

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on August 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis
Absent: None
Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Herring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

*Only in America could a refugee girl from Central Europe become Secretary of State.
Madeleine Albright - former U.S. Secretary of State*

There are only three colors, ten digits, and seven notes; it's what we do with them that's important. ~ Jim Rohn

...The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's disease. As we talked I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised, and I asked him, 'And you still go every morning even though she doesn't know who you are?' He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.' ~ Anonymous

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Miranda seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of August 11, 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 14, 2015, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)
Chair of Health, Nutrition and Long Term Care Committee

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Senior Librarian Coates, South East Torrance Library, Commission liaison

Monika Vega, Senior Outreach Coordinator, California Department of Health Services

Planning Commissioner Herring

City Council Member Griffiths

7. CAL MEDICONNECT PRESENTATION: Monika Vega, Senior Outreach Coordinator, California Department of Health Service

Ms. Vega distributed a flyer fact sheet which described the various options under the Cal MediConnect plan for individuals who had both Medicare and MediCal benefits. She stated that she worked for Harbage Consulting which had a contract with State Department of Health to offer outreach and communications for the Coordinated Care Initiative. She explained that the Cal MediConnect program combined benefits into a managed care plan and noted that under the connected plan, there was no loss of any current benefits from either Medicare or MediCal, nor an increase in payments.

Ms. Vega detailed the benefits of joining Cal MediConnect and explained that the plan offered extra transportation and vision benefits beyond the regular Medicare or Medi-Cal plans, as well as provided access to a Care Coordinator who could help to manage one's health care services. She listed the five Cal MediConnect Health Plans in the Los Angeles County: Care 1st Cal MediConnect, CareMore, Molina Dual Options, Health Net Cal MediConnect and L.A. Care Cal MediConnect.

Ms. Vega reported that the standard benefits included in the plans were in addition to the benefits already allowed under MediCal and Medicare and were: vision benefits of a yearly eye exam and \$100 dollars every two years for eye glasses or contacts and transportation benefits of thirty one way trips per year. She stated that it would be necessary to ask each of the five plan providers for the specific details of their plans.

In response to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Ms Vega stated that a person would need to apply for Medi-Cal through the Department of Social Services and added that the income level to qualify for Medi-Cal would depend on various criteria, including the size of the household. Commissioner Miranda noted that one factor to qualify for Medi-Cal would be to receive a monthly social security check of less than \$1250, but qualification would also depend on the value of other personal assets.

Ms. Vega stated that individuals could call:

- the Center for Health Care Rights / Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) for counseling on which plan to select at 1-800-824-0780
- Health Care Options at 1-800-580-772 or any of the five individual plans to ask questions.

Ms. Vega noted that she did not know whether HICAP representatives working at local Torrance hospitals would be fully trained in the Cal MediConnect plans. She added that there was no open enrollment period for the Cal MediConnect; it was open to any qualified individual and it included all parts of Medicare, (Parts A, B and D).

Ms. Vega explained that Care Coordination was at the heart of the Cal MediConnect program, as part of a holistic approach to patient care. She noted that a care coordinator would act as a case manager who could assist with special needs, connect one with additional services, such a Meals on Wheels, and be the facilitator of the interdisciplinary care team of specialists, home care providers and family members.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Commissioner Miranda stated that Cal MediConnect did provide in-home supportive services and community-based adult services, but that a person would first need to apply and be approved for Medi-Cal by the Department of Social Services to be eligible. Ms. Vega noted that the phone number for the Department of Social Services varied by area.

Commissioner Miranda stated that green card holders could apply to Cal MediConnect and added that there were dental services available through Medi-Cal and well as additional services offered through Cal MediConnect.

Ms. Vega stated that all five of the Cal MediConnect plans had the same standard service, but each of the plans also had their own additional benefits. Commissioner Miranda explained that the five plan providers had been chosen through a bidding process.

Commissioner Virobik noted that it was important to have local HICAP personnel trained so as to be able to inform and direct those individuals who were eligible for Medi-Cal or those who already had Medi-Cal and Medicare in the Cal MediConnect enrollment process. Commissioner Miranda stated that most HICAP personnel should be able to explain the Cal MediConnect Program to individuals. Ms. Vega offered options on ways she could explain the Cal MediConnect program at Focal Point: she could do one on one presentations, small group presentations, arrange for a HICAP person to do a workshop or she and a HICAP person could work together to present the information to staff or individuals.

Commissioner Virobik requested that her local HICAP representative, Doris Herzog, as well as other HICAP personnel, be trained in the Cal MediConnect plans so that HICAP could assist and advise seniors in their plan choices.

