



## 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

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**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

**Held via Teleconference**

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 and Hayde Mazariego, Acting COA Clerk

#### 3. Agenda Modification and Approval

The agenda was approved with the following modification:

- Informational Item added to the agenda: Medicare and the Annual Election Period: 2021 Changes, *Presented by Katy Brady, Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS)/The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.* The COA approved the modification. *M/S/Carried: Bryan Ricks/Martha Scott/ Motion Carried unanimously.*

#### 4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The September 2, 2020 minutes were approved with one correction:

- Roll call was amended to reflect that commissioner Jacqueline Phillips was present during the meeting.

#### 5. Public Forum

There were no public comments.

#### 6. Voting by Mail for Nov 3 Election – Elaine Ginnold, League of Women Voters

Chairperson Bryan Ricks introduced Elaine Ginnold and explained the reason for the presentation.

League of Women Voters, Elaine Ginnold presented information about voting by mail for the November 3, 2020 election (See Exhibit A). She highlighted the Governor's proclamation of voting by mail in 2020 and stated that there will be no neighborhood polling places in Alameda County. She added that that instead there will be 100 vote centers and 66 ballot drop boxes in Alameda county. She provided a website for a ballot tracking (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status/wheres-my-ballot>). Elaine

highlighted the Voter’s Edge Website (<https://votersedge.org/ca>) , which provides in-depth information about what is on the ballot. Additionally, Elaine stated Registrar of Voters has offered to deputize the administrators of senior facilities to allow collection of ballots for their residents.

Bryan Ricks ask whether it is best to use drop boxes or vote by mail for tracking purposes. Katy stated that ballots are tracked when received by the Registrar. Commissioner Tomye Neal Madison 17 days to correct ballot after election day. Katy stated that winners are not declared until the election is certified, 30 days after the election. Commissioner Asha Beene-Clark asked if the person authorized to return can sign or should that person go through the deputization process. Katy stated that the person authorized to return should sign.

Former Commissioner Blake Spears presented information about the Commission’s Vote Early initiative which focuses on providing outreach to low income seniors that may not have access to technology. He presented a flyer (See Exhibit B) that is being distributed by Meals on Wheels, The Center for Elder’s Independence, Spectrum, Oakland Housing Authority Sites and Life Elder Care. He noted that 4,000 paper voter registration forms have also been distributed. Vote Early flyers will continue to be distributed through various channels.

**7. Medicare and the Annual Election Period: 2021 Changes-Katy Brady, Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) & The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)**

LAS/HICAP, Katy Brady presented an overview of the Medicare 2021 changes to Parts C & D (See exhibit C for presentation slides). Katy highlighted the mission of LAS & HICAP and the services that they provide to seniors. She reviewed Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D and stated that the Annual Election Period is October 15, 2020 through December 7, 2020. Katy added that most Medicare beneficiaries will pay a standard premium of \$144.60 per month in 2020, however these costs and premiums may go up in 2021. Commissioner Diana Garrett asked if the PACE program is represented in the annual training for counselors. Katy praised the program and said that it is represented.

**8. Age-Friendly Oakland**

No report.

**9. Commission Annual Report**

Scott Means stated that the annual report has been published to City Council.

**10. COVID-19 & Aging Services: *Where are we now and where are we going?***

No report on the reopening of Senior Centers or Aging Services move to Parks and Recreation. Scott Means stated food distribution and Cares Act funding continues. SOS Meals on Wheels recently received an additional \$90,000 which will mean 20,000 additional meals distributed in Oakland. He noted that all Cares funds will be expended by December 31, 2020.

Scott Means explained the RFP and RFQ process and ways in which local government agencies may use another agency’s contract for purchases, a process known as “piggybacking.”

**SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Scott Means emphasized the importance of Senior Center Advisory Councils. He stated that because of COVID-19, meetings have not been held consistently since March 2020. He will present a written proposal to the Commission on Aging to holdover advisories for an additional year.

## **11. Human Services Department Report - Scott Means, Aging and Adult Services Manager**

### **SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAMS**

MSSP: Fully working with clients

OPED: Program is open for medical and other essential trips.

SCP/FGP: Working with grantors to provide virtual connections to clients.

ASSETS: Program is reinstating workers and ramping up Zoom, Teams, and Outlook trainings.

### **SENIOR CENTERS**

Directors have been developing content for Senior Center members. Scott Means encouraged the public to visit the City of Oakland Senior Services website for updates. Capital improvement projects continue. He added that the My Senior Center system/software would allow electronic based registrations and kiosks when centers reopen.

### **WEST OAKLAND SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR UPDATE**

The Senior Center Director position is open. Minimum qualifications (MQ) include 3 years of facility-based experience, working with seniors and a degree in human services or government related field. The position will open as Exempt Limited Duration Employee (ELDE). The director position is a classification within the Local 21 bargaining unit. Those that are interested and meet the MQs may contact Scott at [smeans@oaklandca.gov](mailto:smeans@oaklandca.gov) or (510) 238-6137.

## **12. Announcements**

- Vice Chair Scott emphasized the importance understanding the difference between a post office drop box and a ballot drop box and added that if mail-in ballots must be sent at least a couple days in advance to be postmarked.
- Commissioner Coleman commented on the importance of regularly checking the County's website for updates.
- Chair Ricks and former commissioner Blake Spears will be meeting with Councilmember Thao and will ask her to help distribute vote early flyers.
- Vice Chair Scott, former commissioner Spears and Scott Means will be meeting with Councilmember Bas and will also ask her to help distribute vote early flyers.

## **13. Adjournment**

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

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### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.