COA. He asked Supervisor Rodoni to think about who should represent District 4.
- Carol Zeller of Corte Madera has announced her resignation. Marchese invited Pati Stoliar to apply. Due to other commitments she declined but she and Marchese identified several other candidates.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> is the election of officers of the commission for the coming year. As commissioners, Marchese would like you to please evaluate if you would like to be one of the officers of the three positions of the COA.
- Marchese reached out to Benita McLarin and asked for a countywide overview of what is happening specifically on two things: the funding and the addition of the standing committee. She welcomed hearing this and is interested in hearing back. Marchese intends to extend an invitation to her to come speak to the COA.
- Corte Madera's Intergenerational Center that was a highly successful program is undergoing scrutiny and reorganization. The relevance is that the progress that has been made over the past three years is starting to go backwards.
- The roster of people that our group needs to hear from is Matthew Hymel, Benita McLarin, and Dennis Rodoni.
- Marchese asks all commissioners to reach back to the communities you represent and heighten their awareness of your readiness to be responsive.

**Vice Chair's Report:**

Vice Chair López reported on the following:

- Older American's Month – Make Your Mark  
<https://acl.gov/oam/2020/older-americans-month-2020>
- California Commission on Aging (CCoA)
  - Webinar: Combating Social Isolation for Seniors during the COVID-19 Pandemic  
 Thursday, May 7 from 10:00 am. – 1:30 p.m. PT
  - Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day 2020 will include important remarks from [Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use – Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz](#), Assistant Secretary for Aging – Mr. Lance Robertson, and the latest information on coping with social isolation and loneliness from University of California San Diego Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Dr. Dilip Jeste.
  - May 20,2020 -- California Commission on Aging -- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Via Zoom Webinar. Agendas and sign-on information TBA at <http://www.ccoa.ca.gov/Meetings/MeetingAgenda/>
- California Master Plan for Aging
  - The California Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting will resume on Thursday, May 28th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Zoom.  
 Updates on the response to COVID-19 by the Department on Aging.  
 Discussion about how to move forward with the Master Plan on Aging.
  - Comments: [EnGAGE@aging.ca.gov](mailto:EnGAGE@aging.ca.gov)
- Justice in Aging
  - Copy of a [Letter to Congressional Leadership from 192 Organizations on the Urgent Needs of Low-Income Older Adults During COVID-19](#) (4/30)
- Let COVID-19 be the reason we attack long-standing inequities – Omar Carrera, CEO, Canal Alliance
  - Mr. Carerra's (April 20, 2020 Marin IJ) writes:  
 "This crisis disproportionately affects people with lower incomes and fewer resources." "Perhaps the silver lining is that COVID-19 has given us the collective gift of seeing more clearly what



some of us have always known: when one person lacks health care, no one is secure; and when motivated and hard-working people can't find work or must accept jobs that pay wages so low they cannot put money in savings, their poverty is out impoverishment as well."

- Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California Conference 2020
  - "Advancing Racial, Gender, and Economic Justice in this Moment of Crisis" Anne Price, President  
[Insight Center for Community Economic Development](#)
  - "The Perils and Promises of Fair Housing"  
[john a. powell](#) Director  
[Othering & Belonging Institute](#)  
Professor of Law, African American Studies, and Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley  
"California Dreaming? The Opportunities and Obstacles of  
New State Laws in Furthering Fair Housing"  
**Ben Metcalf, Founder and Principal**  
Stronger Foundations  
**Managing Director**  
University of California Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation
- National Academy of Social Insurance
  - COVID-19 Legislative Response: Medicare, Medicaid and the Uninsured  
<https://www.nasi.org/sites/default/files/research/Medicare%20Medicaid%20and%20the%20Uninsured.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=063dd073-9605-4f75-98c7-2b324906661a>
- Kaiser Family Foundation
  - A Dozen Facts About Medicare Advantage in 2020
- FAQs on Medicare Coverage and Costs Related to COVID-19 Testing and Treatment  
<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/faqs-on-medicare-coverage-and-costs-related-to-covid-19-testing-and-treatment/>

