

COMMITTEE: GENERAL	DATE: MARCH 4, 2021	LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE
PRESENT: Asimos, Barry, Bortel, Boutilier, Bradley, Brandon, Brilliant, Brinkmann, Dowling, Etemovic, Gunn, Lamorte, Locks, López, Marchese, Nuessle, Silverman, Timms, Vreeland Long, Weingarten		
EXCUSED: Hanan Friedman, Saffran		
VACANT: Town of Corte Madera, District 2		
RECORDER: <i>Mandy Reyes (Marin County Area Agency on Aging)</i>		
NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 1, 2021, Zoom Teleconference		

MINUTE SUMMARY

Call to Order
Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Approval of Agenda
The agenda of March 4, 2021 was approved as written.

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of Feb. 4, 2021 were approved as amended to say on page 1, line 3; However according to the bylaws, for a special Marin County Commission on Aging (MCCOA) meeting, only 24-hours' notice is required to notify commission and the public.

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

- Salamah Locks reported on the County service for older adult residents age 75 and older having difficulty getting an appointment for Covid-19 vaccine because of limited internet access or limited skills with computers and/or smartphones. They can call M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 833-641-1988.
- Locks reported that at the previous Equity, Outreach and Advocacy (EOA) committee meeting on Feb. 18, she presented information on the MCCOA Bylaws. There were 12 MCCOA members present which is equal to a quorum of this general body. Locks would like to request an action item, Motion to Amend be placed on the April 1 agenda of the MCCOA General Meeting.

Aging and Adult Services Report:

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

- Capital Day – Pullen thanked everyone who joined. It is the day that focuses on what the association's priorities will be for legislation. The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) is promoting for increased funding in three areas: senior nutrition, funding for aging and disability resource connections across the state. Ours locally is our partnership with Marin Center for Independent Living (Marin CIL). It is known as One Door. And the third is falls prevention. There is a proposal to continue to do this important work.
- Access Service Center - There is a team working to assist people who do not have the technology to register or the transportation to get to Covid vaccine appointments. We have contracted with Vivalon who will be helping to enroll people or to see if people need transportation or other resource needs. The number for the service center is 833-641-1988.
- Area Plan Update - Pullen thanked Jenay and Mandy for getting the Area Plan update together. And to the Planning Committee for its advice and input. The full commission will have the draft to look at in another week or two.
- Digital Marin – It's very important that we have a voice for older adults with disabilities to make sure they have access to digital technology. Whether it be lack of access, not knowing how to use it, or needing broadband service. Pullen sent an email to the commissioners regarding participating in a stakeholder meeting. The email will be resent and for any commissioners who are , let Pullen know by next Wednesday.
- Vietnamese Home Delivery – The program kicked off two weeks ago. The pilot program goes through September and will be evaluated every month. If we have capacity to add more, we will.

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

- Pilot Drive Thru Lunch Pickup – The program is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is not being broadcasted too much because we want to make sure that we are connecting with low- income individuals and community of colors. We started at Margaret Todd and are in conversation with the Albert J. Boro Community Center to establish something there. It may be a walk up because many in that area do not have cars or share a car many family members. Happy to say that the feedback has been great.

Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary Reports:

Chair Marchese reported on the following:

- Lorenzo Cordova, Senior Aide Marin County Board of Supervisors, has been invited to today's meeting to hear what we are talking about and report back to the Board of Supervisors.
- Woody Weingarten has announced his resignation. Marchese has asked him to stay on to the degree his health, time and willingness allow. This leaves an opportunity for someone to fill the District 2 seat on the MCCOA.
- There are three major activities happening in the next 60 days; the four-year plan and any revision to it, the MCCOA retreat, and the support of Supervisor Dennis Rodoni to start to implement certain objectives.

Vice Chair López reported on the following:

