



**Approved Minutes of the  
Virtual Meeting  
of the  
PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging  
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**August 15, 2022**

**1. Call to Order & Flag Salute**

Executive Board Chairman, Supervisor Jill Cox, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Executive Board Members Present:

Supervisor Gary Bridges, Kay White, Supervisor Jeff Hemphill (alt.), Supervisor Ned Coe\*, Roberta Hohman, Supervisor Patrick Jones, Ann Morningstar, Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Marie Ingram, Supervisor Nancy Ogren (alt.), Supervisor Jill Cox and David Albiez(alt). A quorum was established.

*\*Supervisor Ned Coe introduced the new Modoc County Supervisor, Shane Starr who will be taking over his seat on the PSA 2 Executive Board. This will likely be Supvr. Coe's last meeting. Director Gabriel thanked Supvr. Coe for his support during his time on the PSA 2 Executive Board.*

Executive Board Members Absent:

Supervisor Elizabeth Cavasso (alt., EX.), Supervisor Les Baugh (alt., EX.), and Supervisor Liam Gogan (EX).

Guests Present:

Teri Gabriel, PSA 2 Executive Director; Andrea Sutton, PSA 2 Fiscal Manager; Cheryl Rushton, PSA 2 Program Coordinator; Pam Smith-Jimison, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Program Manager; Lassen Co. Supervisor Shane Starr, and Shannon Cutler-Hannak, HICAP Volunteer Coordinator.

**3. Approval of Agenda\***

Director Gabriel requested the addition of agenda item 10a – “Approval of Board Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign FY 2022/2023 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Funding Contract and Related Amendments – MI-2223-02.”

**MSP: Supervisor Cox motioned for the approval of the agenda with the addition of item 10a - Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign FY 2022/2023 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Funding Contract and Related Amendments – MI-2223-02, seconded by Supervisor Bridges, all aye, motion carried.**

**4. Approval of Consent Agenda\***

**MSP: Supervisor Coe motioned for the approval of the consent agenda, seconded by Supervisor Bridges, all aye, motion carried.**

**5. Open Session**

No comments.

**6. Executive Board’s Report**

No report.

**7. Advisory Council Report – Nancy Quirus, Advisory Council Chairman**

Nancy Quirus reported there remain Advisory Council vacancies in Lassen and Modoc Counties. Supvr. Cox reported that two Advisory Council members will be elected for Trinity Co. at the following day’s Trinity Co. Board of Supervisor’s Meeting. Director Gabriel reported that the newspaper advertising for Advisory Council vacancies as raised interest in the remaining counties.

Nancy Quirus also highlighted five activities of the Advisory Council from their last meeting at the end of July. Pam Smith-Jimison made a powerful presentation to the group on the HICAP program and addressed the various types of Medicare fraud. Several Advisory Council members were involved in the Redding Rancheria Health Fair held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Shasta Co. Advisory Council member will also act as a liaison between the PSA 2 Advisory Council and the Shasta Co. Older Adult Policy Council. Nancy also noted that a list of cooling centers was shared by PSA 2 [Ombudsman] staff which was available to seniors during the last month’s period of extreme heat. Nancy also noted the concern with more older adults entering senior housing facilities with significant mental health challenges than in the past. Nancy also noted the valuable presentation by Susan DeMarois, Director of the CA Dept. of Aging, on the Master Plan for Aging.

**8. Executive Director’s Report – Teri Gabriel, Executive Director**

**a. Update on Services due to Local Fires:**

Director Gabriel expressed her appreciation for all who are involved in managing the local fires following mandatory evacuations in the City of Yreka impacting the PSA 2 Administrative office. Director Gabriel recognized all county leaders for their efforts to

protect their communities during the recent fires. Director Gabriel also reported that the Ombudsman Program Manager worked diligently to ensure the safe relocation and well-being of the long-term care residents from two facilities in Siskiyou County. Some residents were placed in Ashland, OR, in Redding, and some returned home to their families during the evacuation. Director Gabriel also reported that the Ombudsman Program Manager responded to the occurrence of flooding in another Siskiyou Co. long-term care facility due to the recent thunderstorms. All residents were found to be safe following that crisis. Communication efforts between the Ombudsman Program Manager and the PSA 2 AAA staff were acknowledged and commended by the Office of the State Ombudsman. Director Gabriel expressed her appreciation for the Ombudsman Program Manager's efforts during these challenging times.