- Work Force Alliance of the North Bay -
  - Covid-19 Information and Resources  
Information for impacted workers – COVID-19 information for individuals  
Matrix of Benefits – potential benefits for impacted workers
  
- Institute of Economic Affairs – Len Shackelton (22 April 2020)
  - Schackelton discusses the impact of lockdowns on the labor force participation of older workers. For a variety of reasons more and more people are continuing to work past the age at which our parents retired. Some older workers may be able to work from home, but others may not. Older workers in agriculture clearly cannot. Older people also make a “disproportionate contribution in other areas such as architecture, engineering, publishing, fashion, creative arts and entertainment.” Retired people are also the backbone of many volunteer organizations. Policymakers need to consider older workers as they plan the gradual ending of the lockdown.

**Committee Reports:**

Housing and Transportation (Bortel):

- Next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20. The speaker is Caroline Peattie, Executive Director, Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California. Since our last meeting, we’ve had the accomplishment of supporting the affordable housing project. The BOS appointed (Community Land Trust Association) CLAM and Eden Housing to redo the 36 units in Pt. Reyes. Not sure yet how many will be senior housing.

Legislative (Boutilier):

- The state legislature has been on a break, so the committee hasn’t met. On May 11 they will be going back and focusing on a skeletal budget to meet the required deadline in June. McGuire has been working on COVID-19 issues and a redo of the housing bill and a legislation on wildfires. Marc Levine will be introducing bills for the power safety shut offs.
- The White House is attempting to eliminate the payroll deduction for social security in the next stimulus bill. She is hoping the legislative committee can write a letter of opposition.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting date and we will be looking at weighing in on the budget issues.

AdHoc (Silverman and Timms):

- They met on April 16. They are working on something called a ‘Tool Kit’ which will make it easier for the commissioners to interact with the different agencies and individuals in the community. They are hoping to have a brief presentation at the June COA meeting to show some of what they have done.
- They have a list of about 15 agencies that they plan to conduct outreach to.
- They met with Lori Peterson about the Age Forward implementation plan. They came away with a better understanding of what the plan would be although there are still many questions to be answered.
- Next Meeting is May 14 at 10:30 am. Will be looking at a draft of the bylaws. If everyone agrees to the language, they will take it to the commission and then to the board to add the committee as a standing committee in the bylaws.

**Age-Friendly Update (Timms as Member of the Public):**

- The network met on April 19 and will meet again May 7 and May 19.

**Ageing Action Initiative (AAI) Updates (Dowling and Jackson):**

- On April 22 the AAI steering committee met with Benita McLarin. She talked about the issues and what is happening with COVID-19.
- The steering committee has a retreat on May 29. They are hoping that Sept. 16 will be a convening of some kind.
- There is an advocacy alliance that meets monthly and is part of AAI. They met with Gayle from the Mental Health Services Act and they talked to her about the updates on the RFP. It looks like they will be making their decision this week or next around the education of physicians and education around LGBT with other non-profits and community organizations.
- They talked about suicide prevention. They have a new staff member coming on board. They hope to meet with her.
- Next meeting is May 22<sup>nd</sup> with Supervisor Damon Connolly.
- June 3 meeting is with the county staff person who is heading up the recovery team to talk to that person about how they are addressing non-profit organizations.
- July meeting is with Matthew Hymel to talk about the budget.
- Detect and Connect Zoom meetings have been well done. They’ve had 300 people participate. Next meeting is Monday, May 11 at 2 pm.

**New Business and Announcements:**

- Bortel noted that the Mental Health Services Act Lorraine Wilson had Bortel participate in selecting the Help@Hand project coordinator. There is not a big budget for it.
- Girija Brilliant has asked Larry Brilliant to speak at the June 4 COA meeting.
- Locks noted Health and Nutrition Committee has also been considering a speaker for this meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on June 4, 2020