- Eviction Moratorium - On Jan. 12, the Board of Supervisors passed an updated [Eviction Moratorium](#) due to the expiration of state protections through [AB 3088](#) on January 31. The Eviction Moratorium provides a framework for six months, through June 30, 2021. We anticipate additional state action. Assemblymember David Chiu has introduced [AB 15](#) and [AB 16](#) to cover evictions and funding. We will continue to work with our state representatives and local stakeholders on these issues.
- Rental Assistance, SB 91 Eviction Protection, and Rent Freeze - On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved an [urgency ordinance](#) that temporarily prevents rent increases for tenants residing in certain census tracts in unincorporated Marin most affected by COVID. The cities of San Rafael and Novato passed similar ordinances within their jurisdictions. The County's ordinance applies to Marin City (census tract 1290) and a large portion of West Marin (census tract 1330).
- Small Business Relief - The Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) to administer small business grants up to \$10,000 and interest-free loans of up to \$50,000 for small businesses. The County received nearly \$448,000 of CARES Act dollars through the Community Development Block Grant program to support small businesses with lower-wage employees affected by COVID. In total, \$900,000 in small business relief will be offered through this program. San Rafael businesses are slated to receive 53% of funds.
- Resilient Neighborhoods - The [Resilient Neighborhoods](#) climate action program can lessen your impact on the planet and address the climate emergency. The new online format offers a safe way to participate in the program and connect with others during the pandemic. You can calculate your carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it. Get support and access to local resources to personalize your climate action plan and get yourself prepared for emergencies, wildfires, and power outages.
- 920 Grand Avenue - On January 12, the Board of Supervisors approved leasing the County-owned 920 Grand Avenue building in San Rafael to create a [16-bed Adult Transitional Residential Treatment Program](#) for individuals with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders. The decision addresses two long-sought goals. The facility will assist in a more successful transition from residential placement back to the community, and decrease costs associated with out of county residential treatment placements. The County has partnered with the Progress Foundation to operate the facility, the first of its kind in Marin. This welcomed addition will help stabilize residents struggling with mental illness and substance use, keep families connected, and make better use of local resources.
- Human Rights Commission - The [Marin County Human Rights Commission](#) serves to promote a community based on social justice, with equality for all, and to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, color, age, ancestry, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, national origin, or disability. The Marin Human Rights Commission sponsored a free online screening of the film [Cracking The Codes: The System of Racial Inequity](#) on January 20th.

Secretary Gunn reported on the following:

- None

Annual Health Forum Update:

Commissioner Gunn reported on the following:

- The forum is tentatively scheduled for May 27 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- The theme for the forum is “Is there a doctor in the house? – Bridging the Health Divide in Marin”.
- Publicity will include sending a save the date notification, an Event Brite will be sent out to all our databases and we will be tapping into some new ones.
- The primary focus of the project planning is to focus on the technology. The Ad-hoc Committee is reaching out to different organizations who have been successful in putting together large virtual meetings for advice.
- The goal is to have 700+ attendees.
- Speakers and format include Dennis Rodoni who will kick it off and respond to questions. HHS Director Benita McLarin will also play a role.

Retreat Planning Update:

- Chair Marchese reported that he would like to push the retreat back in order to focus on The Master Plan for Aging, the telehealth and medicine, and Digital Marin efforts.

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

López (District 1):

- There are approximately 10,700 household in Marin at risk of displacement or eviction. An estimates 8,200 children are among them.

Nuessle (District 2):

- Neussel continues to deliver welcome packs to residents at Victory Village in Fairfax. It has been a slow process, due to COVID19 safety precautions, and the resident services coordinator trying to get names/dates of birth from the residents.
- Neussel attended AAI’s recent Inform & Connect about “Help@Hand.” It was a very informative presentation on telehealth and an app that the County is piloting. Of note is the Spanish-speaking cohort being included.
- Neussel has been initiating outreach to community organizations to collaborate to promote equity.

Silverman/Brandon (District 3):

- Silverman is trying to set up a meeting with Stephanie Moulton-Peters. We want to do our check in meeting but are a few weeks out with that.
- Brandon reported Marin City has hosted some significant events online. One was more MLK Junior Day in January and the other was for Black History Month in February. It went international because there are Marin City folks all over the

world. Because of the pandemic, we are experimenting with new ways to present the programs. These have been very successful. The events were very intergenerational from the aging adult to young kids participating.

Etemovic (District 4):

- Vaccination effort in West Marin Update:
 - MCCOastal Health Alliance in Point Reyes Station is providing 100 doses of the COVID vaccines per week depending on the vaccine availability. Efforts are ramping up as vaccine supplies are increasing.
 - Marin County in collaboration with Curative is trying to start up a mobile van vaccination clinic focusing on agricultural and food service workers in West Marin.
 - West Marin Clinic is working with Marin County on trying to provide vaccinations to homebound older adults.
 - Bolinas will have a vaccination clinic at the MCCOastal Health Alliance clinic in Bolinas on March 12.
- Update on the low- income housing project at the old MCCOast guard housing complex in Point Reyes Station. The project is still in its preliminary stages looking into septic system issues and coming up with ideas how to approach renovation of the town houses and common areas.

Barry/Gunn (District 5):

- Age-Friendly Novato provided 120 Valentine gift bags to three low-income housing apartment sites. Four of our city council members were present. It was a successful project.
- We will be updating our community action plan. The deadline is June 30, 2021.
- The Kaiser folks in Novato who are 65+ are finally getting their vaccines.

Lamorte (San Anselmo):

- San Anselmo Age Friendly is working on strategic plan. They are slowing down a bit to give the process due justice.
- They have partnered with The Cedars to celebrate “ one year of stay at home AND light at end of tunnel.” There will be cut out stars with positive messages to be pinned on trees at Imagination Park. The event will be publicized using San Anselmo Age Friendly participation.
- Age Friendly continues to put masks on trees and refer older adults who call for help to the Good Fairies for rides and companionship calls.

