

Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging
Advisory Council Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting

May 28, 2020
Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present:

Roger Rasche, Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Kelli Davis, Sandra Lund, and Rachel Lober.

Other Attendees:

Marilyn Mann, Keri Oney, Rhiannon Baker, Paulette Erwin, Rhonda Duggan, Kathy Peterson, Melissa Best-Baker, Krista Cooper, Patricia Espinoza, Mono County Supervisor Fred Stump, Mike Godbe, Mono County CAO Bob Lawton, and Christine Davis.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Roger Rasche called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Marilyn Mann to take over responsibility for facilitating the meeting.

2. Introduction of Advisory Council members and staff

Marilyn Mann announced each attendee's name and asked for an introduction, including their role. Quorum was established.

3. Public Comment

Marilyn Mann invited Public Comment. Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh stated that we need to start planning in the event that there is a Power Safety Power Shutdown in the midst of rising summer temperatures and COVID-19. Marilyn responded that the state has issued guidance around the setup of cooling centers within the context of COVID-19, we are reviewing and in the process of planning for the event that a cooling center does need to be set up.

4. Approval of minutes from January 29, 2020- ACTION

Marilyn Mann asked for approval of the minutes from January 29, 2020. Kathy Peterson requested the correction of Patti Hamic-Christensen's last name from Hamie-Christensen to Hamic-Christensen. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Chairperson Roger Rasche and seconded by Sandra Lund. Rachel Lober – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh – YES; Kelli Davis - YES; Absent members – Phyllis Mikalowsky, Joann Poncho, Patti Hamic-Christensen.

5. Staff Reports

A. Keri Oney: ESAAA Services Report for PSA 16:

Keri Oney provided an update on the effects of COVID-19 on the congregate sites throughout PSA 16. All congregate sites have been closed to congregate meals; however registered congregate participants were given the option to receive home delivered meals. In both Inyo and Mono Counties, routine phone calls are being made to participants to check in on them and make sure that all of their needs are being met; if additional needs are indicated the participant is being connected to resources that can help meet the need. The staff on the ground is doing an excellent job of connecting with our vulnerable population. The longer the COVID-19 restrictions continue, the stronger the reaction to isolation grows. This has prompted us to look at additional ways to connect with people, which may include making face to face contact as well as connecting them with other community resources. Sandra Lund asked if there was anything that the Advisory Council could assist with to support the seniors. Keri stated that as an agency we are limited as to what personal information we can release but we have been asking people to reach out and connect with those in their neighborhood or whom they know personally.

B. Marilyn Mann: Area Planning Data Review

Marilyn Mann proposed moving and incorporating the review of the utilization trends and aggregate data to the Public hearing section of the meeting. Participants agreed.

6. Public Hearing on the Draft Four-Year 2020-2024 Area Plan for PSA 16

Public Hearing opened at 10:20 a.m.

A. Summary of outreach efforts for soliciting input to Area Plan

Marilyn Mann described the varied survey outreach methods including; surveys being distributed through the senior centers in each area, included with home delivered meals, printed in Spanish and English newspapers, and printed copies available in medical offices. There were a little over 300 responses, with a higher response rate out of Mono County than Inyo County. The survey was available from the end of November/beginning of December to, initially January, but was extended to February to allow for additional responses from an area that had zero responses by the initial closing date. Marilyn discussed Section 5 of the draft Area Plan which summarized the results of the survey. Keri Oney displayed and discussed a utilization trend spreadsheet outlining congregate meal (registered and unregistered), home delivered meal, transportation (bus passes), and assisted transportation data for Inyo and Mono Counties from July 2016 through March 2020. Currently, all State funding is received by Inyo County and split between Inyo and Mono Counties, the utilization trends help inform the decision for how the funding is split, but are not the fully relied upon as this is only one data point that is considered, as regulations require other issues such as poverty concentration and isolation issues also inform how services are provided. Marilyn reviewed Section 6 of the draft Area Plan which details population demographics as well as the geographic detail of Inyo and Mono Counties which, in addition to the utilization trends, will help inform what the ESAAA Advisory Council recommends to the Governing Board regarding the county percentage split.

B. Summary of any budget concerns

Melissa Best-Baker discussed the baseline 20/21 allocations that were received by PSA 16.

- Decrease in supportive services (transportation, assisted transportation, telephone reassurance, legal, and information & assistance) by approx. \$9,000
- Increase of state and federal money for congregate meals by approximately \$80,000
- Increase in home delivered meals by approximately \$37,000 (decrease in federal money and increase in state money)

Melissa discussed two allocations of COVID-19 related funding.

- The first is titled Families First and awarded approximately \$29,000 to PSA 16. The funds were used primarily to prepare for the expansion of the Home Delivered Meal program.
- There is a second allocation of approximately \$108,000 CARES money; however the guidance has not been released as to how the money is to be used and how it is to be reported.

C. Review of decisions and rationale for Minimum Percentages and Adequate Proportions for Title IIIB funds recommendation

Marilyn Mann stated that supportive service funding has typically hovered around \$100,000 - \$105,000, however we are below \$100,000 this year. There are requirements as to where the funding must be spent including; access needs (of those access needs we are required to provide information and assistance), legal services, and in-home services (met through telephone reassurance). Below are the previous years' minimum percentages set for spending:

- Access needs 50%
- Legal services 10%
- In-Home services 5%

The percentages allow for a minimum threshold of what gets distributed per category, once the money is received it can be allocated at higher rates to the various categories above what the minimum threshold dictates.

