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Executive Director
Karol Swartzlander

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Butler called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Members Present: Betsy Butler, Jean Schuldberg, Ed Walsh, Marcy Adelman, Joaquin Anguera, Cheryl Brown, Kim Carr, Joe Cislowski, Julie Conger, Stuart Greenbaum, Meea Kang, Shelley Lyford, Debbie Meador, Bob Petty, Jane Rozanski, Rita Saenz, Sedalia Sanders, Ellen Schmeding

Staff: Karol Swartzlander, Carol Sewell, Marcella Villanueva

Guests: Brenda Schmitthener, Leza Coleman, Kim McCoy Wade, Saskia Kim, Eric Carlson, Denny Chan, Elizabeth Fuller, Tasha (contract captioner)

A quorum was established.

Commissioner Meador noted that Commissioner Brown recently graduated from USC with her degree in Gerontology.

3. Introductions

None

4. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Kang/Adelman)

TO APPROVE THE MAY 20, 2020 GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.

APPROVED

5. Approve Minutes from January 7-8, 2020 meeting

M/S/C (Brown/Adelman)

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 7-8, 2020 MEETING.

APPROVED

Commissioner Rozanski abstained.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Chair's Comments

Chair Butler welcomed members and congratulated Commissioners Schmeding and Rozanski for submitting videos for CDA's Older Californians Month page on staying involved and active during COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Chair Butler noted that the white paper from the November Elder Economic Forum would be released soon.

8. Executive Committee Report

Chair Butler reported on the Executive Committee's April meetings. Commissioner Saenz reported the Legislative Advocacy Committee was postponing action on legislation until after budget passage. Commissioner Schmeding noted that the Long-Term Services and Supports Subcommittee Report will include an addendum on the COVID-19 crisis before being sent to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

9. Staff Report

Swartzlander submitted a written report which highlighted staff activities since March, including staff transition to working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic; monitoring oversight and budget hearings; drafting letters noted in Item 15; and securing the technology and captioning services to enable remote Commission meetings.

10. Presentation: COVID-19 Response; Older Californians Month

Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging reported on the challenges and gaps made evident by the pandemic and economic recession. Director Wade addressed program shifts to address stay-at-home orders and responded to Commissioners questions regarding the proposed budget.

11. Presentation: Nursing Facilities' Challenges during COVID-19; CARES Act Funding for Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Leza Coleman, Executive Director of the California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association discussed problems residential care facilities are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her organization has met with the Newsom Administration to discuss concerns around staffing, shifting guidance from regulators and facility liability concerns.

12. Presentation: COVID equity issues and California Department of Public Health – Draft Health Care Surge and Crisis Care Guidelines

Denny Chan, Senior Staff Attorney, Justice in Aging, discussed the work of Justice in Aging and advocacy issues around the California Department of Public Health Crisis Care Guidelines.

13. Presentation: Legislative Update

Elizabeth Fuller, Chief Consultant, Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, reported on the Legislature's expedited calendar for budget passage and the change in the Committee's legislative priorities given the COVID and budget crises.

14. Presentation: COVID impact on nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly

Eric Carlson, Directing Attorney, Justice in Aging, discussed his organization's work around the impacts of COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities. He pointed out increased risks to

residents from exposure to the virus, problems around moving infected residents into segregated settings, lack of visits from both Ombudsmen and family members, and the impacts of social isolation. New guidance from both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the state allow facilities to make own determinations regarding visits.

15. Discussion and Possible Action related to the May Revise Budget

Swartzlander reviewed letters sent by the Commission in response to the CDPH Crisis Care Guidelines, safety for nursing home residents, health care facilities' request for immunity from liability during COVID-19 crisis, and correspondence urging the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human services to reject cuts to aging programs.

Commissioners discussed additional content for letters to the Senate Budget Committee, the Governor, and members of the Legislature.

16. Legislative Advocacy Committee Report

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

17. Unfinished Business

None

18. New Business

None

19. Commissioner Comments

None

20. Adjourn

M/S/C (Saenz/Adelman)

TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:03 P.M.