

COMMITTEE: GENERAL	DATE: JANUARY 7, 2021	LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE
PRESENT: Asimos, Barry, Bortel, Boutilier, Brandon, Brilliant, Brinkmann, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Lamorte, Locks, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Silverman, Timms, Vreeland Long, Weingarten		
EXCUSED: Bradley, Hanan Friedman, Saffran		
VACANT: Town of Corte Madera		
RECORDER: Mandy Reyes		
NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 4, 2021, Zoom Teleconference		

MINUTE SUMMARY	ACTION TAKEN/ RESPONSIBLE PARTY
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<p>Call to Order Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Approval of Agenda The agenda of January 7, 2020 was approved as written.</p> <p>Approval of the Minutes The minutes of December 10, 2020 were approved as written.</p> <p>Open Time for Public Expression on Matters not on the Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Jackson, Program Director, Aging Action Initiative (AAI) – If you are interested in the advocacy and efforts to have a temporary rent freeze in Marin and learning more about it, contact Linda Jackson at linda.m.jackson@agingactioninitiative.org 	
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- Girija Brilliant, Commissioner on Commission on Aging (COA) speaking as member of the public – acknowledged how vulnerable and precious our democracy is after the events at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Aging and Adult Services Report:

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

- Thanked the Equity, Outreach & Advocacy Committee for the rich discussion on **The Intersection of Race and Age in Marin** prior to this meeting.
- Administrative updates – it is time to start our Area Plan update. Unfortunately, staff person Amy Dietz is still out on medical leave and we don't have a specific return date so Mandy Reyes and Jenay Cottrell will begin the work on the Area Plan update.
- Nutrition – we are going to be ready to go as soon as the shelter in place orders are lifted to do drive-by grab and go meals at Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. We are also looking at San Geronimo Valley Community Center and Corte Madera Community Center to do the same thing.
- Equity –
 - Pullen has been working with Vinh Luu, the Director of Marin Asian Advocacy Project, on how to get culturally specific meals to the Vietnamese and Asian older adult population. They are working with a vendor out of San Francisco called Moon Café that does Asian Fusion frozen meals. They are going to be doing a pilot program for six months focusing on Vietnamese and Asian residents who live in the Canal District and Central San Rafael. Vivalon will help with deliveries. CARES Act funding is being used to fund this program.
 - CARES Act funding is also being used for a contract we have with West Marin Community Services to give stipends of \$500 - \$750 to older adult Latinxs in West Marin.
 - We are looking at how to ensure the people providing our contract services are being mindful of making sure they are reaching the populations who need our services the most.
 - Safe Space, Brave Space series that the County hosted for employees. Staff comes together to talk about racism and equity issues and how we can do better.
- Jenay Cottrell and Chua Chao, Adult Services Program Manager, are on a HHS department space planning workgroup to look at what space needs we will need after COVID.
- Cottrell and Pullen are working with a host of other organizations on a committee to look at individuals who have special access or functional needs in relation to the vaccine. How do we get the vaccine to people who may not be able to leave their home?

Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary Reports:

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- The announcements have been made in Washington DC and Sacramento that new monies are slated to come to local governments. This is important for the COA to be ready to make advisory notices to our Board of Supervisors (BOS) as well as to the members of Legislature that represent Marin.
- Commissioner Vreeland-Long has brought forward the issue COVID-19 having a severe impact on residential care facilities. The COA needs to make this issue a high priority and identify its recommendations related to residential care facilities of all kinds.
- Older adults are not being a priority in all kinds of policy formulation efforts and lags behind what the sheer numbers warrant. Marchese would like the COA to be ready to give a larger effort to advocating.
- The distribution of information remains a problem due to the virus and needs to be addressed.
- We need to figure out how to work with communities in the hard-to-reach zip codes and learn what they need from us.

Vice Chair López reported on the following:

- MediCal plays a critical role in helping states and territories respond to public health emergencies and disasters, including the outbreak of the COVID-19. Over the course of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), MediCal adopted changes that modified eligibility requirements and benefit, ensured access to home and community-based services (HCBS), and provided support health care providers by updating payment rates. CMS has developed a guidance will support states in planning for the eventual end of the PHE, ensuring that they are able to transition back to normal operations when the PHE ends efficiently and in such a way that minimizes burden for beneficiaries.
- Justice in Aging has some good information on the following:
 - [Frequently Asked Questions: LTSS Visitation Rights & COVID-19](#)
 - [Combatting Discriminatory Crisis Standards of Care](#)
 - [Evaluation Framework for Hospital Visitor Policies](#)
 - [CMS From Coverage to Care COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [Vaccine Resources from the National Center on Law & Elder Rights.](#)
 - [USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism](#)
 - [Economic Security Priorities for the New Administration and Congress](#)
- Justice in Aging Directing Attorney Eric Carlson and Senior Staff Attorney Natalie Kean presented a webinar for the [National Center on Law & Elder Rights \(NCLER\)](#) on recent Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) related changes that affect older adults.