Our recommendation is to keep the minimum percentages the same. Sandra Lund asked if we anticipate future cuts to the senior program due to state money being spent elsewhere in response to COVID-19. Marilyn responded that the Governor has recommended some reduction to senior services, however the areas that the Governor recommended the reduction to are not programs that we receive funding for in PSA 16. We do not know what the potential federal and state cuts could be, but where we may see some change is in the amount of one time only funds issued in September/October.

Roger stated that with COVID and everything else that is going on, we may need to have a discussion further down the line on how to ensure that services and needs are being met, Sandra Lund agreed. Fred Stump asked how much flexibility we have with the spending of funds once the plan is adopted, in response to the COVID situation. Marilyn responded that the categorical allocations do allow for some percentage shifts of up to approximately 10% between certain

categories, however it must be done in coordination with the California Department of Aging (CDA).

Mike Godbe of California Indian Legal Services (CILS) provided more detail surrounding the work that CILS does for Inyo and Mono County residents. Kathy Peterson asked how many Mono County residents utilize CILS, Mike responded that he is hesitant to give a firm number but it is less than that of Inyo County residents. Kathy asked if it is possible for Mike to pull numbers, Mike responded that it shouldn't be too difficult to pull and will do so. Paulette added that she has referred individuals to CILS who are Mono County residents and have loved ones in Long Term Care facilities in Inyo County.

D. Discussion of any Program Development and Program Coordination activities, defined by California Department of Aging as follows:

- i. Program Development - activities that either establish a new service or expand or integrate existing services**
- ii. Program Coordination - activities that involve the active participation of the AAA staff to include liaison with non-OAA funded agencies and organizations for the purpose of avoiding duplication, improving services, resolving problems related to service delivery, and addressing the service needs of the eligible service population**

The California Department of Aging requires that we have a discussion surrounding program development and coordination. Both Inyo and Mono Counties and the local Area Agency on Aging as a whole participate in program development and coordination but we do not receive any financial resources from the CDA to cover those costs.

E. Summary of any changes in current Draft Area Plan from prior Four-Year Plan for 2016-2020

In the past all of the focus in the targeting section was around the needs assessment, for this plan data from the 2019 US Census Bureau projections and CDA was included. Additionally, the Advisory Council members were updated.

Marilyn asked for questions or concerns prior to the closure of the Public Hearing.

Fred Stump asked if the highlighted areas in the draft Area Plan indicate areas of change from the prior plan. Marilyn responded that the highlighted sections indicate that information needs to be inputted or verified prior to submission that reflects the Advisory Councils recommendations and the Governing Board actions. Keri Oney added that she needs the new address for the Mono County services building in Mammoth Lakes. Rachel Lober commented that the street address for the Bishop Senior Center is incorrect and needs to be changed from Park Street to Spruce Street.

Public Hearing closed at 11:08 a.m.

7. Advisory Council Support to Recommend to the Governing Board Approval of the 2020-2024 Four-Year Area Plan - ACTION

There were no proposed changes to the draft Area Plan, other than corrected address information as a result of the Public Hearing discussion to the Draft Four-Year Area Plan.

Marilyn Mann asked for a motion to recommend to the Governing Board approval of the Draft 2020-2024 Four-Year Area Plan as reviewed, and authorize the Advisory Council Chairperson to sign the Transmittal Letter. Motion was made by Sandra Lund and seconded by Rachel Lober. There was no discussion had. Roger Rasche – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Tothoroh – YES; Kelli Davis - YES; Absent members – Phyllis Mikalowsky, Joann Poncho, Patti Hamic-Christensen.

8. Utilization Trends, are only one measure of need and are balanced by the demographic disbursement of high priority populations: discussion about funding split between our two counties; differences in population disbursement and data reporting and how to move forward using same data definitions; approval of recommended data reporting to inform the funding split recommendation to the Governing Board. - ACTION

To ensure that both counties are satisfied with the funding split, the ESAAA Advisory Council discusses how to split the money and ensure that we are meeting the needs of our vulnerable populations as well as to make sure that all voices are being heard.

- The current Transportation utilization split is 77% Inyo/ 23% Mono, however the actual utilization is 90% Inyo/ 10% Mono. We recommend a split of 80% Inyo/ 20% Mono.
- The current Assisted Transportation split is 86% Inyo/ 14% Mono. We recommend maintaining that split.
- The current Congregate Meal split is 86% Inyo/ 14% Mono. We recommend maintaining that split.
- The current Home-Delivered Meals split is 83% Inyo/ 17% Mono, however the actual utilization is 70% Inyo/ 30% Mono. We recommend a split of 80% Inyo/ 20% Mono.

Marilyn invited comment. Roger Rasche stated that he is concerned regarding the decrease in the Home Delivered Meal percentage split for Inyo County but acknowledges the need in Mono County. Kathy Peterson asked if these percentages are based on whether funding will remain the same. Melissa Best-Baker responded that it is based on allocation money that Inyo and Mono Counties received for Fiscal Year 20/21, one time only money isn't included. Sandra Lund asked if Mono County was involved in the percentage split decision. Marilyn responded that is what the current discussion is intended to provide and informed that Inyo County team had met with the Mono County team prior to this meeting.

Marilyn Mann asked for a motion to recommend to the Governing Board an Inyo/ Mono split as presented. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Chairperson Roger Rasche and

seconded by Sandra Lund. Rachel Lober – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh – YES; Kelli Davis - YES; Absent members – Phyllis Mikalowsky, Joann Poncho, Patti Hamic-Christensen.

9. Suggested Meeting Date and Location for 2020 - ESAAA Advisory Council

Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-noon FOR BUDGET REVIEW

TBD: Mammoth Lakes or Virtual