



Commission on Aging of Mariposa County

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(209) 966-2000

-MINUTES-

July 21, 2021

Video Conference

Members Present: Don Fox (D I/Sec.), Brenda Sweeney (D II /Chair); Linda Pribyl (D IV);
Sarah Montoya (D V); At large: Dale Silverman; Dayna Hannagan;
Sue Overstreet

Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Jason Allen; Terri Peresan; Susette Micallef; Lydia Arre;
Shannon Gadd; Julianne Simms

BOS Liaison: Rosemarie Smallcombe

Guest Speakers: N/A

Guests: Chriss Moore

Recording Secretary: Don Fox and Jason Allen

1. Call to Order and Introductions:
 - a. Completed by Brenda @ 10:01AM.
2. Public Comments:
 - a. N/A - No public comments were made.
3. Approval of April 28, 2021 Minutes: Attachment A
 - a. Dale motioned to approve. Don seconded. Via roll call vote, Don, Linda, Sarah, Dayna, Dale and Brenda approved. Motion was carried.
4. Home SAFE Program Presentation by Lydia Arre:
 - a. Mariposa was one of the first to apply and receive this grant program. The program's motto is "Aging in Place" and the goal is to maintain housing stability for aging citizens. Phase 1, which ended in June required a 50/50 match of county funds.
 - b. This program is for APS clients who are at risk of homelessness. It is a vital new tool that allows APS to make physical repairs to the qualifying person's residence in order for them to remain at a viable place to live. To obtain this service, an APS form 341 needs to be filled out and submitted, which can be done online. This will begin a process of eligibility determination by APS staff. If someone is deemed eligible, critical needs are assessed and resolutions are identified and implemented. Available program spending in phase 2 statewide is approximately \$50 Million. The final amount Mariposa will receive is pending. The delay is tied to the state considering elimination of the 25% county match that was initially required in this second phase.
 - c. Questions and Discussion:
 - i. Dale mentioned that it was hard to find info about this either online via Google or the county website search function or by calling the HHSA main line.

- i. Shannon responded that the best way to get more info is to have someone in mind already and make a thorough APS report, as this program is an in-house tool.
- ii. It was mentioned that many people fear to fill out the APS form as it had negative consequences for them in the past such as forced removal.
- iii. Brenda suggested that this information be shared with first responders, who frequently encounter individuals who could benefit from APS and Home Safe. First responders would include the fire services, law enforcement, EMS, etc. This should be something that we work on.
- iv. Dale indicated her concern is that the public does not know of the existence of this “tool” and that they are unaware that APS has refocused its efforts from finding an alternative living situation to that of enabling the individual to remain in their home.
- v. Suggestions expressed to better inform the community as well as other professionals that seem to not currently be aware of the program is to provide better training to staff about the existence of this new tool and how to facilitate access to it and associated written materials. Dale suggested that HHSA draft a public service announcement and a social media post about this program as well as improve access to information about it on the County’s website. Shannon committed to speak to the comms team about coordinating this and put a PR person in touch with Dale.
- vi. Due to significant time constraints, Brenda asked that Shannon Gadd, the Director of HHSA, give her update to the Commission on progress that has been made with Northside Senior Nutrition. (This would normally be presented under the District 2 report, but Shannon needed to leave early.) Shannon reported that a contract is being worked out with the Coulter Café to provide full breakfast to Northside Seniors 3 days a week. This program will serve as a pilot program to help the County better assess need and utilization on the Northside. No time limit or start date was

given. Shannon agreed to let the Commission know when the details were finalized, in order that we might start getting the word out

5. COA Commissioners' Reports:

a. District 1:

- i. Per Rosemarie, food security, communication and education is being heavily encouraged by the Board.
- ii. Rosemarie also noted that there is more focus on the integration of disabled and senior services; she was not sure of actual overlap but strongly believes there is one and brought up the idea of the COA somehow broadening its scope to include the disabled. This topic was tabled until the A12AA report later in the agenda as that agency is actively focusing on this topic.

b. District 2:

- i. The ribbon cutting for the John C. Fremont clinic was rescheduled to occur on 8/23/21 @ 10AM. Patients with the clinic are being seen through telehealth appointments at this time. It will be open for in-person services beginning at that date.

c. District 3:

- i. No Report.

d. District 4:

- i. Linda inquired about fire clearance – Grants are being worked on to provide more resources on this. Rosemarie mentioned that the Fire Safe Council has some upcoming outreach materials and suggested that we review them before they are sent out to the community.

e. District 5:

- i. No Report.

