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Executive Director
Karol Swartzlander

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Butler called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Commissioner Rozanski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Villanueva took attendance.

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

Commissioners Absent: Shelly Lyford

Staff: Karol Swartzlander, Carol Sewell, Marcella Villanueva

Guests: Toby Ewing, Priya Kannall, Carly Pachecco, Claire Ramsey, Sarah Steenhausen, Kim McCoy Wade, Katie Porter, Natasha DeLeon (Captioner)

A quorum was established.

3. Introductions

Introductions were skipped.

4. Housekeeping

Swartzlander reviewed housekeeping and addressed possible rolling blackouts. Should participants lose internet connection they are encouraged to call in on their cell phone or Zoom from their smart phone.

5. Approve Agenda

M/S/C (Adelman/Rozanski)

TO APPROVE THE AUGUST CCOA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA.

APPROVED

6. Approve Minutes from June 3, 2020 meeting

M/S/C (Saenz/Adelman)

TO APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2020 CCOA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES.

APPROVED

7. Public Comment

None

8. Chair's Comments

Chair Butler announced the resignation of Commissioner Julie Conger and thanked her for her service. Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Department of Aging (CDA), was confirmed by the Senate. Chair Butler reminded Commissioners that Executive Committee elections would be held this fall.

9. Executive Committee Report

Chair Butler provided the Executive Committee Report. Three Executive Committee meetings have been convened since June to ratify the Legislative Advocacy Committee recommendations.

10. Master Plan for Aging Committee Report

Chair Butler reported the CCoA Master Plan for Aging Committee met twice since June to review and discuss the Long-Term Care at Home proposal. She noted that equity considerations were being incorporated throughout the Master Plan for Aging (MPA). Commissioner Brown confirmed the focus of the MPA Equity Group. The MPA is expected to be completed in December.

11. Federal Update

Commissioner Walsh reviewed federal initiatives, including potential impacts on Social Security from the President's proposal to defer or end payroll taxes, differences between the House and Senate coronavirus stimulus bills, a judicial stay on ending the Health Care Rights provisions of the Affordable Care Act, and House budget action on Older Americans Act programs.

12. Legislative Committee Report

Commissioner Adelman reported the Commission took positions on 29 bills in 2020 and referenced the handout in Commissioner packets. Commissioners were encouraged to contact staff with questions about specific legislation.

13. Staff Report

Swartzlander reviewed the staff activities since June. The next Commission Meeting is set for October 22 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Executive Committee elections are planned for the meeting in early December. ⁱ

14. Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Transparency Suite Initiative

Toby Ewing, Executive Director, MHSOAC, provided an overview of the agency's new data portal, providing new information on county-level costs, population targets, and project outcomes.

15. Local Innovations of the Nevada County Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

**Priya Kannall, MHSA Coordinator, Nevada County Behavioral Health Department
Ana Acton, Executive Director, FREED, Kelly Carpenter, Program Manager Adult Services, Chief Deputy Public Guardian, Nevada County**

Kelly Carpenter and Ana Acton could not attend due to emergencies related to the Jones Fire in Nevada County.

Priya Kannall and Carly Pacheco (FREED) provided an overview of how local innovations are working to serve older adults and persons with disabilities through the county's Aging and Disability Resource Connection. MHSA funds support FREED's Friendly Visitor program, with volunteers trained in mental health screening and suicide risk assessment. Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital's Senior Outreach social workers make home visits to address depression, substance abuse, and risk of falling. The county Adult Protective Services agency houses at-risk older adults using CDSS Home Safe grant funding. Both FREED and Area 4 Agency on Aging work together to provide information and referral services with person-centered counseling, hospital-to-home transitions, and a webinar series on services.

Break

16. Long-Term Services and Support (LTSS) Stakeholder Advisory Committee Rapid Response Proposal and Updates

Ellen Schmeding, Commissioner, Claire M. Ramsey, Senior Staff Attorney, Justice in Aging, Sarah Steenhausen, Senior Policy Advisor, The SCAN Foundation

Commissioner Schmeding reported that the final report of the Master Plan for Aging LTSS Subcommittee was completed in May with the addition of recommendations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The subcommittee has continued working on the state's pandemic response.

Steenhausen and Ramsey reviewed the LTSS Subcommittee's concerns with the Department of Health Care Services' Long-Term Care at Home proposal and the subsequent development of an Immediate Crisis Response plan to reduce coronavirus exposure in skilled nursing homes. The proposal outlines a new process for transitioning vulnerable individuals from the hospital or a skilled nursing facility to their home while providing appropriate home and community-based supports.

17. Master Plan for Aging and Department Strategic Planning Update

Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging

Director Wade provided an update on the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) process, which will be completed in September. The Governor's Cabinet Workgroup will receive the SAC recommendations in October, with the final Master Plan for Aging due in December.

Wade said the Department's most immediate concern was getting the Long-Term Care Ombudsman back into nursing facilities. Planning for implementation of the MPA will be

the next challenge, given gaps in the service network across the state. Implementation will need to address integration between aging and disability services with the goal of being fully inclusive and person-centered. Wade also cited the difficulty of program staffing, knowing the network's basic reliance on volunteers and the effects on volunteerism of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. Economic Security for Older Americans

U.S. Congressional Representative Katie Porter

Representative Porter discussed her work on older adults and bankruptcies, noting that high debt levels, fixed limited incomes and COVID-19 have combined to leave many older adults in need of ongoing supports. Porter's 2018 research article, "The Graying of U.S. Bankruptcy: Fallout from Life in a Risk Society", reported on the increasing numbers of older adults filing bankruptcy. With reduced value of Medicare and Social Security benefits, high debt loads, and growing medical and living expenses, Porter noted that older adults come out of bankruptcy with negative net worth. She referenced Congressional efforts to address the problem through stabilization of Social Security benefits and lowering drug prices.

19. Upcoming Meeting Plans

The next CCoA Meeting will be October 22, 2020. The last meeting of the year will be held on December 2, 2020 from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Elections for seats on the Executive Committee will take place at the December meeting. ⁱ

20. Unfinished Business

None

21. New Business

None

22. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners commented on Representative Porter's presentation and state and federal actions that could help.

23. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

ⁱ The CCoA final meeting of 2020 was subsequently scheduled for November 13, 2020.