Ms. Vega stated that her organization had available a variety of presentations, printed material and website information in other languages and could also develop other materials. She added that the outreach was being done in seven counties in California.

Ms. Vega noted that individuals could also keep their Medicare fee for services plan and sign up for a managed Medi-Cal plan (Managed Medi-Cal Long-Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) only). She added that information on all plans could be found on www.CalDuals.org.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would ask her local HICAP representative whether she was prepared and able to do a presentation on Cal MediConnect.

Commissioner Miranda stated that there were only a few thousand people enrolled in Cal MediConnect, due in part to seniors' lack of understanding or knowledge of the plan, as well as providers who wished to have seniors remain in Medicare fee for services plans.

Former Commissioner Griffith reminded the Commission that there may be many individuals who do not live in the City, but work in the City who may be eligible for Medi-Cal.

Commissioner Miranda stated that Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed could give Ms. Vega an email contact list for the Commission.

Ms. Vega added that the network of providers for the Cal MediConnect plans was growing, which might be an important factor for seniors who wish to keep their current doctors. Commissioner Miranda stated that Health Care Partners and Torrance Hospital IPA were part of Cal MediConnect network. He reminded the Commissioners that Medicare was primary, so that even if a doctor was not part of Cal MediConnect, a doctor would have to take the Medicare patient.

Ms. Vega reported that the Commissioners could sign up for the CalDuals newsletter and updates on www.CalDuals.org.

8. LETTER REGARDING THEATER IMPROVEMENTS- Discussion

The Commission thanked Commissioner Cohen for presenting the item regarding the theater improvements to the City Council during Orals.

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she had drafted a letter to be presented to Mayor Furey from the input she had from the Commission.

There was a discussion on what to include in the letter. It was decided to ask that the Armstrong Theater be kept ADA compliant as well as making the theater aisles safer and easier for seniors and handicapped to use.

There was a discussion on Owen Griffith's fall in the Armstrong Theater.

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the letter, as amended, to present to Mayor Furey. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

9. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the new Nordstrom would open on October 9 and that McCormick Ambulance had been given a one year extension on their current contract, although they had not met all of the time parameters.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been a visiting group from a city in China at the Council meeting.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that at the Council meeting of August 11, there would be a discussion of bus shelters.

There was a discussion of the road widening project at Hawthorne and Pacific Coast Highway.

B. Housing

Chairperson K. Davis discussed an article from City Librarian Theyer on an organization called Hope Meadows, which was a community built around older adults caring for adoptive families.

Commissioner G. Davis discussed information from a program on 20/20 about youth groups and day care at senior centers.

C. Health

Covered in the presentation for Item 7

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that twenty nine bus shelters would be built for Transit Line 3 and noted that the shelters would include electronic display panels which would display real time passenger information.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino explained that she had signed up for a Senior Taxi swipe card so that she could personally experience the process. She reported that the sign in process was exceptionally easy to navigate. She added that she would continue to present further reports to the Commission as she used the various taxi services.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that there was a bus stop planned for the renovated mall.

Commissioner Cohen reported on his recent trip on the Metro train.

Julie Dojiri announced that she had not heard of any problems or complaints on the Senior Taxi re-enrollment from residents of New Horizons.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis reported on her volunteer time at the Special Olympics in Long Beach and stated that it was a wonderful experience.

Commissioner Cohen added that he had volunteered in Redondo Beach at Seaside Lagoon and Commissioner Miranda noted that he had volunteered through the Rotary Club.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Reed stated that she would notify the Commission of the date of the next flu shot clinic.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that Steve Finton from the Public Works Department had helped to get her neighborhood’s permission to make an intersection safer by limiting parking.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

July 2015

Total number of documented calls: 47	Total number of callbacks: 8
Miscellaneous calls: 90	Total number of walk-ins: 11
Total number of calls received: 137	
Of the documented calls:	
19% were for transportation	70% were for housing
15% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik stated that computer training had started on a one on one basis at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center. She noted that Focal Point had requested a new computer.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Cohen reported that H.E.L.P. had a successful fundraiser.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Librarian Coates stated that he had enjoyed Rock around the Block and had become a member of the Historical Society.

There was a discussion of having a Ciclavia or tri-athlete event in Torrance.

Commissioner G. Davis reported that South Bay Village had a successful grand opening party on July 18 with 72 people in attendance, including the Mayor and City Council members

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:09 a.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cohen and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

###

Approved as amended June 11, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
--