

Commission on Aging of Mariposa County
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DRAFT MINUTES- version 3

Video Conference Meeting
 Wednesday, 27 January 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Members Present: ~~Don Fox, District I; Brenda Sweeney, District II; Linda Pribyl, District IV; Sarah Montoya, District V; Dale Silverman, At-large; Sue Overstreet, At-large~~

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lydia Arre, Diana Ziegenfuss, Shannon Gadd

Guest Speaker: Dr. Eric Sergienko, Mariposa County Public Health Officer

Public Attendees: Dayna Hannagan, Sue Halstead, Judy Burden, Karen Wilson, T.C. Dawn Leitzell

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Brenda Sweeney, Chairperson. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the quarterly meeting was convened via video conference. The Chair expressed the need to modify the agenda to accommodate Dr. Sergienko's presentation and schedule.
 - a. Dr. Sergienko indicated that the number of Covid-19 cases in Mariposa County surged throughout Central California after the Christmas holidays, resulting in Mariposa County dropping into the Purple Tier. Recently case rates have improved and the County is back in the Red Tier. In addition, The Governor's "Stay at Home" order was rescinded on Monday.
 - b. The case rate is at 2.2% rate/100,000, 368 cases, 11 active cases, and 5 deaths.
 - c. There are only 3 counties (Alpine, Humboldt, and Mariposa) in the state that are in the red-tier. We have been doing much better than adjacent jurisdictions.
 - d. Vaccine rollout – there have been challenges with obtaining and administering the vaccine. Vaccines have been administered to persons in Phase 1-A category: health care and skilled nursing care residents. Phase 1-B, tier one includes four different groups with three essential sectors – public safety, education, and food and agriculture workers. The other group, residents 65 years and older, comprises 1/3 of our population. Currently vaccine is being administered to residents in the 82 year and above category. Vaccine supplies are limited, but as they become available, they will be given to individuals in lower age groups, working sequentially downward through the two other age groups: 75 and older, and 65-74.
 - e. Regardless of age, Dr. Sergienko encouraged everyone to go to the web page and sign up on the Covid-19 registry or call 966-1133 or 259-1332. His office is receiving about 300 vaccines a week. The State designates vaccines as either first dose or second dose.
 - f. Residents on the registry will be notified in priority order, by age not condition, when to arrive for an injection. Notification will be via phone or email.

- g. Currently the County has just completed one vaccine clinic at the Fairgrounds and has scheduled two for the upcoming week, one in the Coulterville area on Thursday, 2/4 and one on Saturday, 2/6 again at the Fairgrounds.

Questions:

1. What is the protocol for treating persons with reactions to the injection? Answer: Mercy Ambulance Service, with EMTs and Paramedics, are available on site to treat; everyone is being requested to remain 15-30 minutes on site as the vast majority of allergic reactions happen quickly.
2. Why is case data not available by Supervisorial District? Answer: While not protected by HIPPA legislation, County Counsel recommended that for other legal reasons, data re active cases by age, sex, etc. not be broken down for groups of less than 20,000 county residents, more than the actual population of the County. Dr. Sergienko was of the opinion that changing reporting won't change behavior.
3. What is being done to encourage commercial businesses not in compliance with State mandates to comply? Answer: Three cease and desist letters are sent to a business. If the business remains out of compliance, then the case is referred to the D.A. Individuals are encouraged to call 966-2220 to report businesses not in compliance with health and safety guidelines.
4. What date will the North County begin to receive vaccines? Answer: February 4, by appointment. Individuals are encouraged to register on-line.

Dr. Sergienko was thanked for his presentation and then left the meeting.

2. Introductions

- a. Brenda Sweeney, is Chairperson and represents District II. She defined the mission of the Commission on Aging and membership categories: one member from each Supervisorial District and one At-large member, for a total of 10 members.
- b. Sue Overstreet, newly appointed At-large member, with a background in public education administration, is one of three County representatives on the Area 12 Agency on Aging (A12AA) Advisory Council, and is a fourth generation Mariposa resident.
- c. Sarah Montoya is retired from John C. Fremont Home, Health, and Hospice, and previously owned an assisted living facility in Mariposa. Sarah represents District V.
- d. Don Fox represents District I, is retired from the National Park Service, and is on the A12AA Advisory Council.
- e. Dale Silverman is an At-large member and lives in Coulterville. Dale is also on the A12AA Advisory Council.
- f. Linda Pribyl, represents District IV, works for Area 12 Agency's Multipurpose Senior Services Program – MSSP/Care Management program and is a Site Director and Public Health Nurse.

Members of the public were welcomed.

