

**MARIN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
***Committee Meeting Minutes***

<b>COMMITTEE:</b> HEALTH & NUTRITION	<b>DATE:</b> FEBRUARY 16, 2021	<b>LOCATION:</b> VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED THROUGH ZOOM
<p><b>PRESENT:</b> Chris Asimos, Sylvia Barry, Jasmina Etemovic, Jean Gunn, Salamah Locks, Diana López, Wendy Nuessle, Fred Silverman, Lauren Vreeland Long, <i>Rhea Brown (community), Mandy Reyes (Marin County Area Agency on Aging)</i></p> <p><b>ABSENT:</b> Julie Hanan Friedman</p>		
<p><b>RECORDER:</b> Mandy Reyes</p>		
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> March 22, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p>		
<b>MINUTES SUMMARY</b>		<b>ACTION TAKEN/ RESPONSIBLE PARTY</b>
<p><b>Call to Order:</b> The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chair Asimos.</p> <p><b>Approval of the Agenda:</b> The agenda for February 16, 2021 was approved as written.</p> <p><b>Approval of the Minutes:</b> The January 19, 2021 minutes were approved as written.</p> <p><b>Open Time for Public Comment:</b> None</p> <p><b>Chair’s Report:</b> Chair Asimos recently had conversations with a couple of colleagues who are Ombudsman in nursing home facilities. They discussed the idea of corresponding with residents in nursing home facilities who are at risk for depression and loneliness via notes/letters. Would the committee like to move forward with this idea?</p>		

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**Review and Finalize FY 21-22 Objectives:**

The committee reviewed, modified and finalized the FY 21-22 objectives for the Area Plan update that they had created at the last meeting.

**Report from the Telehealth Subcommittee:**

- Commissioner Etemovic noted that the subcommittee has been sharing articles that they have found regarding telehealth. The Telehealth Committee could possibly help with the annual health forum since it will be on this same issue.
- Commissioner Vreeland Long has done a search on what is in the news about telehealth. She found out the following:
  - The FCC has written new rules regarding equity for rural areas receiving telehealth.
  - The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is investing \$8 Million to address gaps in rural telehealth through the Telehealth Broadband Pilot Program (TBP).
  - The Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding telehealth services to older adults, rural people and homeless veterans.
  - The Center for Connective Health Policy has a website with articles and newsletters which Vreeland Long will be signing up for to stay on top of the latest news regarding telehealth.
- Commissioner López noted that Liza Massey, Director of Communications for the County of Marin, is on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting. She will be talking about Digital Marin and what they are doing. Please tune into this meeting on Monday, February 22 as it relates to telehealth.
- Commissioner Gunn gave an update on the ideas for the annual forum. The working title is Telehealth and Bridging the Digital Divide. The forum is going to focus on equity and practical solutions.

**New Business:**

- Commissioner López would like to put on the agenda for the next meeting for the group to discuss the possibility of having a panel with Aaron Alarcon Bowen, Executive Director of Public Authority and the Family Caregivers Alliance Program Manager, to discuss caregiving which is a big part of the Master Plan for Aging.
- Commissioner Silverman noted that Kara Connors, Coordinator for County of Marin Suicide Prevention Program, would like to come to a meeting to present.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.**

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