6. Area 12 Agency on Aging Report:

- a. Dale noted that one of the governor's master plan on aging's main goals is the better integration of disabled and senior adult services. The A12AA is currently working with the lead disabled agency covering the same region to develop an online resource directory (ADRC). A12AA is encouraging all of its counties, including the MCCOA, to also begin to look at where those two types of services could better be integrated. She inquired as to whether or not a commission already exists that focuses on disabled persons with which the COA could communicate with. Per Rosemarie, there is no such committee or commission at this time and noted that trying to find volunteers willing to sit on such a commission might be difficult.
- b. Don brought up that Mariposa County has yet to finalize an ADA transition plan and that this creates physical and legal barriers to disability services. Rosemarie mentioned that the Clerk of the Board is working on a grievance procedure and a final version of a transition plan. Per Don, funding needs to be attained and the transition plan needs to be completed first in order to move forward.
- c. The group discussed the idea of getting this committee to be more involved with the disabled population in our community. Dale, noted that, depending on what this entails, by doing so, we might be changing the committee's formal scope. Various alternatives were tossed out including the creation of a full scale Council on the Disabled, the creation of a sub-committee of the COA to focus on these issues and perhaps develop a plan and formally expanding the mission of the COA committee to include the disabled population. No action taken at this time, but it was suggested that this issue be parked and added to the agenda for the next meeting and possibly a speaker be found that could provide more insight to the committee members.
- d. Per Brenda, we need to collect more information for outreach purposes. Rosemarie offered to provide statistics and a definition of "Disabled" and will also identify an ADA compliance representative.
- e. Dale noted that a presentation was made at the A12AA meeting about Blue Zones and a project being taken by Sonora Hospital in Tuolumne County to establish a certified Blue Zone. She suggested

that committee members should take the time to learn about “Blue Zones,” which basically are communities where people live longer and richer lives. Brenda noted that a number of natural Blue Zones have been identified around the world and have been studied. Three main factors seem to contribute to such a zone: 1) People: moving regularly...not exercise alone, but doing regular, moderate activities throughout the day such as walking or biking to the grocery store; 2) Places: the creation of walking paths, fire escape routes, restaurants that serve healthy foods, etc. 3) Policies: adopting ones that make it easier to create the places and facilitate movement.

- f. Lydia provided the link to the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) that Dale referred to above:

<https://adrcofthemotherlode.myresourcedirectory.com>

7. Old Business:

- a. The COA’s updated Bylaws were approved by the BOS.
- b. D2 Meals Ad Hoc Committee Update:
 - i. The Ad Hoc committee conveyed to HHSA the results of 3 oral surveys taken in the North County, regarding interest in a senior nutrition program. The surveys were performed by a supportive community member in late April/early May. Of the 97 individuals questioned, 30 indicated interest in a congregate meal program, 34 in a meal delivery program. Meals provided 2-3 times per week were of greatest interest. Community Outreach:
 - ii. The “Mariposa County Seniors” Facebook page has reached 100 members. Dale encouraged all members of the committee, who use Facebook to like, share and/or create posts that can benefit senior residents.
 - iii. Dale will be working on outreach about the COA through the Mariposa Gazette.
- c. Unmet Needs
 - i. Transportation needs will be going before the BOS next week.
 - ii. Lydia noted that a resource list for clients has been created. However, it is currently a tiny, business card size printed item

that is difficult to read due to the small font size. A larger version is in the works and will be distributed in both print form as well as an online version when completed.

8. New Business:

- a. Low-Income Heating & Energy Program (LIHEAP) funding is still available.
- b. A plan regarding Home SAFE for the time span of 2021 – 2024 has been established. More info can be found in county letters.

9. Adjournment:

- a. Don Motioned to Adjourn @ 11:28AM. Dale Seconded. Don, Linda, Sarah, Dayna, Dale & Brenda Approved. Motion was carried.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting: October 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM