



# Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services Department

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**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

**Held via Teleconference**

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

### 2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

**Present:** Bryan Ricks, Martha Scott, Michael Coleman, Diana Garrett, Tomye Neal Madison, Shannon McDonnell, Jennifer Seibert

**Excused Absent:** Asha Beene-Clark, Jacqueline Phillips

**Absent:** Cheryl Moore

**Resignation:** Toni Gomez (effective January 28, 2021)

*A quorum was established.*

**Staff:** Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager, Sara Bedford, Human Services Director, Hayde Mazariego

### 3. Agenda Modification and Approval

The agenda was approved with no modifications.

- M/S/Carried: Shannon McDonnell/Michael Coleman/ Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The January 6, 2020 minutes were approved.

- M/S/Carried: Jennifer Seibert/Michael Coleman/Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Public Forum

There was 1 speaker in public forum. Howard Kirsch, Chairperson for Alameda County's Advisory Commission on Aging greeted the commission.

### 6. City of Oakland 2021-2023 Policy Budget-Sara Bedford, Human Services Department Director

Sara Bedford provided an overview of the City's budget projections for the next two years. She spoke in detail regarding the impacts to the Human Services Department and Aging Services Division. She stated that as a result of the pandemic, the City is facing a \$62,000,000 deficit. Additionally, the City Administrator has implemented a hiring freeze. All non-essential part-time staff were temporarily released.

Unrepresented staff have had to take 10 furlough days. Current reductions have had a substantial impact on Senior Centers due to 2 existing Senior Center Director vacancies. Senior Centers relied on Assets workers who have since been released and programs that relied on General Funds have experienced the most reductions. She presented a vision in which the department would streamline the Senior Companion program for increased efficiency and support to Senior Centers. Additionally, she spoke of plans to hire case managers to support the Senior Companion and Assets Programs. There are no proposed changes to MSSP.

Chair Ricks stressed that Senior Services ability to pivot during the pandemic provides great value to the community. He asked if SSB funds can be used for Aging and Adult Services and Commission on Aging initiatives that have seen the most reductions. Sara stated that SSB funds have not been affected and that reductions taken from General Funds will lead to a better program model between Assets, Senior Companion, and Senior Centers. She added that Program staff are screening low income, vulnerable seniors and that the work they are doing can potentially be claimable by the county.

## **7. Commission on Aging & Council Report**

***MCOA Retreat:*** Chair Ricks stated that the Commission Retreat is planned for Wednesday March 3, 2021 via Zoom. He emphasized that the State’s Masterplan for Aging would be a critical topic of discussion.

***Council Report:*** Chair Ricks stated that the focus of the report will be Assets, MSSP, and Senior Centers.

## **8. Age-Friendly Oakland**

Chair Ricks stated that the committee plans to tie age-friendly goals to address prevalent needs of Oakland Seniors during these challenging times.

## **9. COVID-19 Update**

Scott Means stated that there has been no further discussion on reopening Senior Centers. The division is looking at potentially opening Rental Programs prior to Senior Centers as the rental program takes place outside of regular operations and typically requires one City Staff. Chair Ricks asked how COVID vaccines would affect reopening of Senior Centers? Scott stated that a certain number of the population would have to be vaccinated to open and that the ability to trace and track is important. He announced that the Oakland Airport is the first in the nation to offer a COVID-19 test vending machine. Each test ranges from \$130-\$150 and provides results within 24 to 48 hours. Commissioner Diana Garrett stated Center for Elder Independence (CEI) vaccinated 70% of clients and will begin reopening centers. A discussion was held regarding COVID vaccination manufacturers and effectiveness. Dianna shared a CEI YouTube link that stresses the importance of senior vaccinations. The link is as follows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc3JndkzS-c>

## **10. HSD Aging & Adult Services – Scott Means, Adult Services Manager**

### **MSSP**

The MSSP program has a monthly meeting called “Forum.” Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

### **MySeniorCenter**

Staff has attended trainings and is beginning data transfer to the system.

### **Sugar Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Funds**

During the pandemic, Aging Services has used SSB funds for improvements to Senior Centers and has launched an initiative focusing on Technology. Additionally, the division purchased basic household items for seniors. To address disparities among seniors and communities of color, SSB monies would fund 2 case management positions, food programs and technology. Commissioner Neal Madison asked if there are statistical reports of senior appliance and equipment needs. There are not, but Scott will review the purchases made by MSSP for clients (not including durable medical equipment). Commissioner McDonnell asked if durable medical equipment could be donated. Commissioner Garrett referred her to the ReCARES Organization website at <https://www.homecares.org/> for donations.

### **11. Announcements**

Chair Ricks announced an upcoming Meals on Wheels Fundraiser and will provide more information at a later date.

Commissioner McDonnell announced Stagebridge's Lunch Time Story Telling on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **12. 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, March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.