- The webinar, [LTSS Policy Changes in Response to COVID-19](#), drew over 1,300 law and aging advocates. [Watch the webinar recording](#) and [get the slides](#).

Secretary Gunn reported on the following:

- None

Retreat Planning Update for January 25, 2021:

- A retreat session was planned for January 25 in lieu of the Executive Committee meeting. The situation changing in Washington and the distribution of the California Master Plan for Aging warrants more planning. Marchese will reschedule the session for the following month. He will poll everyone for dates but please continue to hold January 25 on your calendars to initiate and begin to develop priorities going forward.

Commissioner Updates (Commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors):

Asimos/López (District 1):

- On November 30, Governor Newsom announced the state will make \$500 million available for small business relief and provide additional tax relief through the California Office of the Small Business Advocate at the Office of Business and Economic Development. By early 2021, Community Development Financial Institutions will distribute relief through grants of up to \$25,000 to underserved micro and small businesses, including non-profits throughout the state. Additionally, \$12.5 million was added to the California Rebuilding Fund, the loan program announced on Nov. 20 and actively accepting applications. Please read [the Governor's announcement](#) for information including how to subscribe for updates.
- The BOS accepted an additional \$1.7 million of Community Development Block Grant funds. Seventy five percent of funds will provide emergency rental assistance, and 25% will support small business relief. San Rafael will receive over 50% of the funds. Marin Community Foundation also stepped up to provide an additional \$1.5 million for emergency rental assistance.
- The Workforce Alliance of the North Bay is working to develop a single point of contact where businesses can access needed resources.
- On December 8, the BOS approved an [updated Climate Action Plan](#), setting a course for the County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in unincorporated Marin County. We set a goal of reducing emissions 60% below 2005 levels by 2030 and set a target of net-zero emissions by 2045. The plan captures state actions, emission reduction strategies, social equity, transportation, electrification, energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, agriculture, working land use, community adaptation, resiliency,

engagement, empowerment, and more. We also received [Drawdown:Marin's Strategic Plan](#), a community-driven campaign to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts. I helped launch Drawdown:Marin in Please see drawdownmarin.org for more information and actions that we can take.

Weingarten/Nuessle (District 2):

- Age-Friendly San Anselmo was busy during December's holiday season. Stockings and gift bags were distributed, in concert with the GoodFairy Marin project, bringing cheer and connection to individual isolated, sheltered-in-place locals and Tam House residents. Included were donated \$10 gift cards from Coffee Roasters, masks, cookies, chocolate kisses and candy canes, non-denominational cards, pens and stamps, and packs of Kleenex. Age-Friendly organized an activity in which ornamental tags featuring messages of hope and wishes from passersby were put onto existing trees in Imagination Park and at Town Hall. That venture was featured in an IJ photo display, bringing San Anselmo Age-Friendly more positive publicity.
- Marin Villages, consisting of six local contingents, including Ross Valley Village, send out regular appeals for community calls as well as emails about what's coming. In December, Ross Valley Village activities that were publicized included multiple mat-yoga and chair exercises sessions as well as watercolor classes.
- The Intersection session that just concluded was well publicized on Nextdoor and Jody Timms was responsible for sending out notices to residents all over Marin. This resulted in 84 persons attending the Intersection discussion.
- Nuessle attended the Ross Town Council meeting and spoke during Public Comment time, delivering the "Elevator Speech" created as part of Equity, Outreach & Advocacy Committee's Toolkit Subcommittee.
- Nuessle had her annual check in call with Katie Rice and provided her with updates including how she is Vice Chair on the new Equity, Outreach & Advocacy Committee. Rice is very excited about this committee.
- Victory Village had a Zoom Grand Opening Ceremony.
- San Anselmo has started drive through COVID19 testing at United Market parking lot.

Silverman/Brandon (District 3):

- We have a new supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters who replaces Kate Sears.

