

Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024
Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging
1625 E. Shaw Ave. Suite #123 Fresno, 93710

- I. **Call to Order:**
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michael Bishop at 1:35 pm as a quorum was established, with eight of thirteen members in attendance.
 - b. **Advisory Council Members Present:** Tonya Frost, Jan Clagg, Verlaine Elinburg, Minerva Garcia, Anne Bishop, Michael Mendez, Michael Bishop, and Mariel Ortiz
 - c. **Advisory Council Members Not Present:** Sharon Diaz, Raymond Lopez, Ren Ramshaw, Chrissy Buckles, and Angie Stillwell
 - d. **FMAAA Staff Present:** Hillaree Bennett and Miles Robinson
 - e. **Guests Present:** Nikki Gallagher (OakMont of Fresno), Joel Gurs (Adult Services Training Academy), Stefanie Diaz (River Vista BH, Kaiser), and Emma Lopez (ASL Interpreter from DHHSC)

- II. **Welcome and Introductions:**
 - a. Chair Michael Bishop welcomed all in attendance as well as all members, and guests shared their name, title, and organization represented.

- III. **Public Comment:** No Report

- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Michael Bishop called for a motion to be made to approve the presented June 11, 2024 Advisory Council Minutes. Jan Clagg mad the main motion and was seconded by Tonya Frost. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

- V. **Old Business:**
 - a. Hillaree Bennett provided a recap of the officer elections held during the previous meeting. The following officers were officially installed: Chair: Michael Bishop, First Vice Chair: Chrissy Buckles, and Second Vice Chair: Tanya Frost
 - b. Hillaree Bennett discussed how the Advisory Council schedule was approved for the 24-25 fiscal year. Miles Robinson mentioned that the schedule was emailed to the membership but was also located in the membership packets for their binders.

- VI. **ID Badges and Mileage Reimbursement:**
 - a. Minerva Garcia raised the need for council members to have ID badges and raised concerns about mileage reimbursement for those traveling long distances. Hillaree Bennet stated that the issue is pending state approval. Miles Robinson will look into it.
 - b. Miles Robinson asked that the Council members to please check to make sure their contact information and term expiration was correct on the membership

list that was passed around for FMAAA's records and for the possibility of ID badges being made.

VII. New Business:

a. Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Vouchers:

- i. Hillaree Bennett reported on the successful distribution of 250 senior nutrition vouchers at local farmers markets and from walk-ins from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. These totaled to \$12,500 that older adults were able to use at local farmers market locations including Kaiser Farmer's Market, Kerman, and the Neighborhood Farmers Market in Madera. (Walk ins)

b. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:

- i. Hillaree Bennett mentioned that on July 10th, 2024 Susan Bussean presented new rules and regulations surrounding elder abuse in long-term care facilities to FMAAA staff.

c. Listos California Regional Disaster Summit:

- i. Hillaree Bennett gave an update from her recent participation in the Listos California Regional Disaster Summit, where Minerva Garcia was also a participant.

d. Local Outreach:

- i. Hillaree Bennett updated the Council on recent and upcoming outreach events such as the Local Advocate for Seniors meeting on September 4th, a presentation to the Shaver Lake Lions' Club on September 5th, the City of Fresno Community Fall Festival hosted by Council Member Chavez on September 14th, the Senior Resource Fair at McLane High School hosted by Assemblyman Aramula on September 28th, and Senior Day at the Big Fresno Fair on October 7th.

VIII. Reports:

a. Advisory Council Chair Report:

i. Advisory Council Membership Status:

1. 13 Current Members
2. 8 Vacancies
3. 1 Fresno County, 3 Madera County, and 4 Fresno City

ii. Brief Announcements of Upcoming Events for Older Adults:

1. September 10th – 12th Madera County Listening Sessions
2. September 14th City of Fresno Community Fall Festival
3. September 20th Senior Circle Potluck at Northpointe Community Church – Topic: Wills and Trusts
4. September 25th Clovis Senior Center End of Summer BBQ Bash
5. September 27th Clovis Senior Center hosts the Clovis Lions Spaghetti Dinner
6. September 28th Senior Resource Fair

