



Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services Department

Lionel J. Wilson Building

150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4340

Oakland, CA 94612

Tel: (510) 238-3121 • Fax: (510) 238-7207 • TTY: (510) 238-3254

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Held via Teleconference

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Bryan Ricks, Martha Scott, Asha Beene-Clark, Michael Coleman, Diana Garrett, Tomye Neal Madison, Shannon McDonnell, Jacqueline Phillips, Jennifer Seibert

Absent: Toni Gomez, Cheryl Moore

A quorum was established.

Staff: Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager, Hayde Mazariego, Acting COA Clerk, Karyl Eckels, Senior Services Supervisor MSSP, and Kayla Brown, Senior Center Director NOSC

3. Agenda Modification and Approval

The agenda was approved with no modifications.

- M/S/Carried: Dianna Garrett/Jacqueline Phillips/ Motion Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The December 2, 2020 minutes were approved.

- M/S/Carried: Dianna Garrett/Jacqueline Phillips/Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Forum

There was 1 speaker in public forum. Dan Ashbrook greeted the commission.

6. Aging Services Presentations

Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)- Karyl Eckels, Senior Services Supervisor

Karyl Eckels provided a presentation regarding the City of Oakland MSSP program. The objective of the program is to avoid premature placement of persons in nursing facilities, while fostering independent living in the community. The program serves elders 65 years of age or older that receive monthly Medi-Cal benefits and are at risk of being placed in a nursing homes. Karyl stated that her team is a staff of case managers and nurses. The program which is funded by the California Department of Aging received an increase in funding from \$1,405,480 to \$1,756,834 for fiscal year 19/20 to 21/22 however, if the City of Oakland does not hire staff to serve the required clients, Oakland MSSP will not receive this increase.

Karyl stated that there are no budget savings for City by not hiring staff and that additional staff would enable the program to serve an additional 100 clients per month. She added that MSSP positions are funded through Federal and State Medicaid Waivers and that there are no budget savings for the City by not hiring needed staff. As of 12/17/20, the program will not be able to hire staff due to the City's hiring freeze and the City's budget shortfall. Commissioner Garrett asked how many people are on the waiting list. Karyl stated that there are generally between 12-24 individual on the waiting list per month. The waiting list has been reduced from 3 years to 90 day average waiting period. Chairperson Ricks asked about the role of the California Department of Aging. Karyl stated that MSSP is a Medicaid waiver program that is administered by the state of California. CDA funding pays for the all of the staff with exception to the program[s supervisor. The commissioners are in agreement that this information needs to be presented life enrichment committee and agree to further advocacy.

ASSETS Senior Employment Program-Hayde Mazariego, Senior Services Program Assistant

Hayde Mazariego provided a presentation regarding the state of the City of Oakland ASSETS Senior Employment Program. The objective of the Assets Senior Employment Program is to enable older adults to achieve gainful employment and personal development through community service and training. The program serves unemployed older Oakland residents with limited income, providing them with support services and paid training so that they can sustain viable permanent employment. The cost for each senior in the program is their minimum pay and a modest training budget. Training sites for the program include: Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled (OPED), Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), Senior Companion Program & Foster Grandparent Program (SCP/FGP), 4 Senior Centers (DOCS, NOSC, EOSC, WOSC), Head Start, Economic & Workforce Development Department, The Center for Independent Living, and the Spanish Speaking Citizen's Foundation. The program relaunched in 2018 as a City Sponsored Program and in 2019 grew to serve 18 participants and expanded to provide community agency support. On March 16, 2020 senior aides were placed on paid administrative leave as a result of shelter in place and COVID-19. In early April 2020, temporary part-time senior aides were laid off. In August 2020, the program began the process of reinstating senior aides to provide direct support at City Senior Center facilities and MSSP. Additionally, senior aides were trained to serve as disaster service workers for the City during the pandemic. Due to the budget shortfall, all senior aides were released by the City effective January 9th, 2021. Lavenia Charles, I&A Outreach worker for the NOSC shared her experience in the ASSETS program. Bryan Ricks requested a one page synopsis of the program. Shannon stated the impact of not having the program will have on the community should be included.

7. Senior Centers-Kayla Brown, Senior Center Director

Kayla Brown provided a presentation regarding the 4 Senior of Oakland Senior Centers: Downtown, East, North, West. The Senior Centers serve older adults 55 or older. Since the mandated COVID-19 closures on March 16, 2020 the centers have extended their community reach by pivoting all programming to virtual and opening up enrollment for programming to general public. Kayla stated that Senior Centers are staffed by 3 full time personnel: Senior Center Director, Administrative, Custodian. The senior centers became food distribution to provide vital food and supplies to seniors during the pandemic. The Aging and Adult services division collaborated with Life Elder Care Alameda County Food Bank, Spectrum Community Services, Service Opportunity for Seniors to provide uninterrupted direct services to seniors during Shelter in place. In addition, Virtual workshops were developed through collaborations with Legal Assistance for Seniors, Stagebridge, UC Davis, Studio One, Oakland Parks and Recreation Department to provide virtual programming for seniors. The senior centers have also conducted wellness calls during this time as well as referring members to resources during this time. Additionally, Kayla stated that upgrades and renovations have occurred at 3 senior centers during this time. The center is also rolling out

a new system called MySenior Center facilitate our ability to connect with members. Kayla stressed that with the current lay-offs of senior aides and instructors, there would be limited staff to support centers and some online programming.

Age Friendly Oakland

No Report

8. HSD Aging & Adult Services/COVID-19 Update

Scott Means introduced Charlie Deterline from SOS Meals on Wheels. Charlie stated that SOS meals on wheels has grown exponentially in 2020 they served 496,000 meals and nearly 3,200 seniors in Oakland, Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley, and San Lorenzo. In Oakland, the program served 289,000 meals to 1,700 seniors. Charlie Highlighted that SOS enrolled 1900 new clients in 2020, 1033 of which were Oakland residents. The program has seen a 62% growth in the City of Oakland alone. The Meals on Wheels provides the grab and go meals for the Spectrum program and Life Elder Care. The program received \$400,000 from the COVID-19 relief fund and was able to invest in infrastructure and to expand their services to Seniors. The program has added over 2,000 new eligible clients over the last 10 months. Only 25-30% of those seniors are eligible solely due to COVID-19.

Scott announced that City of Oakland applied for the CPUC digital Literacy grant to provide tablets to seniors at NOSC and DOSC. Additionally he announced that there is a fall prevention grant and the city would be interested in providing support to community agencies that are interested in applying. Scott provided an overview of the piggybacking process that can used to provide funding for Mercy Brown Bag.

9. Announcements

No Report.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.