

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

www.slocounty.ca.gov/coa.htm

Meeting Date: Wednesday August 23, 2023
Time: 10:00 am - Noon
Location: **DSS Building, 3433 South Higuera Street, Room #101, SLO**

- ✓ Call to Order
- ✓ Flag Salute (please stand if able)
- ✓ Check/announce meeting being recorded.
- ✓ Public Comment and Member/Agency Updates – *burning desires from members or guests about current concerns, issues, scams - 2 min. max*

Introductions: Members and Guests (please provide your name, Commission position, and brief agency description)

Member rollcall: Chair establish Quorum

Approve Minutes: July 26, 2023

Special Presentation: Veterans Discussion and Information Panel

Mike Patrick, Central Coast Veterans Helping Veterans, Veterans Services Collaborative

Ron Torres, Seniors Helping Seniors - Credentialed Veteran Home Health Service Provider

Ryan Barney and Kendra Scott, Veterans Services Representative - Claims – Compensation – Education – Burial - Health Benefits

George Moran, Veterans Center – Services and Support

Benjamin Albrecht, HUD/VASH – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Homeless Veterans

Brandy Graham, CAPSLO SSVF Program Manager - Services for Homeless Veterans

Alan McKean, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist - Employment for Aging Veterans in SLO County (EDD)

Break 10 minutes

Reports:

ASPC (5 min) – Jerry Mihaic

AAA (5 min) – Ron Torres

Chair Report – Maryanne Zarycka

Next Meeting: September 27, 2023 – SLOCOG – Know How to GO!

Fall Location September through December 2023:

Empleo Building, Conference Room 1

3563 Empleo Street, San Luis Obispo

Please submit agenda and program items, ideas, and feedback to slocommissionaging@gmail.com

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Department of Social Services 3433 South Higuera St Room #101
San Luis Obispo
August 23rd, 2023 Minutes

Member Present: Maryanne Zarycka, Sue Gibson, Anita Shower, Ann McCracken, Frank Triggs, Jerry Mihaic, Mara Whitten, Mike Bossenberry, Louise Justice, Ron Torres, Dianna Votaw, Danielle Raiss, Charmaine Petersen, Paul Worsham

Members Absent: Kristin Allen, Paulina Flores Jimenez, Aracely Maldonado, Alexis Okumura, Paige Anderson, Bill Degnan

Call to Order: 10:00 am

Flag Salute.

“Meeting is Being Recorded” Announcement

Public Comment:

Louise Justice

- Update on electric buses in San Luis Obispo currently have 2, however there is no charging stations. There will be 17 in total with 6 ordered at the moment.

Mike Bossenberry

- September is Suicide and Prevention Month national occurrence
 - Prevention fair September 16th at Sierra Vista Hospital
 - Suicide Prevention Forum September 19th at Family Care Network, with public attendance
 - Suicide Prevention Summit September 28th virtual multi-county event
- Veterans Resource Fair September 30th in Atascadero

Guest Alzheimer’s Association

- Caregiver retreat September 16th support groups, in person and virtual
- Education classes coming up in Arroyo Grande and Nipomo
- Healthy Aging social club is every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month held at Grace Bible Church in San Luis Obispo, this is oriented for patients with early stages of dementia
- On the lookout for community village vendors limited space

Elizabeth Potter

- Saint Stevens’s day in September all are welcomed. Flyers where left at back table

Introductions: Guests & Members

Members and guests introduced their role in the community and with the Commission.

Approval of 07/26/23 Minutes: Motion by Mike Bossenberry was made to accept minutes as written. Anita Shower seconded the motion. All in favor – passed unanimously.

Reports:

ASPC (5 min) – Jerry Mihaic

- 1st Friday of every month
- New chair Karen Jones
- Presentation from the 'Ad Hoc Committee' officially named ASPC Advisory Committee
 - Concept that stood out from this presentation was "Housing for all Ages and Stages"
- CA Phones has a state program for specialized phones that have a new bluetooth device which makes landline phones a cellphone
- 23 attendees
- SLO County Supervisor Jimmy Paulding was at the meeting
- Tauria Linala member of ASPC Advisory Committee and ASPC Executive Committee sadly passed away

AAA (5 min) - Ron Torres

- AI scammers for seniors is a concern
- Senior Farmers Market coupon works as self-certification, senior has to present themselves to the event no proof needs to be provided
- Report from HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program) finished the year strong

Chair Report - Maryanne Zarycka

- Buff Lawson presenter in Oct.
- All PowerPoint presentations will be on the COA website available for public
- New fall location September through December 2023: Empleo Building, Conference Room 1, 3563 Empleo Street, San Luis Obispo
- Results of the brainstorming next meeting
- Louise Justice has been moved from alternate member at large to member at large
- Vacant position alternate member at large
- No COA meeting for November - Thanksgiving

Presentation:

Michael Patrick - Central Coast Veterans Helping Veterans, SLO Veterans Services Collaborative

- Michael Patrick joined the Marine Corps in 1969 and served 3 years
- Became a mentor in 2014 of the Veterans Treatment Court in San Luis Obispo
 - Veterans Treatment Court in San Luis Obispo was founded in 2013
 - Veterans Treatment Court deals with veterans with special circumstances who require more therapy rather than punishment
 - Purpose is to rehabilitate and give therapy to the veterans. Upon successful completion of program records are expunged unless they reoffend
 - Developed a military diversion program for first offenders. Upon completion of this program charges are dismissed
 - Mentors follow along with veterans through their 2 year journey

- Veterans are subject to probation, have individual and group therapy sessions, and have to meet all requirements that judge imposes
- In 2015 the mentors incorporated to a non-profit to receive donations to share with veterans and families for veterans
- Program became aware of needs outside the program and in 2016 it received a grant to start providing interim in home care for immobile housebound veterans
- In 2019 it provided over 1,000 hrs. of in home care to about 17 to 18 veterans within the county
- Assembled 4 wheelchair ramps for veterans
- Collaborate with 2 Mexicans Junk Removal
- Assist with deep cleaning to keep veterans from being evicted

Ron Torres - Seniors Helping Seniors, Credentialed Veteran Home Health Service Provider

- Retired HR Director most recently at CAPSLO
- Seniors Helping Seniors provides non medial to medical care
- Seniors help seniors
- Seniors Helping Seniors is on the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) side, that how they are credentialed to be a provider
- If a veteran is the VHA system there is no income requirements no qualifications
- Biggest challenge has been veterans are not very trusting
- Started in less than a year old but have grown rapidly

Ryan Barney and Kendra Scott - Veterans Services Representative

- Claims
 - Organization files claims for disability compensations
 - VA pension
 - Survivor's spouse pension
 - Encourage veterans to file claims
- Compensation
 - Disability compensation
- Education
- Burial
- Health Benefits

George Moran - Veterans Center Veterans Affair Representative

- Services and Support
- Offers one on one counseling or group counseling
- Offers mindfulness groups, wellness groups, yoga groups, frisbee/golf groups
- Funeral services

Benjamin Albrecht, HUD/VASH – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Homeless Veterans (VASH)

- Houses homeless veterans
- One of the last counties that provides housing vouchers, this attracts more homeless to come to the County of San Luis Obispo
- Percentage wise the county has housed more Veterans than other counties
- Services for Homeless Veterans
- Housing almost a person a week and list gets bigger and bigger
- Of the Veterans that are enrolled in VASH at least one third are seniors
- Some of the highest needs for these seniors are in home cleaning, help with early on set dementia Alzheimer's. Level of care and needs have increased.

Brandy Graham - CAPSLO Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Manager

- Grant funded through the VA in order to house veterans
- Eligibility criteria is a bit more flexible and address immediate needs
- Homelessness prevention
- Rapid rehousing program
- "Shallow "subsidy helps Veterans pays up 50% of rent for up to two years and recertify if they still meet income limits for an additional two years. Criteria is between 50-80% area income brackets.
- It is a requirement to do outreach
- Contract with San Luis Obispo County Legal Foundation to assist veterans
- Employment services, referrals, etc...

Next Meeting: September 27th 2023 – Bring a Senior!

Fall Location September through December 2023: Empleo Building, Conference Room 1 3563 Empleo Street, San Luis Obispo

Minutes submitted by Gabriela Garcia. Reviewed by Co-Chairs.