

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

March 24, 2021
Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present:

Roger Rasche, Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Kelli Davis, Rachel Lober, Heidi Dougherty, Teresa McFarland, and Patti Hamie-Christensen.

Other Attendees:

Marilyn Mann, Rhiannon Baker, Paulette Erwin, Pat Espinosa, Rhonda Duggan, Helen Allen, Kathy Peterson, Melissa Best-Baker, and Mono County Supervisor John Peters.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Roger Rasche called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

2. Introduction of Advisory Council members and staff

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

3. Public Comment

Chairperson Roger Rasche invited Public Comment. No comment was provided.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – ACTION

Chairperson Roger Rasche invited nominations for Chair. Motion to nominate Roger Rasche as Chair was made by Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh and seconded by Heidi Dougherty. Roger Rasche – YES; Kelli Davis – YES; Rachel Lober – YES; Teresa McFarland – YES; Patti Hamie-Christensen – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh – YES; Heidi Dougherty – YES; Absent members – Joann Poncho; Sandra Lund

Chairperson Roger Rasche invited nominations for Vice Chair. Motion to nominate Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh as Vice Chair was made by Roger Rasche and seconded by Kelli Davis. Roger Rasche – YES; Kelli Davis – YES; Rachel Lober – YES; Teresa McFarland – YES; Patti Hamie-Christensen – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh – YES; Heidi Dougherty – YES; Absent members – Joann Poncho; Sandra Lund

5. Approval of minutes from July 29, 2020- ACTION

Chairperson Roger Rasche asked for approval of the minutes from July 29, 2020. There were no comments or corrections discussed among attendees. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh and seconded by Patti Hamie-Christensen. Roger Rasche – YES;

Kelli Davis – YES; Rachel Lober – YES; Teresa McFarland – YES; Patti Hamie-Christensen – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh – YES; Heidi Dougherty – YES; Absent members – Joann Poncho; Sandra Lund

6. Staff Reports

A. Keri Oney

Marilyn Mann announced that Keri Oney is unable to attend due to a family emergency and the ESAAA Services Report is in her possession. She then invited Patricia Espinosa to provide an update following Paulette Erwin.

B. Paulette Erwin: Long-Term Care Ombudsman Report

Paulette Erwin shared a “Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Year in Review” PowerPoint presentation which included information on the impact that COVID-19 has had on local long term care facilities and their residents along with support projects organized by the Inyo County LTC Ombudsman.

Patti Hamie-Christensen asked if there was much loss experienced in the facilities.

Marilyn Mann responded that we did lose a number of residents in the facilities, primarily in the Bishop facility, although the Lone Pine facility also experienced a couple of deaths.

C. Patricia Espinosa: Walker Site Update

The Walker site is still delivering meals to seniors and has increased their delivery to twice a week. Vaccinations have gone really well with about 80% of their seniors being vaccinated.

Patricia asked if there were any plans to open congregate meals in the near future. Ms. Mann responded that the State guidelines have not changed in regards to the congregating of people and so there is not an immediate plan nor is it authorized by the state at this time, our hope is that as there is more saturation with the vaccine that the state will reconsider the guidelines, but at this time it is still restricted.

D. Melissa Best-Baker: One Time Only and CARES Monies- ACTION

Ms. Best-Baker discussed annual one-time only monies, which normally comes in the fall but details were received a couple of weeks ago, so both Inyo and Mono counties are currently working on budgets. ESAAA will receive \$25,000 to be split between each county pursuant to our agreed upon formulary and using the minimum percentages for Title IIIB supportive services recommended by the Advisory Council and approved by the Governing Board in the current four-year Area Plan. We also received a small amount funding for Ombudsman, congregate and home delivered meal, caregiver, and disease prevention funding.

CARES money was received in July 2020 for the amount of \$93,000 which is for April 2020 to September 2021 and will likely be spent before June and is unlikely to cross Fiscal years.

Ms. Mann added that for the purposes of this meeting it will be more about the process of applying the metrics that we have been applying based on the Advisory Council's recommendations and Governing Board's approved splits and percentages.

Motion to recommend to the Governing Board to follow the same priorities that were agreed upon in the Area Plan was made by Roger Rasche and seconded by Kelli Davis. Roger Rasche – YES; Kelli Davis – YES; Rachel Lober – YES; Teresa McFarland – YES; Patti Hamie-Christensen – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Tothero – YES; Heidi Dougherty – YES; Absent members – Joann Poncho; Sandra Lund

7. Public Hearing on the Annual Update of the Area Plan for PSA 16 (*Public Hearing Opened at 10:35am*)

The California Department of Aging, through guidance issued for area planning, requires that a public hearing be conducted in which the Area Plan Update, an annual update, is reviewed by the public. The hearing is held by the Advisory Council who provides input and recommends approval by the Governing Board for submission to the State.

Ms. Mann presented and reviewed the draft Area Plan. Teresa McFarland asked how often needs assessments are done and where can the results be viewed. Marilyn responded that the assessments are conducted every four years in coordination with the Area Plan and are available in an online platform, there is also a paper/newspaper version, which is sent with home delivered meals, and is available at the Senior Center sites, as well as other locations frequented by caregivers, seniors and family members. Responses are tallied both as an aggregate and by community. The final data analysis is provided in the Area Plan. Ms. Mann invited additional questions or comments in regards to program development or coordination, while noting that the agency does not use funding for these purposes. No additional questions or comments were provided.

As a part of the Area Planning process, minimum percentages for funding allocation across three sub-categories within Title IIIB Supportive Services (Access Services, In-Home Services, and Legal Services) are established. During the area planning process for the 2020 – 2024 Area Plan, a public hearing was held and your Advisory Council recommended to the Governing Board the following minimum percentage allocations:

- 50% - Access – Transportation/ Assisted Transportation
- 05% - In-Home Services – Telephone Reassurance
- 10% - Legal Services

These percentages are reviewed annually during the Area Plan Update process and either confirmed or modified. Ms. Mann indicated that the staff recommendation, which was made in consultation with primary service providers, was to maintain the current minimum percentages. Ms. Mann again invited questions and comments with no response from attendees.

Public Hearing closed at 11:05 a.m.

8. Advisory Council Support to Recommend to the Governing Board Approval of the Area Plan Update - ACTION

Chairperson Roger Rasche asked for a motion to recommend that Governing Board approve the Area Plan Update. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Patti Hamie-Christensen and seconded by Heidi Dougherty. Roger Rasche – YES; Kelli Davis – YES; Rachel Lober – YES; Teresa McFarland – YES; Patti Hamie-Christensen – YES; Inyo County Supervisor Dan Tothero – YES; Heidi Dougherty – YES; Absent members – Joann Poncho; Sandra Lund

9. Suggested 2021 Meeting Dates and Locations for ESAAA Advisory Council

June 30, 2021 (Mammoth/Virtual); October 27, 2021 (Bishop/Virtual)

10. Meeting Adjourned

Roger Rasche adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.