

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

July 29, 2020
Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present:

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Sandra Lund, Rachel Lober, Patti Hamic-Christensen, Joann Poncho

Other Attendees:

Marilyn Mann, Paulette Erwin, Melissa Best-Baker, Tyler Davis, Mike Godbe, Rhonda Duggan and Mono County Supervisor Fred Stump

1. Call to Order

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh called the meeting to order as of 10:08am

2. Introduction of Advisory Council members and staff

Each individual announced their name and their role. Quorum was established.

3. Public Comment

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh invited Public Comment: Mono County Supervisor Fred Stump mentioned that Mono County website is currently down and should be back up shortly.

4. Election of Vice Chair – Action

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh invited nominations for Vice Chair. County Supervisor Totheroh stated that last year he served as Vice Chair and volunteered to serve again if no other nominations were made. No opposing nominations were made. Motion to nominate Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh was made by himself and seconded by Patti Hamic-Christensen. YES- Rachel Lober, YES- Joann Poncho, YES- Sandra Lund; Absent members – Chairperson Roger Rasche, Phyllis Mikalowski, Kelli Davis.

Inyo County Supervisor Totheroh will continue as chair for this meeting in Chairperson Roger Rasche's absence.

5. Approval of minutes from May 28, 2020- ACTION

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh asked for approval of minutes from May 28, 2020. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sandra Lund and seconded by Rachel Lober, YES- Patti Hamic-Christensen, YES- Joann Poncho, YES- Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh; Absent members – Chairperson Roger Rasche, Phyllis Mikalowski, Kelli Davis.

6. Staff Reports

A. Keri Oney: Program Report for PSA 16 (Inyo and Mono Counties)

Keri Oney is unable to attend and Marilyn Mann stated that there are currently no program service reports. Marilyn announced that meal services to the community, in both Inyo and Mono Counties, continues to go uninterrupted and both counties are making consistent contact with consumers through telephone and food delivery. Employees have done an incredible job transitioning from a congregate setting to meal delivery setting. The recent focus has primarily been on the influx of COVID-19 funding. There has been discussion around seniors missing the congregate setting, but we anticipate that it will be a while before the State recommends a congregate setting again, and likely not before a vaccine is widely available. Social distance spacing requirements would also limit our ability to fully re implement the congregate meal setting.

Paulette Erwin (Ombudsman) - Provided an update on families from long term care facilities: it continues to be an evolving process. There was new guidance issued that allows for some flexibility to allow for families and friends to visit loved ones who currently reside in Long Term Care facilities. This comes as the feelings of isolation and loneliness have been increasing with residents and family members. A few weeks ago, Bishop Care Center began allowing a limited number of outdoor visits with limitations; Lone Pine Care Center will begin outdoor visits next week. It continues to be challenging, but there will be guidance from the State for the Ombudsman throughout the State of CA, once Paulette gets guidance she will work on getting into the facilities. Paulette did a campaign to have letters mailed from the community to the residents in the long term facilities; she has had over 90 letters sent in.

Patti Hamic-Christensen states that even families that have visitors are still feeling slightly isolated. Marilyn let her know that our PSA program offers phone reassurance calls if there are families that need check-ins, and provided the Bishop Care Center phone number. ESAAA might explore some apps, or other ways to connect and put it in the newsletter.

B. Melissa Best-Baker: 2020-2021 Budget Allocation Approval – ACTION

Allocation splits: Melissa Best-Baker asked if there were any questions. Fred Stump for Kathy Peterson from Mono County is completely supportive of the splits.

We will be talking about the COVID money coming in and how it is categorized by the state and the potential of how we can do those splits. Melissa will guide us through the allocation then we will talk about COVID.

Melissa stated that she saw a decrease in supportive services, increase in congregate, and an increase in home delivered meals. What happens now is that we turn in a report on Friday; the State turns that around and returns that to the County, it depends where people spent their money.

Dan Totheroh called for motion to recommend approval- If no questions from public or Board, motion to approve budget; Motioned by Sandra Lund, seconded by Patti Hamic-Christensen, YES- Sandra Lund, YES- Patti Hamic-Christensen, YES- Joann Poncho, YES- Rachel Lober, YES- Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh. Absent members – Chairperson Roger Rasche, Phyllis Mikalowski, Kelli Davis.

COVID and CARES money- Marilyn discussed the amounts that Melissa presented and decided that action will be taken at the next meeting. We will be meeting with Kathy Peterson and her team to discuss and make sure everyone is on the same page.

Mike Godbe- the judicial council is going to end their eviction moratorium as soon as mid-August, and they are anticipating a lot of COVID related eviction work.

7. Suggested 2020 Meeting Dates and Locations for ESAAA Advisory Council

Marilyn Mann suggested October 21, 2020 at 10:00am, date was agreed upon.

8. Meeting Adjourned

Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh adjourned the meeting at 11:00am