3. Public Comments

- a. Sue Overstreet reported that she received her Covid-19 injection last Saturday.
- b. Sarah Montoya volunteered at last Saturday's vaccine clinic at the Fairgrounds and noted that it was very well organized.

4. Approval of January 27, 2021 agenda: Dale S. moved to approve the meeting agenda; Don F. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of the October 28, 2020 Minutes: Because of extensive corrections and clarifications needed, it was decided that the Chairperson, in conjunction with the Secretary, would revise the Draft Minutes and send them out to the members for review. The corrected minutes will be voted on at the next meeting. It has also come to the attention of the Commission that due to staffing changes at the Health and Human Services Agency, the Commission Secretary will be responsible for the minutes going forward.

6. Commissioners Report

- a. Don Fox, District I, No report
- b. Brenda Sweeney, District II, reported that she spoke with Dawn Huston, the civic-minded owner of the Coulter Café. Dawn has expressed interest in helping the most vulnerable in our community with their nutritional needs and is in the process of signing up for the CalFresh Restaurant program. Individuals/families who qualify for CalFresh will then be able to use their EBT cards at the Coulter Café, if everything works out. Dayna Hannagan and Diana Ziegenfuss provided the group with some additional background on the CalFresh program. Brenda reported that she also spoke with Tracey Sawyer, the Area 12 Agency on Aging Senior Nutrition and Fitness Program Manager, regarding a Senior Nutrition program for the Northside, given that Northside seniors are unable to participate in the Southside Senior nutrition program, due to distance related hardships. If the Coulter Café wished to be involved in a Senior Nutrition Program for the Northside, there are specific nutritional requirements that would have to be met. Dawn has expressed a willingness to look at this further. If this is to move forward, funding for the program will have to be worked out between the County and the A12AA. On the health front, Brenda indicated that the John C. Fremont Northside Clinic in Greeley Hill is slated to open in the March-April 2021 timeframe, if all goes well.
- c. District III has no representative on the Commission on Aging at this time. Sue Overstreet, At-Large Member, had no report.
- d. Linda Pribyl, District IV, reported that individual demand for Covid-19 vaccinations is high, and there seems to be no consistency regarding distribution and communications among nearby counties.
- e. Sarah Montoya, representing Supervisorial District V, sought ideas on how to represent seniors in her district.

Suggestions included: she/we identify senior issues specific to our district, identify ways to facilitate communications with seniors in our districts, including letting residents know about the Area 12 Agency on Aging 5-year survey of needs for each county, and that members identify education needs of seniors in each district.

7. Area 12 Agency on Aging Report

- a. Dale Silverman reported that she has just assumed the chairmanship of the Area 12 Public Information Committee. She noted that A12 has a FaceBook page but it does

not appear to have a very high rate of activity. She is going to begin to actively monitor the page and "share" items on it in various Mariposa community pages relevant to seniors in the County, recently posting a questionnaire asking about interest in participating in a virtual tai chi class.

- b. She is also willing to administer a "Mariposa Seniors" Facebook page that, as discussed at the prior meeting, would be an informal method for the Mariposa County Commission on Aging to distribute information of interest to seniors in the entire county. Brenda indicated she would run this by the Mariposa County Counsel before we move forward.

8. Old Business

- a. Community Outreach- see above. Also, Linda expressed concern about seniors having enough wood for winter, and the need to inform seniors about the availability of firewood.
- b. Bylaws- County Counsel (Steve Dahlem) reviewed the COA Bylaws and made only non-substantive changes. They were distributed to all members for final review prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Dale Silverman, seconded by Don Fox to accept changes to the Commission on Aging Bylaws. Motion passed unanimously. Dale requested that the date of adoption be added to the document and the approved Revised Bylaws then be distributed to the membership and relevant staff.

9. New Business - Discuss Unmet Needs

- a. Brenda is concerned that individuals who may qualify for assistance through the CalFresh program may be reluctant to apply, perhaps because of a perceived stigma regarding public assistance, or due to wariness regarding the need to divulge personal information.
- b. Diana Ziegenfuss, who has experience as an eligibility coordinator, advised that determining eligibility is more complicated than just evaluating income. Multiple factors are determined in the eligibility process. She reminded us that individuals can apply over the phone or online.
- c. Don suggested a conversation with the A12AA might be in order to launch an initiative advising seniors of financial assistance they may be entitled to.
- d. Dayna H. advised that there are CalFresh campaigns that target families with children. Perhaps a campaign could be created to target seniors. Brenda will reach out to HHSA regarding this possibility.

10. Adjournment

- a. Don Fox moved to adjourn at 11:30 am, Sarah Montoya seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Lydia reminded us that the next Commission on Aging meeting is April 28, 2021.