

COMMITTEE: GENERAL	DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2021	LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE
<p>PRESENT: Barry, Bortel, Boutilier, Brandon, Brilliant, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Lamorte, Locks, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Saffran, Silverman, Timms, Vreeland Long, Weingarten</p>		
<p>EXCUSED: Asimos, Bradley, Brinkmann, Hanan Friedman</p>		
<p>VACANT: Town of Corte Madera</p>		
<p>RECORDER: Mandy Reyes</p>		
<p>NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 4, 2021, Zoom Teleconference</p>		

<p>MINUTE SUMMARY</p>

Call to Order
Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

Approval of Agenda
The agenda of February 4, 2020 was approved as written.

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of January 7, 2020 were approved as written.

Open Time for Public Expression on Matters not on the Agenda:

- Salamah Locks as member of the public – Noted that per article ten, section 3, 5 members can order a special meeting of the commission to which we could have done immediately following this meeting, but the staff felt there wasn't enough time for notice. However according to the bylaws, for a special commission meeting, only 24-hours' notice is required to notify commission and the public. The logistics of the order will be taken up under new business.

Aging and Adult Services Report:
Lee Pullen, Director, Area Agency on Aging reported on the following:

- Aging and Adult Services role regarding vaccinations - we are working with Public Health to help vaccinate the public. We must prioritize our operations with disaster work. With Covid being the most urgent and life threatening, we may have to suspend things like the Area Plan Update and offering staff support to the Commission. Hopefully it won't come to that.
- Pullen is on a task force specific to the access and functional needs group with regard to the vaccine. We are meeting three times per week and helping people with technology access issues. Either they don't have the equipment or the training to use technology to schedule an appointment. They may have transportation issues or disability and functional limitations. We are getting a contract set up with Vivalon who will help coordinate getting people enrolled who have these access issues.
- Area Plan Demographic Survey – commissioners will be receiving a survey with a self-addressed stamped envelope via United States Postal Services (USPS). Please return it as soon as possible without a name or return address on it.
- Pullen is excited to see a home delivery meal program being set up for Vietnamese individuals funded through CARES Act money. We are looking at how to get culturally congruent and influenced food to those who are homebound. We'll be entering a pilot contract with Moon Café who will supply Asian inspired meals.

Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary Reports:

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- Marchese attended and Aging Action Initiative (AAI) meeting yesterday. A discussion took place regarding homeless shelters. There doesn't seem to be much energy to deal with the creation of shelters. The challenge is that homeless people are dying on the street. There's never been any integration on how to get the populations off the street in care giving scenarios. It's a very complicated set of conditions. I'll call it the senior population or older adults in different categories. The vulnerability index.
- Marchese would like to consider as a group having Dr. Willis become part of our retreat session. The logistics of getting all of us together for a retreat as well as the potential of supervisors is difficult to schedule but we'll get it accomplished. We are waiting for the decision about a consultant that we would use at the retreat.

Vice Chair López reported on the following:

- Marin Economic Forum - "Forecasting the Future" March 3 from 9-10:30 am. Economic forecast with Dr. Rob Eyler and local and state legislative updates from elected officials. Regional economic recovery and the issue of major employers leaving the Bay Area and its potential impacts on Marin County.
- Fierce Health Care - President-elect Joe Biden's new \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan includes money for increasing subsidies to help pay down the costs of Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange plans, bolstering supplies and for vaccine distribution. The American Relief Plan, announced late Thursday, includes new investments in supplies for strapped hospitals, money for vaccines and testing and seeks to give front-line healthcare workers new federal protections. A key pillar of the plan is \$20 billion for a national vaccine program that partners with state and local governments. The plan will launch community vaccination centers around the country and mobile units for any hard-to-reach areas. Biden will also

work with Congress to expand the federal matching rate to 100% for the administration of vaccines to ensure that all Medicaid enrollees get vaccinated. Biden's plan also calls for \$50 billion for testing and give funding to purchase rapid tests and expand capacity. The president-elect also seeks to expand the public health workforce with money to hire 100,000 public health workers. Hospitals could also be aided by a plan to invest \$30 billion in the Disaster Relief Fund that will ensure sufficient supplies and personal protective equipment. Biden inserts other major healthcare priorities in the plan, chiefly a bid to expand and increase the value of the subsidies for ACA exchange plans. He doesn't want ACA enrollees to pay more than 8.5% of their income for coverage. HealthCare.gov will reopen for a special, three-month enrollment period starting on Feb. 15.

Secretary Gunn reported on the following:

- There are a group of commissioners that are going to meet tomorrow afternoon to explore a topic for the annual forum this spring. The topic we will be looking at is Telehealth. We're go to go try to determine if there's enough need there to justify that as a topic.

Retreat Planning Update:

- Chair Marchese reported that they've been in communication with a consultant to help with using virtual meetings for the retreat.
- There is not a date for the retreat set yet. We are trying to get Supervisor Rodoni to attend so we are waiting on his schedule.

Discussion Item: Vulnerability Index

- Chair Marchese noted that the reason he put the Vulnerability Index on the agenda is because it ties to the areas of telehealth and telemedicine and it's obviously our advocacy and outreach program. Not too many are familiar with how the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has used it and within the context of Covid-19.

Commissioner Updates (Commissioners appointed by the Cities/Towns):

Boutillier (City of Sausalito):

- Digital Divide – Boutillier has been in conversations with Lisa Massey who is coordinating this project for the County and will be continuing to offer some experience and expertise to help get older adults online.
- Sausalito Town Hall is tonight, and they will be discussing with the new City Council what the top priority issues will be going forward for the next year or two.
- Sausalito is doing a local food delivery program. It is three dinners per week.
- The city had a setback with the newly composed Planning Commission. They want to restrict the housing element and not have an overlay available which will limit the amount of housing and where housing can be built.

Timms (Town of Fairfax):

- We are aiming for March 3rd to take our 2020 Age Friendly report before the council. It's at our graphic designer at the moment.
- There is a possibility that we may have to become a Brown Act committee. That's off table at least for the next year. We're sticking with being a part of parks and recreation.
- We have a Valentine's Day project going on. We had homemade cards made for seniors.
- We're moving forward with creating a Disaster Counsel for emergency preparedness.
- I've been going to the Suicide Collaborative meetings. An off shoot of that is the Lost Team. If any of you are suicide loss survivors. This team is being provided by the County to provide support right after a suicide. It's called postvention instead of prevention.

Locks (City of San Rafael):

- We're going to be meeting at our City Council on March 1st bringing forth our strategic plan to the city council. The process is we come on March 1st to do a presentation an expose the plan. There's a period of time when the city council members can provide us feedback. We go back on the 15th of March for approval of the plan.

Vreeland-Long/Barry (City of Novato):

- I submitted a report to the City Council with a summary of what the Commission on Aging (COA) has been doing. They were very interested and are scheduling me next month to do a presentation.
- Novato is quite diligently pursuing opportunities to improve our situation with the homeless.
- Novato provides free charging stations for electric vehicles in case people need those services. They may be looking at possibly charging for them in the future.
- Margaret Todd Center and Novato Village are doing lots of zooms for older adults.
- Novato Age Friendly is doing Valentine gift bags for low income older adults that live in the Hamilton Villas.
- The city passed a rent freeze for now. That will be for the census track.

Dowling (Town of Ross):

- I've been in discussion with Nancy, the person taking the lead in Belvedere to get Age Friendly going in that town. Both of us are in the same place of writing up the strategic plan.

Committee/Reports & Chairs:

Health/Nutrition: Salamah Locks for Chrisula Asimos

- Next meeting is on Tuesday, February the 16th. We will primarily be continuing to work on our objectives to fine tune our objectives.

Housing/Transportation: Allan Bortel/Sylvia Barry

- We will be hosting the next COA meeting presentation on March 4th. The topic will be Home Safety for Older Adults.
- At the last committee meeting, Lewis Jordan, Executive Director, Marin Housing Authority, gave an update on the Marin City Public Housing upgrade and rebuild along with Thor Kaslofsky, the Golden Gate Village consultant.
- We updated our objectives for the next year.

California Senior Legislature (CSL): Allan Bortel

- June 1, 2021, Commissioners Bortel and Brinkmann have to submit proposals to present to the legislators for their next legislative session. If have you some ideas for proposals, please send them to Bortel and Brinkmann.
- The financial health of the CSL has greatly improved.
- Next Senior Rally Day which will be May 4. It will be virtual this year. Spread the word that can you tune in, and not have to drive or take a bus up to Sacramento.

Legislative: Diana López

- The Legislative Committee held a special meeting on January 28, 2021 to finalize their objectives for the Area Plan update and determine the areas of focus to discuss with Assemblyman Marc Levine for the meeting with him on January 29. The areas of focus were determined to be:
 - Assemblyman Levine sits on the following committees: Appropriations, Higher Education, Agriculture, Water, Parks, and Wildlife, Rules, Revenue & Taxation
 - Higher education and funding for community college classes for older adults -
 - Focus on learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Retraining for employment.
 - Paid (stipend or wages) training for caregivers.
 - Fundamental training in gerontology, ageism, and ableism.
 - Intergenerational learning to address age-segregation.
 - Agriculture - Focus on older agricultural workers (wages, health care, housing), food insecurity, CalFresh
 - Water, Parks, and Wildlife - State park funding directed to build outdoor exercise features for older adults and accessibility for people with disabilities, Age-Friendly Strategic Plans emphasizes the importance of outdoor spaces for the health of older adults.
 - Appropriations - Funding for the California Master Plan for Aging
 - Other topics - Affordable housing, broadband access
- Notes from the meeting with Assemblyman Levine:
 - Assemblyman Levine noted that this is both an amazing and scary time for California. The budget is healthy because the state received a windfall and it collected more money than was expected. Resulting in a (one-time) increase in education funding of \$1,998. per student.

- Assemblyman Levine's office continues to receive a large number of calls from constituents regarding significant delays in receiving unemployment checks from the Employment Development Department (EDD).
- The Committee sought support to professionalize caregiving and make it a viable career which in Marin County would require a that an individual earn \$25./hour.
- The Committee encouraged Assemblyman Levine to think in terms of a longevity dividend. Older adults may require modifications due to changes in vision, etc. most of us are educated professionals that have a lot to give.
- The Committee briefed Assemblyman Levine on the California Master Plan for Aging priorities and funding for 2021-2022. We provided his office with a copy and requested his support for full funding of the Plan.
- AB 6, In Committee, Health facilities: pandemics and emergencies: best practices. This bill would require, by July 1, 2022, the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Social Services to collaborate to create health and safety guidelines and a description of best practices for use by skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and congregate living health facilities that are providing post-acute care during a pandemic, public health crisis, or other emergency.
- ACA 1, The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes.

Planning: Girija Brilliant

- We met on January 20th. We set two objectives for the coming year.

Equity, Outreach and Advocacy: Fred Silverman/Wendy Nuessle

- The committee met on Jan. 28 and 44 people attended the meeting. The meeting featured a special presentation from the Coast Miwok Tribal Council.
- The committee reviewed the FY 20-21 goals and objectives and created their FY 21-22 objectives for the Area Plan update.
- The next meeting will be on Feb. 18, 2021.

Ageing Action Initiative (AAI) Update:

Teri Dowling as Member of the Public reported on the following:

- AAI held a quarterly Steering Committee Meeting and outlined our goals for the year, and we said thanks for Joe O'Hehir from Vivalon who is retiring this month. The Steering Committee appointed Nancy Geisse (chief operating officer at Vivalon) to continue representing Vivalon in AAI.

- Dowling attended a meeting with California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), COA, Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) and other partners to begin identifying actions Marin County can take in support of the Master Plan on Aging.
- AAI held an Advocacy Alliance meeting with Carrie Sager and Howard Schwartz to discuss the current state of older adults who are homeless or facing homelessness in Marin County.
- Detect and Connect: We are entering into the last five months of this grant, so we encourage you in your communities to consider holding a Detect&Connect training this winter and spring. Ellen Baxter is also planning some sessions for the public and for community-based organizations, so look for those dates in the AAI newsletter & share them with your networks.
- Inform and Connect: The upcoming session will be on Monday February 23, 2:00 p.m. The topic is about the help@hand app which offers mental health for older adults in Marin. Speakers will be Lorraine Wilson and Chloe Cook from the County's Health & Human Services department.
- AAI is also holding an Inform&Connect Accessible Dwelling Unit (ADU) Expo on Monday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. This will be a chance for homeowners to learn about how to add a unit to a home - with breakouts so participants can talk directly with builders, architects and planners.
- Thanks for your help in publicizing these events - our AAI newsletter is coming out this week, so look for more information there.

New Business:

- Commissioner Locks would like to hold a special meeting for the purpose of the Bylaws and motion to amend. Chair Marchese suggested Commissioner Locks could talk offline with other commissioners about this matter.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next meeting will be on March 4, 2021.