Director Gabriel noted there is no change to the status of nutrition program reopenings due to the COVID pandemic. Discussions continue with service providers on developing their individual reopening plans.

b. Update on Direct Senior Nutrition Programs:

Director Gabriel provided an update on the Dine Around Town Program following a meeting last month with the Lassen Co. Health and Human Services Director, the owner of the local Lumber Jack Restaurant, and PSA 2 AAA's Registered Dietician (RD). Following the overview of the meal requirements by the PSA 2 RD, the Lumber Jack restaurant owner is enthusiastic about the program and willing to meet the dietary requirements for the meals provided to program participants. The restaurant owner is very open to suggestions and is willing to develop additional menus to add variety to the meal selections. The Lumber Jack Restaurant is also willing to work within the program's budget to help keep the meal costs down and consistent to help meet the needs of the community. Subsequent meeting dates are currently being scheduled to further discuss the menu items as well as policies for the program. Transportation services are also being discussed to help transport seniors to the restaurant for meals.

Director Gabriel reported that three of the four volunteers for the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program have completed their required trainings for ServSafe food handling, Security Awareness for the safe handling of client confidential information and from Dignity Health Connected Living's Retired Senior Volunteer Program training. An additional volunteer has expressed interest in the program and the remaining volunteer will complete his training upon return from out of state travel. Communication with Trinity Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator has greatly improved now that he has been assigned newer technical devices such as a cell phone and faster laptop. Director Gabriel also reported that Dignity Health Connected Living and the Church of the Nazarene are working to extend their agreements with PSA 2 for the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program until June 30, 2023. Last week, the Program Coordinator began reaching out to eligible older adults to inquire on interest in the program. Interested seniors may participate in Golden Age Center's program as well as PSA 2's nutrition program. With that progress, start dates for the program are now being discussed. The Program Coordinator will also help to bring additional services to Trinity Co. seniors by developing a Senior Resource Directory offering a quick reference to reach local services. PSA 2 will also be partnering with the CA Telephone Access Program to host device trainings for seniors needing assistance with their smart phones and other

technical devices. The device trainings are being held to help address the digital divide experienced by older adults with limited to no access to devices and the internet.

c. Update on Local Master Plan for Aging Efforts:

Director Gabriel reported that she continues to meet with the Local Master Plan for Aging Advisory Committee in response to the request by the CA Dept. of Aging and funded by the SCAN Foundation – an independent public charity devoted to transforming care for older adults in ways that preserve dignity and independence. This partnership is dedicated to developing a local Master Plan for Aging for rural communities in Shasta, Butte and Glenn Counties. The goal of the Local Master Plan for Aging is to develop a plan to address the needs of rural older and disabled adults and to share the plan with other rural communities state and nation-wide. Listening Sessions are currently being scheduled to offer the opportunity to hear the needs and concerns of Shasta County older and disabled adults and their caregivers on August 31<sup>st</sup> at Dignity Health Connected Living. The areas of discussion during the 90-minute Listening Session will address the challenges and recommendations on healthcare, transportation and housing. Dignity Health Connected Living will provide transportation to Listening Session participants if needed. An additional Listening Session has been scheduled for In-Home Supportive Services recipients from the older adult community which will also be held at Dignity Health Connected Living in September. A Listening Session in the Burney area of Shasta Co. is also being planned to reach older and disabled adults in a rural community.

d. Other Agency Activity:

Director Gabriel reported that in-person resource events are beginning to ramp up again. PSA 2 AAA is partnering with Passages Caregiver Resource Center and the northern regional Alzheimer's Association to bring two events to the PSA 2 communities in Burney (Shasta Co.) on September 14<sup>th</sup> and in Alturas (Modoc Co.) on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Passages Caregiver Resource Center is a contracted service provider of PSA 2 for Family Caregiver Support Program services. The presentations will provide an understanding of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease as well as instruction on how to provide care to a loved one with Alzheimer's and Dementia. PSA 2 staff will be present at the event to provide resources including the caregiver resource books being offered to PSA 2 communities.

Director Gabriel announced that technical device trainings are being planned for all 5 counties. PSA 2 AAA will also be participating in the Redding Pride Fair on September 24<sup>th</sup> to provide PSA 2 resources to LGBT older adults.

