

<b>COMMITTEE: GENERAL</b>	<b>DATE: APRIL 1, 2021</b>	<b>LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE</b>
<b>PRESENT:</b> Asimos, Barry, Bortel, Boutilier, Brandon, Brilliant, Brinkmann, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Lamorte, Locks, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Silverman, Timms, Vreeland Long		
<b>EXCUSED:</b> Bradley, Hanan Friedman, Saffran		
<b>VACANT:</b> Town of Corte Madera, District 2		
<b>RECORDER:</b> <i>Amy Dietz (Marin County Area Agency on Aging)</i>		
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Thurs., May 6, 2021, Zoom Teleconference		

MINUTE SUMMARY
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**Call to Order**  
Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

**Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda of Apr. 1, 2021 was approved as written.

**Approval of the Minutes**  
The minutes of Mar. 4, 2021 were approved as amended:

- Under the Legislative Committee report. Last bullet changed to state that Justice and Aging is a separate document from the list of bills that came out from the California Department of Aging (CDA).
- Under New Business, Commissioner Timms noted that Community Media Center of Marin (CMCM)—Marin TV is interested in filming MCCOA programming.

**Open Time for Public Expression on Matters not on the Agenda:**  
None.

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

- Thanked staff and commissioners for their work on the Area Plan.
- The recent \$1.9 trillion American Recovery Act will impact Adult Protective Services, nutrition programming and other older adult programs. The exact amount that will be allocated to Marin is unknown at this time. He thanked the Legislative Committee for their advocacy.
- Remarked that there will be continued demand for nutrition services, including congregate meals. The AAA will need to find a new congregate meal vendor.
- Age-Friendly County of Marin is still happening, but many of the County lead employees have been doing disaster service work. There was a recent Section Action Team Lead meeting that was successful. Will be going to Board of Supervisor's subcommittee to report on successes, obstacles – namely, the impact of Covid-19 – and future plans.

Jenay Cottrell, Area on Aging Program Manager reported on the following:

- A congregate meal drive though program has started at Margaret Todd Senior Center on Tues. and Thurs. There has been positive feedback form participants. They are conducting outreach to low-income communities though North Marin Community Services. A pick-up program will be starting at Albert J Boro on Apr. 19.
- Introduced Jenna Ray, new AAA Registered Dietician.

#### **Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary Reports:**

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- Has requested a meeting with Marin HHS Directors team, to be attended by existing officers and newly elected officers of the commission.
- The commission and equity team are examining census and zip codes.
- Would like to include GIS mapping, reporting where services are, to reporting agenda.
- Is working to update computer-based mailing list with assistance from a young person.
- Grand Jury:
  - Reminded commission that Grand Jury issues will focus on nursing homes.
  - Secretary Gunn has recommended that the commission give input for further topics.
- There is outreach occurring to local jurisdictions for members of the public to be involved in the work of the commission. Commissioners were reminded to also promote meeting to members of their communities.
- The town of Corte Madera is recruiting a new commissioner to replace Carol Zeller. There has been one applicant thus far.
- Has reached out to Lorenzo Cordova and Maureen Parton to meet this month and coordinate efforts.
- The Telehealth committee has successfully coordinated with Digital Health.

Vice Chair López reported on the following:

- Recommended Manatt Health Webinar Series – Ten Health Care Imperatives for the Decade Ahead. “Ensuring Access to Coverage and Care” was the first in the series. The recording is available on the Manatt Health Website: <https://www.manatt.com/insights/webinars/ten-health-care-imperatives-for-the-decade-ahead>
- United Nations global campaign to combat ageism released a paper, toolkit and webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fKD7aHFpZw>.
- Ashton Applewhite’s effort on ageism conducted a movement builders convening, 45 people from across the U.S. attended.
- Thanked Gary Lara for updating website.
- Recommended the book “Nomadland.”
- Asked AAA staff to forward her report to commissioners prior to coming meeting, so that they might attend webinars mentioned.

Secretary Gunn reported on the following:

- Will not be running for an officer position.

**Proposed Slate of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary from the Nominating Committee for FY 21-22**

- Nominating Committee Members: Allan Bortel, Teri Dowling and Chris Asimos nominated the following commissioners:
  - Chair: Diana López, Vice Chair: Fred Silverman, Secretary: Sylvia Barry.
- Floor was opened for additional nominees.
  - Salamah Locks nominated herself for Secretary.
  - Chair Marchese nominated Wendy Nuessle for Secretary.
- A vote will occur at June commission meeting.
- Director Pullen reviewed the bylaws and reported that additional nominees can be made prior to vote. Voting will occur publicly, by voice vote or a show of hands.

**Annual Health Forum Update:**

Secretary Gunn reported on the following:

- Save the Date has been widely distributed. Benita McLarin and Liza Massey to inform their remarks.
- Finalizing content with experts in the coming weeks.
- Requested commissioners recommend doctors who have been utilizing telehealth, ideally someone who is a person of color, who are experienced with presenting. Recommendations should be made directly to Secretary Gunn.

Commissioner Vreeland-Long reported on the following:

- Contacted local papers, Age-Friendly, the Villages, Vivalon and other organizations to promote event.

- Invitation will be completed when speakers are confirmed.

Commissioner Brinkman reported on the following:

- Attendees will be able to register online.
- Working with Gary Lara to put link for registration on website.

### **Retreat Planning Update:**

None

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

Boutilier (City of Sausalito):

- Worked on local vaccination events for older adults and their caregivers at City Hall and Rotary Housing.
- Working on Age-Friendly survey for follow-up to five-year plan, with focus on housing element.
- Working with new City Council to keep seniors in mind and include ageism in their equity work.
- There is a merging of schools in Marin City, where population was predominantly Black, and Sausalito, where population was predominantly White. Parents, grandparents and other guardians of children will be involved.
- Working on further equity efforts between Marin City and Sausalito.

Brilliant (City of Mill Valley):

- Set up a Neighborhood Response Group (NRG) with neighbor.
- Recommended that Maggie Lane, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator of NRG, provide information to the commission.
  - Commissioner Silverman mentioned that Maggie Lane had discussed older adults in a recent meeting.
  - Vice Chair López announced that Maggie Lane will be speaking the upcoming Age-Friendly Forum on Apr. 28.
- Mill Valley had applied for age-friendly status prior to pandemic. Staff for city of Mill Valley was cut drastically due to Covid-19 but they are in the process of rehiring.

Dowling (Town of Ross):

- Will be meeting with Ross Parks and Recreation Director to work on future plans.
- Requested reappointment to represent town of Ross on the commission.

Timms (Town of Fairfax):

- Hosted the Mar. Age-Friendly Marin Forum on Maximizing Memory with Alzheimer's Association.
- Participated in the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Age Friendly Mini-Rounds Mar. 23, representing Age-Friendly Fairfax and Victory Village. The application for California to be age-friendly is moving forward.

- The five-year report will be on the Fairfax Town Council agenda for Apr. 7. It may be a presentation or consent item. They are printing 100 copies, commissioners can directly request a copy.
- Fairfax will be forming a Community Emergency Preparedness Committee with seven members; five based on focus, which includes Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), NRGs, Firewise, Chamber of Commerce, Age-Friendly Task Force and two members at large.
- Recruitment is now open for a Ross Valley Disaster Coordinator to work with the new committee.

#### LaMorte (City of San Anselmo):

- Asked Vice Chair López when Age-Friendly Forum will be occurring. Vice Chair López answered that it will be from 10:30-11:45 a.m.

#### Locks (City of San Rafael):

- San Rafael City Council accepted and approved of the “Age-Friendly San Rafael Strategic Action Plan 2020-2023” on Mar. 15. The San Rafael Age-Friendly Task Force and local government will now start work as outlined in the plan.
- Will be meeting with Dean Ruth Ramsey of Dominican University of California to discuss updates.
  - The University's acceptance into the Age-Friendly University Global Network (AFU) occurred in Nov. 2020.
  - Will discuss the creation of Gerontology PhD curriculum at Dominican. There are currently no university-based Gerontology PhD degree programs in Northern California.