Etemovic (District 4):

- Met with Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and discussed work of the commission in the last few months. Brought up issues of the Bolinas Clinic and their temporary closure due to lack of staffing during pandemic.

- West Marin Fund is spearheading conversation about racism in West Marin. San Geronimo Valley Community Center is putting on a program called “Community Unlearning”. The program aims to re-educate and bring awareness to our communities about the realities of racism, discrimination, and other systems of oppression.
- Etemovic participated in an end of year fundraising event for the West Marin Senior Services and heard about all the great work they are doing for West Marin older adults.

Gunn/Barry (District 5):

- COVID testing will be available in Novato every Friday 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. beginning 1-8-21. (Location: Novato Public Library 1720 Novato Blvd) The County has partnered with Curative to offer this free service. Appts can be booked at curative.com.
- Hill Recreation Center is now open. This is an age-friendly facility that joins the Margaret Todd Senior Center with the Hill Gymnasium in a 12-acre site that includes sports fields, bocce and pickle ball courts, chess and checkers tables, and extended parking. Hundreds of new trees and shrubs have been planted as part of this project.

Committee/Reports & Chairs:

Health/Nutrition: Chrisula Asimos

- Next meeting is Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Agenda will include a report on the intergenerational project that older adults and students from Dominican participated in over several months.
- The sub-committee on telehealth will report back.

Housing/Transportation: Allan Bortel

- Co-chairs Allan Bortel and Sylvia Barry are investigating housing finance, particularly credits for affordable housing. They will share the information with the committee at the next meeting on 1/20/21.

Legislative: Diana López

- The committee has decided a letter to Senator McGuire and Assemblyman Levine should be sent regarding support for implementation of the Master Plan for Aging.
- Preparation is in progress for the meeting with Assemblyman Huffman’s legislative aids. Topics will include:

- Technology including access to broadband and tech training for older adults – Boutilier/López
- Housing availability, affordability, etc. – Barry, Bortel, Peter Mendoza
- Full funding for the Older American’s Act
- Home and community - based service, dental care, access to health care – Peter Mendoza, Brinkmann, Boutilier
- Planning for follow-up meeting with Senator McGuire and Assemblyman Levine regarding upcoming legislation.
- Commissioner Bortel reported California State Legislature (CSL) financing through State income tax checkoff was up from \$74k to \$124k in 2020, with 15k contributors versus under 11k in 2019; a good sign of interest in senior issues. The May rally may happen in person on Capitol grounds assuming a lot of senior vaccinations.

Planning: Girija Brilliant

- The Planning Committee has not met due to staff person Amy Dietz being on medical leave.

Equity, Outreach and Advocacy: Fred Silverman/Wendy Nuessle

- The committee had a special presentation from Dana Van Gorder & Bill Blackburn of the Spahr Center. Dana educated the group on the history of the SPAHR Center, which 5 years ago was created with the merge of AIDS Project & Spectrum. They have an HIV Program that serves 220 low income clients in Marin County. There is a HIV Prevention Program. They have a LGBTQ youth program with Education, Allyship and Social Justice initiatives. Bill Blackburn spoke on the 10 Myths & Facts about LGBTQ Seniors. Dana reported that Spahr Center completed a Strategic Planning Process and is now developing a Friendly Visitor Program.
- Age-Forward Update: Sara Robinson, Age Forward County Coordinator, reports that Age Forward Olan is now in the enhancement phase, where groups will be working together to identify existing efforts for collaboration. Key efforts like, suicide prevention in Western Marin and identifying isolated older adults are priorities.

Ageing Action Initiative (AAI) Update:

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

- AAI is working in collaboration with the Marin Center for Independent Living and the California Association of Retired Americans and others to follow up on the Master Plan for Aging that was just released.

- There will be an AAI Inform & Connect session on Monday, Jan. 25 at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Lisa Santora about the launch of a website that will be more help to older adults about how to be safe and well.
- Detect and Connect is entering the last six months of a grant that lets them offer free workshops to the community about how best to communicate with people with dementia or mental health conditions. If you are interested in having a workshop, contact Ellen at AAI before the end of June.
- Would like to end the meeting today in honor of Jim Monson.

New Business:

- Lisa Brinkmann suggested a calendar with all of the meetings that are coming up. There was a lot of agreement. Commissioner López and Director Pullen will discuss how to pull together a calendar.

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

The next meeting will be on February 4, 2021.