

Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Meeting

Virtual Zoom Meeting and In Person

October 7, 2022

Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present:

Sandra Lund, Roger Rasche, Heidi Dougherty, Rachel Lober, and Patti Hamic-Christensen

Other Attendees:

Melissa Best-Baker, Patricia Espinosa, Marilyn Mann, Morningstar Wagoner, Krista Cooper, Paulette Erwin, Darcia Blackdeer-Lent, Kathy Peterson

1. Call to Order

ESAAA Chairperson Roger Rasche called the meeting to order as of 10:04 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Chair Rasche entered public comment regarding the desire of Lone Pine congregate participants and Lone Pine Community to have the COVID testing be moved to another location in order to allow Statham Hall to return to community use.

3. Approval of minutes from March 25, 2022 meeting

Chairperson will: 1) request a motion and a second; 2) ask for discussion; 3) call for the vote.

Motion made by Heidi Dougherty to approve as amended and seconded by Rachel Lober to approve – the motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Heidi Daugherty, Roger Rasche, Sandra Lund, Patti Hamic-Christensen, and Rachel Lober

Nays: None

Absent: Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Kelli Davis, Teresa McFarland and JoAnn Poncho

4. Budget Items

a. FY 2022/2023 Inyo/Mono Baseline Allocations

b. FY 2021/22-9/30/2024 Inyo Mono American Rescue Plan Allocation (ARPA) –

c. FY 2022/2023 – 12/31/2024 Older Adults Recovery and Resilience (OARR) –
Includes proposed funding information

d. PSA 16 HCBS NI Proposal for Inyo and Mono

Melissa Best-Baker reviewed the FY 2022/2023 Inyo/Mono Baseline Allocations, the FY 2021/2022 – 9/30/2024 Inyo/Mono American Rescue Plan Allocation, the FY2021/2022 – 9/20/2024 Older Adults Recovery and Resilience funding, and the PSA 16 HCBS NI (Infrastructure funding) Proposal for Inyo and Mono Counties and requested the Council take action to recommend adopting the budgets to the Board of Supervisors as presented.

There was no discussion regarding the first two items, but discussion regarding the new Older Adults Recovery and Resilience (OARR) funding included funds for legal services that will need to be activities provided in addition to current services. Additionally, the Family Caregiver Support funding is intended to increase outreach, engagement, and training of caregivers. Mono County was going to discuss some possible Mono County specific uses. Ms. Best-Baker confirmed that ESAAA did not receive fall prevention monies. The Council discussed various uses and received clarification. Mann suggested that for the purpose of moving forward, the Council approve a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the four agreements. This will not prevent the counties from working together to identify the best use of funding to meet the county-specific needs. Additional discussion occurred regarding the planned use of the infrastructure funding with the Council reviewing the proposed projects in both Inyo and Mono counties with general comments of support. Following discussion Chair Rasche requested a motion.

Motion made by Heide Dougherty to recommend acceptance of the four funding allocations and it was seconded by Patti Hamic-Christensen – the motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Heidi Daugherty, Roger Rasche, Sandra Lund, Patti Hamic-Christensen, and Rachel Lober

Nays: None

Absent: Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Kelli Davis, Teresa McFarland and JoAnn Poncho

5. Staff Reports

- A. Morningstar Willis-Wagoner provided an update on Inyo County staffing and services, as well as provided a service report for the PSA. Noted an increase in utilization of congregate meals from the prior year.
- B. Krista Cooper with Mono County provided an update on staffing and services in Mono County. An update was also provided regarding funding Mono County received through AT&T helping connect seniors to family.
- C. Paulette Erwin provided an update on the LTC Ombudsman. The program has been able to increase the number of visits to facilities with the hiring of the Assistant Human Services Supervisor, who has been certified as an Ombudsman. Complaints have increased also during the last year as the COVID restrictions have allowed more contact by the Ombudsman, as well as by family and friends. Reported that the facilities, primarily Bishop Care, are struggling with staffing. Paulette also reported how the program used CARES act funding to purchase rolling cards and iPads for seniors to be able to have virtual contact with their family. In response to a question about the success of the robotic pet project, Ms. Mann agreed to re-send the video that had been previously shared.

6. Next Meeting

The proposed meeting is January 25, 2023 at 10:00 am.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 11:31 a.m.