#### Marchese (Town of Corte Madera):

- A woman of color has been selected to replace a vacant position on the town council. She has been invited to also work with the commission.

#### Vreeland-Long/Barry (City of Novato):

- Gave a report to Novato City Council that included the following:
  - Invited the council members and the public to attend commission presentation meetings.
  - Informed the council of how the AAA scaled up services to meet increased needs related to the pandemic.
  - Informed the council of Margaret Todd Senior Center drive-through congregate program.
  - Informed the council that mobile units are providing meals and vaccines to homebound older adults.
  - Invited the council and the public to Annual Health Forum.
  - Informed the council that a workshop on mental health for older adults was presented by Margaret Todd Senior Center (MTSC) through the Community Health Awareness Council.
- Commented on the resilience older adults and staff in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), assisted living facilities (ALFs) and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). They are now able to open up to visitation, congregating at meals and are planning for entertainment again.

## **Committee/Reports & Chairs:**

Health/Nutrition: Chrisula Asimos

- Committee will be meeting monthly. Next meeting: Apr. 26 at 3 p.m.
- Plan to partner with Legislative Committee to present on parity in mental health.
- Will be looking at global innovative programs for nursing homes.

Housing/Transportation: Allan Bortel/ Sylvia Barry

- Anne Gray, new Chief Executive Officer of Vivalon, presented at the last meeting.
- The “Healthy Aging” at Vivalon’s new 66-unit housing complex (construction to occur in 2021) will be the responsibility of Marin Community Clinic.
- The Northgate new housing will be monitored by commissioners to consider senior needs. Owners do not seem to have yet focused on the older adult community.
- The Virtual Senior Rally (annual Older Americans month event) sponsored by California Senior Legislature (CSL), AARP and others is on Tues., May 4. Gary Lara has sent registration link.

Legislative: Diana López/Sybil Boutilier

- Voted to support Assemblyman Levine’s AB6 to pull together information and best practices learned though the pandemic.
- Recommended that the commission focus on caregiving:
  - Discussed staffing and living wages for caregivers.
  - Working with Aaron Alacaron-Bowen around issues of caregiving.
- Waiting for date to meet with Senator McGuire.

Planning: Girija Brilliant

- Amy Dietz has returned to work.

Equity, Outreach and Advocacy: Fred Silverman/Wendy Nuessle

- At meeting on Mar 18:
  - County staff member Nisha Anand spoke about equity activities.
  - Sara Robinson presented.
  - Lorenzo Cordova, Jennifer Ancona and Eli Gelardin attended the meeting and it was good to get their input.
- Attended the Age Forward Implementation Meeting and learned about what is going on in the county.
- The next meeting is Apr.15 and there will be a presentation about Asian American Pacific Islanders in Marin.

California Senior Legislature (CSL): Allan Bortel/Lisa Brinkmann

- Virtual Senior Rally will occur on May 4.

Aging Action Initiative (AAI) Update: Teri Dowling:

- Recruiting for a new coordinator. Information can be found at: <https://agingactioninitiative.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AgingActionInitiative/>.
- Focusing on legislation being proposed to implement the Master Plan for Aging, with a focus on services for older homeless, homecare and changes to address needs identified during COVID-19.
- AAI continues to offer Detect&Connect for the public.
- The latest Inform&Connect featured leaders from The Redwoods, Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) and Vivalon, who reported on changes in the past year and plans for the coming year.
- The next session will spotlight the work of Digital Marin.
- Save the date, Wed. May 12, 1-3 p.m.: On Lok is holding the first virtual Forum in the North Bay, covering Marin, Napa, Sonoma and Solano. AAI, Marin Center for Independent Living (MCIL) and Vice-Chair Diana López are on the planning committee. It will be an insightful program about the Master Plan for Aging, and the innovative programs across the four counties.

**New Business:**

Commissioner Timms reported that CMCM will be broadcasting and posting Age-Friendly Marin Forums. They are interested in filming, broadcasting and posting commission educational presentations.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be on May 6, 2021