Director Gabriel also revisited the upcoming CA for All Ages & Abilities event in Sacramento on September 20<sup>th</sup> hosted by the CA Dept. of Aging. The flyer will be resent after the meeting which has a link to register for the event.

Director Gabriel also noted that CA's AAAs have been approached by CDA regarding Public Health workforce funding. The funding allocated to PSA 2 would be \$78,610 of American Rescue Plan Act funding to expand the Public Health workforce amongst the aging and disability service networks. The funding can be used to help fund, hire, train and recruit Public Health professionals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and

future public health challenges. Being that PSA 2 is not a direct public health service, the funding can be used to support the Public Health divisions in the 5-county region. Tools for training, supplies or equipment to support Public Health professionals can be supported with this funding. More information is forthcoming from CDA regarding the Public Health workforce funding.

**9. Approval to Extend Trial Period for Direct Senior Nutrition Programs to June 30, 2023\*:**

Director Gabriel explained that efforts continue to launch the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program in Weaverville and the Dine Around Town Restaurant program in Lassen Co. The AAA is requesting the Executive Board's approval to extend the trial period for these direct nutrition programs to June 30, 2023. Currently the trial period for both programs is September 30, 2022, with the support of CARES Act funding. Now that the new FY 2022/2023 is underway, and with the rapidly approaching expiration of CARES Act funding, Area Plan funding can be used to support both programs until June 30, 2023. The Trinity Senior Nutrition Program is set to initially serve 20 eligible older adults and plans are being discussed to expand the service to meet the community's needs and as funding is available. The Dine Around Town Restaurant program will use local restaurants to provide freshly prepared meals from an approved menu for seniors to dine at local restaurants or for the meals to be delivered to their homes. Each program will be reevaluated prior to the end of the fiscal year for consideration to continue the direct nutrition programs into FY 2023/2024.

David Albiez expressed his concern with the time it has taken to launch the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program with little progress. He explained that Golden Age Center is feeding the seniors and has access to resources to feed up to 60 seniors for a month as well as provide hot lunches to 4 seniors in need as they have IHSS workers. Mr. Albiez further stated that the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program is spending money for nothing. It is not a local program with Dignity Health [Connected Living] reaching out to another center unfamiliar with serving seniors. He feels the Trinity Senior Nutrition Program has provided no results up to this point. He further stated that the local community is already providing services for these needs and the program seems a little excessive.

Chairman Cox from Trinity Co. commented that the need for training for the program is required and she is personally appreciative of the efforts being made to launch the program. The funding will be utilized to provide assistance to the community and is moving forward as quickly as it can move forward. More help to community is better. Once the program is launched, better analysis of the success of the program can be made. Chairman Cox recalled a statement made previously by Director Gabriel which stated there is nothing that prohibits an older adult from participating in both the Golden Age Center and Trinity Senior Nutrition Programs.

David Albiez again stated that frankly the seniors do not need the meals and does not believe it is a financially smart move to make for the county. He feels the funding can go elsewhere to be used a whole lot better than providing salaries for individuals that are just delivering meals to folks that have meals already provided. Golden Age Center has hunted and there are not 20 seniors out there in need for lunches that are served frozen. People are happy with Golden Age Center's system. Although more is better, he hates to

see the program waste funds.

Director Gabriel added that the nutrition program funding is available for Trinity Co. as a whole, it is not strictly for Weaverville. If seniors in Weaverville are not interested in the PSA 2 funded nutrition program, there currently are unserved areas of Trinity Co. where the meals can be served and where there were no previous services provided by Golden Age Center. If there is interest from areas outside of Weaverville, the volunteers for the program are available to provide the service to those areas. Efforts will be made to reach those individuals if Weaverville seniors are not interested or if they chose to be served by Golden Age Center.

Advisory Council Chairman, Nancy Quirus, added that food insecurity is an issue in all 5 counties of the PSA 2 region. Both nutrition programs in Trinity Co. can have a major impact on the senior community. That impact is a health impact as people who are food insecure have increased health conditions and communities that lack health resources to address the health conditions cause a snowball effect that can be brought on by food insecurity. Nancy stated that she is more than supportive of direct PSA 2 nutrition programs that help our seniors in any county. The programs being proposed in Trinity and Lassen Counties are a step in the right direction to fight food insecurity.

