



Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services Department

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Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Held via Teleconference

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:05 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

Excused Absent: Cheryl Moore

A quorum was established.

Staff: Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager, Hayde Mazariego, Senior Services Program Assistant

3. Agenda Modification and Approval

The agenda was approved with no modifications.

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

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The February 3, 2021 minutes were approved.

- M/S/Carried: Tomye Neal Madison/Shannon McDonnell/Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Forum

There were no public comments.

6. FY 2020-21 Budget Priorities-Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager

- **MSSP:** Approved for 2 case management positions to serve additional clients for the new fiscal year.
- **Senior Centers:** With the resignation of the East Oakland Senior Center Director, there is a 75% Senior Center Director Vacancy. The division has been approved one exempt limited duration staff by July 1, 2021.
- **ASSETS:** Still on hold due to budget cuts. The senior centers are being approached by the state to open vaccination sites but without Assets workers and Temporary part-time staff, this is not possible.

7. Report/Announcements-MCOA Commissioners

Chairperson Ricks announced that there is a MCOA subcommittee that is working on creating a story around key items that are being presented to City Council for budgetary purposes. Vice Chair Scott shared that Councilmember Bas is asking for input on the City's budget through District 2's newsletter.

8. **Beginning of the 2021 Commission on Aging Retreat** - *Scott Means, Aging & Adult Services Manager*
Scott Means announced he would be facilitating in lieu of the retreat facilitator's unexpected absence. Scott introduced the State's Master Plan for Aging and stated that the commission and stakeholders would focus on finding lateral integration between the Master Plan and the Age-Friendly Oakland Action plan.
9. **Historic Overview & Progress**-*Wendy Peterson, Director, Senior Services Coalition Alameda County*
Wendy stated that the Senior Services Coalition represents 40+ member organizations that provide health and supportive services to over 80,000 older adults in Alameda County. The Coalition's mission is ***“Strengthen and improve the network of support for older people in Alameda County, especially those disproportionately impacted or at risk because of fragile health, cognitive impairment, disability, language, culture, race, financial status, or gender.”*** Wendy added that the coalition strengthens and improves the network of support for older adults by advancing county and state policy change and facilitating collaborative solutions. She stated that Governor Newsom's administration recognizes that California's demographics are shifting and drove the decision to invest in developing and implementing that State's Master Plan for Aging. By 2030, 1 in 4 Californians will be over the age of 60 and that the state has not been a good place to age as access is limited for older adults. The Master Plan has five goals with 23 strategies to build a California for all ages by 2030 (<https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>).

The goals include:

- 1) Housing for All Ages
- 2) Health Reimagined
- 3) Inclusion and Equity, not Isolation
- 4) Caregiving that Works
- 5) Affording Aging

The Master Plan for Aging includes a data dashboard that supports the pursuit of the goals and will measure progress (<https://letsgethealthy.ca.gov/mpa.data.dashboard.for.aging/>). Further discussion was held regarding initiatives for 2021-2022.

10. MCOA Action Plan

Domain: HEALTH & WELLNESS/FOOD INSECURITY

Domain Goal: *Optimize a healthy life span for all Oaklanders and enable them to thrive.*

Chair Bryan Ricks stated that the retreat is an opportunity to look at master plan goals and determine if it makes sense to adopt some of the strategies into existing plans. He noted that Age-Friendly action items do not focus on bridging healthcare with home and needs to be considered. An open conversation was held comparing the Master Plan with the Health and Wellness Domain. Commissioner Neal Madison stated that there is a presumption that many older adults would like to move towards technology in their homes, however a lot of homes are not set up for that. Vice Chair Scott stressed that the subcommittee does not need to reorganize or realign goals but instead work on interfacing with the Master Plan's priorities.

Domain: HOUSING

Domain Goal: *Keep seniors in housing.*

Commissioner Beene-Clark stated that there are a few strategies that can be incorporated from the master plan, such as transportation. Recognizing that displacement is not just economical and can be due to several factors is crucial. Commissioner Beene-Clark also suggested incorporating rapid re-housing for Oakland seniors. Sara Bedford stated that the Human Services Department has added 2 case managers in the budget proposal and the City also received funding for two innovative housing projects through the Project Homekey Initiative. Wendy Peterson added that the County's Measure AA funds home repairs and can fund the creation of dwelling for older adults. Commissioner Garrett suggested inviting Covia to the next meeting. Scott Means suggested that the second Housing domain goal of Seniors having a voice in the decisions around housing in Oakland be ramped up to seniors being prioritized based on the master

plan and experiences from COVID-19.

Domain: OPEN SPACES

Domain Goal: *To ensure that Oakland public spaces are open, welcoming, engaging, and safe for all ages.*

Scott Means highlighted the intersections with homelessness and safe access to parks. Commissioner Coleman commented that the master plan has open spaces under housing however, the subcommittee felt it was important to have the domain separately. He stated that there are master plan areas that need to be incorporated such as, park access within a 10-minute walk or less and colocations of parks with community centers. He stressed the importance of coordination with City departments as they all have in some way an impact on open spaces. Scott Means suggested that the intersection with housing and open spaces be incorporated into the domain.

Domain: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Domain Goal: *Every Oakland resident can access robust and needed information to manage their lives, attend events, and stay connected and informed.*

Commissioner Garrett stressed the importance of collaborations with Eden I&R and other cities and counties. Commissioner Neal-Madison suggested sending mass mailing for outreach. Commissioner McDonnell also suggested using billboards as well as a mass voicemail system. Scott Means suggested using the MySeniorCenter database system to send communications. He suggested that the subcommittee keep the domain goal as is, however, a rewrite of the recommendation is needed. He announced that HSD is actively working with a marketing and communications consultant and the Aging division had been approached by T-Mobile to reinvent senior technology centers. Commissioner Beene-Clark inquired if there have been surveys conducted on ways to best communicate with the community. Commissioner Garrett stated that the subcommittee gathered input from listening sessions. Commissioner Phillips suggested revisiting the County as a resource.

11. Livable Oakland Implementation, Developing Next Steps

Domain: HEALTH & WELLNESS/FOOD INSECURITY

The subcommittee will focus on realignment to the changing needs of seniors and incorporation of the master plan. Commissioner Scott stated the subcommittee needs to see where the master plan strategies fit and amplify the domain goal recommendations. Commissioner Beene Clark suggested adding isolation.

Domain: HOUSING

The subcommittee will focus on ramping up the second domain goal of seniors having a voice in the decisions around housing in Oakland, emphasizing the “No Seniors on the Streets” initiative as well as incorporating inclusion and equity.

Domain: OPEN SPACES

The subcommittee will incorporate park access within a 10-minute walk and continue working with Mosswood Park and other regional park departments.

Domain: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The subcommittee will rewrite recommendations but not change domain goals and incorporate phone and direct mail/printed access to Oakland Seniors.

Subcommittees plan to have revised reports by the next meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.