Committee/Reports & Chairs:

Health/Nutrition: Salamah Locks for Chrisula Asimos

- The next committee meeting is on March 22 at 3 p.m. The committee has been meeting every month. On March 22, Carol, the County Suicide Prevention Collaborative Coordinator, will give a 5-10 min. update on her program. Vreeland Long and Locks may bring in information about what nursing homes look like in other parts of the world.

Housing/Transportation: Allan Bortel/Sylvia Barry

- The committee completed its objectives for the 20-21 Fiscal year and provided an update.
- Recommendations were presented on Low Income Tax Credit Housing (LITCH) projects and the Housing Choice Voucher program and project-based voucher housing program as well as support for Accessible Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessible Dwelling Units (JADUs) to U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman's Aide.
- The committee worked with Marin Transit Senior Mobility Planner and Age-Friendly Novato to provide Connect Trip Vouchers, Marin Transit Rider's Guide, Clipper START Brochures, and Marin Access Brochures to 150 low-income older adults.
- The committee meets next on Wed., March 17 at 1 p.m. The new head of Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop) has been invited to make some remarks.

Legislative: Diana López/Sybil Boutilier

- Boutilier reported the legislative committee wrote letters to support the Older Americans Act budget in the rescue bill. This is a Covid relief bill making its way through Congress. It was passed by the House and now it is in the senate and it is expected to pass.
- On March 9, there will be a hearing in the Senate Human Services committee about SB 515. This bill answers one of the policy issues, number 14 in our policy request under the county's priorities that has to do with restructuring long-term care programs.
- López reported the Legislative Committee had a successful meeting with U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman's aide.
- Assemblyman Levine has asked for our support for AB 6.
- Justice and Aging is a separate document from the list of bills that came out from the California Department of Aging (CDA). Justice and Aging tied bills to the Master Plan for Aging. This document with all the materials was sent out at the last Legislative Committee meeting.

Planning: Girija Brilliant

- The committee met on Feb. 10. A correction to the minutes which were approved incorrectly should say that the committee met in person, not by email.
- Next meeting is March 10 to review the Area Plan update draft.

Equity, Outreach and Advocacy: Fred Silverman/Wendy Nuessle

- The committee had their first meeting as a standing committee on Feb. 18.
- Sara Robinson reported on Age Forward.
- The Toolkit Subcommittee discussed using social media.
- Commissioner Locks discussed her points regarding bylaws.
- The committee is looking for additional speakers for presentations.

- A discussion took place on how to do outreach/advocacy in the community.
- Next meeting will be held on March 18 at 10 a.m.

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

Bortel reported:

- June 1, 2021, Commissioners Bortel and Brinkmann
- The Virtual Senior Rally Day will be held on May 4 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and they anticipate 500+ attendees.

Brinkmann reported:

- There was a presentation that went through the steps on how to create a tool drop box so we can access some of that document easily.

Aging Action Initiative (AAI) Update:

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

- AAI's Inform & Connect last Monday was a collaboration with Housing Crisis Action. Over 100 people participated in a session about how to create an accessory dwelling unit. There were 15 presenters, from architects to public agencies, to financing experts.
- Our next Inform & Connect session will be Mon., March 29 at 2 p.m. It will feature a roundtable with a few of Marin's leaders about ageism sharing their insights and innovations as we move to a post-COVID-19 2021. This promises to be a thought-provoking session for all participants.
- AAI continues to monitor the implementation of the just-released Master Plan for Aging. In a recent meeting with California Assemblyman Marc Levine, AAI briefed him about our key issues and offered our help in supporting legislation.
- Detect & Connect has hosted workshops about how-to communicate empathically with people with mental health issues or with dementia. The next one open to the public will be Wednesday, March 31, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Plans are to offer these monthly through the spring. If you would like your own workshop, please contact Linda Jackson (or Ellen Baxter).
- AAI is also part of an inaugural effort by Senior Care Action Network (SCAN) and On Lok to bring the five North Bay counties together on a program to learn about the Master Plan for Aging. The goal is to have the 1st of two zoom events in May and June - Linda will be contacting you to make sure the May event does not conflict with the Commission's May forum.
- Work continues on our speakers bureau to bring the community presentations about ageism, collaborations and advocacy. If you're interested in participating in the speakers bureau, let Dowling know.
- Dowling commented she would not be mentioning COVID-19 work, as that topic will already be covered by AAA Director Pullen and other commissioners.
- Optional comment: AAI is on the County's COVID-19 Community Advisory Board to help HHS ensure that ALL are vaccinated, including those (from AAI's perspective) with accessibility challenges due to online registration and

transportation, or with reluctance to be vaccinated, or who are caregivers of an older person or someone with disabilities. HHS's dashboard today says that 24% of Marin has received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

New Business:

- Commissioner Timms noted that Community Media Center of Marin—Marin TV is interested in programming of the MCCOA's educational event. Chair Marchese will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

The next meeting will be on April 1, 2021