Supvr. Bridges agreed with Nancy's comments and thanked PSA 2 for the efforts put forth to initiate the nutrition programs. Knowing that one size does not fit all, Supvr. Bridges stated that eventually the programs will come together, and they will work out for everyone concerned.

**MSP: Supervisor Bridges motioned to approve the Extension of the Trial Period for Direct Senior Nutrition Programs to June 30, 2023, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela, all aye, with the exception of David Albiez who opposed, motion carried.**

**10. Approval of Board Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign California Department of Aging's (CDA) Older Adults Recovery and Resilience Funding Contract and Related Amendments – IF-2223-02\*:**

Director Gabriel explained that the Older Adults Recovery and Resilience (OARR) Funding is provided by CDA includes Intergenerational nutrition activities with younger generations to support older adults impacted by health issues and severe isolation due to the pandemic. This nutrition funding is new to the AAA and is available for nutrition services until December 31, 2024. The program will foster intergenerational activities between older adults and children. The funding can be used to serve individuals under the age of 60 which is unlike the current Older Americans Act funded programs. Cooking demonstrations and nutrition education classes can also be supported with the Intergenerational funding. The total amount of Intergenerational funding available to PSA 2 is \$417,808.

OARR funding is also available to resume the Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program in the amount of \$238,200. The program was very successful in its trial period last year. PSA 2 will again work with Everything Medical in Redding to bring fall prevention equipment to disabled adults and those 60 years of age and older who are at risk of falling or at risk of institutionalization. All income levels can be served with the program.

Title III E Family Caregiver Support Program funding is also available in the amount of \$58,803. III E funding provides a support system for unpaid family caregivers of older adults. PSA 2 will work with existing III E contracted service providers to expand Access Assistance, Information Services, Respite Care, Supportive Services, and Supplemental Care services with the OARR funding.

OARR funding will also support Title III B Senior Legal Services in the amount of \$254,741 to assist older adults with a variety of legal services concerning housing, consumer fraud, elder abuse, Social Security concerns, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, MediCal, age discrimination, conservatorships, and other legal matters. The funding would be allocated to Legal Services of Northern California which is the legal services contracted provider to expand services in the 5-county region. This funding is in the amount of \$254,741.

In response to the inquiry from Marie Ingram on how the funds would be spent if the nutrition centers are closed, Director Gabriel explained that eventually all nutrition programs will reopen for in-person dining and that the funding is available until December 2024. Also, outdoor dining is an option for social distancing which the funding can support with the purchase of outdoor dining equipment.

**MSP: Marie Ingram motioned for the approval of the Board Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign California Department of Aging's Older Adults Recovery and Resilience Funding Contract and Related Amendments – IF-2223-02, seconded by Roberta Hohman all aye, motion carried.**

**10a. Approval of Board Resolution Authorizing Executive Directory to Sign FY 2022/2023 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Contract and Related Amendments\*:**

Director Gabriel explained that the MIPPA funding is available to improve Medicare beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain care in rural areas, including pharmacy access. The MIPPA funding available to support the HICAP program is in the amount of \$40,843. HICAP Program Manager, Pam Smith-Jimison, explained how the funding has been used to support the HICAP program in the past with services such as the quarterly newsletter, presentations, advertising, billboard advertisements, mailing of fliers, enrollment events and outreach. Pam further explained the 3 types of MIPPA outreach: Medicare Savings Plan which helps beneficiaries with Medicare costs, Preventative Services for educating beneficiaries to ensure they received services for which they are entitled, and the Low-Income Subsidy Program which provides extra help through the Social Security office and assistance with costs for medications. The MIPPA funding helps to advertise these valuable services available to Medicare beneficiaries and, in combination with the Medicare Savings Plan, is a valued service at a cost of over \$6,000. The funding will also help to further the effort to reach very rural Medicare beneficiaries.

**MSP: Supervisor Valenzuela motioned for the approval of the Board Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign the FY 2022/2023 Medicare**

**Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Contract and Related Amendments, seconded by Supervisor Bridges, all aye, motion carried.**

11. **New Business:**  
Next Meeting – Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  
12. **Old Business:**  
None.
  
13. **Correspondence:**  
Incoming – None  
Outgoing – None
  
14. **Adjournment**  
The virtual meeting of the PSA 2 Executive Board was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Gabriel,  
Executive Director