7. October 3rd Clovis Senior Center Crafts Fair
8. October 5th Ranchos Hills Senior Center Craft Fair
9. October 7th Senior Day at the Big Fresno Fair
10. October 12th Clovis Senior Center Annual Car Show

b. Elder Abuse Prevention Committee Report:

- i. Tonya Frost led a discussion about the lack of progress in the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee, including outdated training videos and the need to locate equipment. Miles Robinson was tasked with locating the equipment at FMAAA to film new training videos. Chrissy Buckles is the chair of this committee.

c. Services for Older Adults from Faith-Based Communities Committee Report:

- i. Tonya Frost gave an update on the creation of a list of Faith-Based programs that have various distribution services. A discussion was had about starting fresh and modifying and updating an existing list of faith-based organizations that provide services for older adults. Tonya Frost is the chair of this committee.

d. Elder Homelessness Committee Report:

- i. Minerva Garcia led a discussion about the challenges of elder homelessness, including the need for showers, food, and clothing, and the difficulty in finding shelters for unhoused men. Tonya Frost added to the discussion that 50% of the unhoused population in Fresno are over the age of 50. Minerva Garcia is the chair of this committee.
- ii. Hillaree Bennett reminded the Advisory Council that the point of this committee is doing our research to provide resources to our Advisory Council monthly so that when someone reaches out the AC members can direct them to the Information and Assistance program at FMAAA and can provide those people with information in regards to elder homelessness. The point of the Advisory Council committee is not to solve elder homelessness but to provide information and resources.

e. Disaster Preparedness Committee Report:

- i. Minerva Garcia and Hillaree Bennett reported on the Disaster Preparedness Committee's activities, including attendance at an Access and Functional Needs Emergency Planning and Preparedness Committee meeting. They plan to attend another on November 9th. There were also discussions about using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create "Disaster Ready" bags for older adults. The conversation highlighted the limited resources of in-home support services, which serve a significant number of elderly clients. The discussion suggested seeking grants and funding to expand services, especially in disaster-prone areas. Minerva Garcia is the chair of this committee.

f. Agency on Aging Governing Board Meeting Report:

- i. Hillaree Bennet covered the cancellation of July and August meetings due to fiscal year closeouts and new contract preparations. An update on the

next Governing Board Meeting was promised for the following AC meeting.

- ii. The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 1:30pm at the Fig Garden regional Library. Advisory Council members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

g. California Senior Legislature (CSL) Report:

- i. CSL Senior Assembly Member Minerva Garcia discussed upcoming virtual training and the process of submitting proposals to legislators. The importance of engaging with legislators to support bills benefiting seniors and people with disabilities was emphasized. Minerva Garcia introduced the role of a California senior senator, responsible for representing seniors and writing proposals. The position is currently vacant, and attendees were encouraged to consider it.

h. Triple-A Council of California Report:

- i. Tonya Frost didn't get assigned to represent FMAAA and missed the August 22nd meeting. Miles Robinson was tasked to ensure that Tonya is assigned to represent FMAAA for the Triple-A Council of California.

IX. Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging Administrative Update:

- a. Hillaree Bennett gave an update and introduced Amanda Lucas as the new Finance Manger and Miles Robinson as the new Administrative Manager. Hillaree reported that the office is now fully staffed, manger-wise, which is expected to improve operations and culture.

b. Persons Served Report:

- i. During the 23-24 fiscal year FMAAA served 4085 people with Older American Act funds through tittle III. This does not include American Rescue Plan Money, OCAM money, and does not include Older American Resilience funds.
- ii. In Fresno and Madera Counties 81% of the 4085 reported living in poverty.
- iii. Served and delivered out over 637,000 meals to home delivered meals which equates to 1,515 individuals that received those meals through Title III C-2 funds.
- iv. 58,637 meals were delivered to and served at partner senior and community centers. There are no income requirements at these centers. Participants just need to be 60 years of age or older.
- v. The conversation addressed the intake process at senior centers, the requirement for intake forms, and the voluntary contribution system. The importance of tracking data for state reporting was emphasized.

X. Adjournment:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 Pm. The motion to adjourn was made by Tonya Frost and seconded by Anne Bishop. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miles Robinson

Miles Robinson, Administrative Manager
Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging