

Tuolumne County Committee on Aging

Minutes of Meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, 1:30 pm

Meeting held at the Tuolumne County Senior Center

1. Call to Order / Introductions

A. Establishment of Quorum

- i. Quorum established – 8 members present.
- ii. COA Chairman David Goldemberg, Zandra Bietz, Kristi Conforti, John Featherstone, Tim Gillespie, Ted Michaud, Nancy Reggio, Jackie Sample
- iii. Meeting called to order at 1:40 pm

B. Introductions

- i. None

2. Public Comments:

- A. Public comments were made regarding the recent Canyon Fire. Alerts and updates about the fire were delivered by phone, sparking concern about some elderly residents in the County who may not have land line or reliable cell phone service. The County should continue to explore options to ensure emergency messaging reaches as many people as possible and especially those who may be difficult to reach in more rural areas.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Approval of the May 13th COA meeting was motioned by COA member Kristi Conforti. Second by COA member John Featherstone. Motion passed 8 – 0.

4. Chairman's Report:

- A. COA Chairman David Goldemberg reported that the County will approve the Adopted Budget in October. Though the budget development was difficult, departments and staff worked to make needed reductions and the county plans to implement furloughs.
- i. Discussion ensued about the consistency of furloughs across all departments.

- ii. Further discussion ensued about the voice of seniors in the BOS when making budget decisions. Is there a champion for the needs of seniors when budget decisions are being made?
- iii. Questions were asked about the CAO office. Would reductions in CAO staffing take place? CAO staff informed the committee that staffing reductions are made to the BOS by the CAO, but ultimately how many and which positions are eliminated are a decision made by the BOS.

B. The County continues to excel on receiving grants and implementing grant-funded projects across multiple departments (e.g., Home Hardening and Defensible Space grants).

5. Treasurer's Report:

A. The current COA balance is \$9,738.18.

B. Discussion ensued on the possible uses of COA funding. Paying for blood draws at health fairs and developing emergency go-bags were among the suggestions.

6. Presentation on TCTA VIA App:

A. COA member Tim Gillespie gave the presentation on the TCTA VIA App. The app is a dial-a-ride app that allows users to contact transit for rides and view routes and schedules. It utilizes location data to assist users to find stops and routes that can get them to their destinations. Existing accounts from TCTA's users were transferred over to the new app. It was noted that creating new accounts requires users to conduct a final confirmation call using the number provided in the app. This allows TCTC to check the address of the user and develop a reliable pick-up spot while taking into consideration road conditions and potential hazards.

i. Discussion ensued that resulted in the following points:

- 1. Services will continue to be offered for free.
- 2. Increased use of public transit has not led to decreased availability.
- 3. The app has led to a decreased number of no-shows for dial-a-ride services.
- 4. Tim Gillespie will provide updates on the progress of the app at COA meetings.

7. Discussion on the direction of the Committee on Aging:

A. Discussion ensued about the overall lack of progress of the strategic goals of the COA for the year. This has led to the following observations from the group:

- i. The change in the operation of the COA after the adoption of the new Governing Bodies Handbook has led to less engagement and participation from committee members.
- ii. The vision of the committee is to find and report on concerns of the elderly to try to enhance the livelihood of older Tuolumne county residents.
- iii. What services are other agencies that primarily serve the elderly populations already providing? How can the COA better connect with those agencies to enhance what services are provided?
- iv. A joint meeting with other agencies was suggested.

8. Reports from workgroups:

A. Event Planning:

i. Centenarian Event:

1. Date set for October 21st at 11am at the Tuolumne County Senior Center.

ii. Community Roots Resource Fair:

1. Will be held on Wednesday, August 14th from 3 to 6pm
2. COA member Ted Michaud is planning to attend and report back to the group at the September 9th COA meeting.

9. Additional Comments/Questions:

A. None.

10. Adjournment:

A. Adjourned at 3:12 pm