

**Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
Area Agency on Aging
Older Americans Advisory Council**

**Monday January 11, 2021
AAA via Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	AAA Staff
Anker-Unnever, Lynne	Lorino, Meggin	Alvarado, Brian
Lay, Danny	Middleton, Kristin	Briscoe, Michelle
Lorino, Meggin	Reynoso, Lupe	Funes, Ana
Mella, Hazel		Lopez, Matthew
Osoria, Guillermina		Padilla, Melissa
Pearson, Mel		Sedillo, Connie
Riley, Lydia		Guests
Stitelman, Leonard, Chair		Mayor Keller
		Helen Maestas

1. Call to Order

The OAAC meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Guests, staff and OAAC members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

Danny Lay made the motion to approve the agenda for January 11, 2021. Meggin Lorrino seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

Lydia Riley made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2020. Danny Lay seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. FY21 budget updates

Michelle Briscoe shared nothing has changed with the overall budget since October. Largely on a cost reimbursement with providers. Will likely reallocate some funds from a couple of providers not able to provide services due to COVID, so funds can be shifted to home delivered meals to cover extraordinary expenditures.

6. Updates: Providers and services, Legislative session

Michelle Briscoe services remain stable during closures.

The legislative session will be closed. There will be no Senior Day. An ask will be made for additional funding to cover COVID-related expenses.

Lynne Anker-Unnever shared AARP updates regarding pending legislation regarding financial abuse of older adults, healthcare, etc.

Meggin Lorino shared the New Mexico Chamber of Commerce hosting virtual events during the legislature.

Mayor Keller thanked the Council for continuing to serve during the pandemic and expressed appreciation for continuing the work. He also shared his goal to get the seniors vaccinated.

Leonard Stitelman thanked the Mayor for his support.

Leonard Stitelman requested clarification on how the health orders impacted services. Michelle Briscoe shared how center closures have resulted in providers developing remote services either online or through phone wellness checks. Home Services are being performed only outside the house, not in-home. Congregate meal sites have closed and shifted to grab-and-go or temporary emergency home delivered meals. Roadrunner Food Bank pantries shifted to drive-through food box delivery. Accommodation are being made in compliance with orders.

Leonard Stitelman asked about budget impacts. Michelle Briscoe shared the additional CARES and FFCRA funding is primarily focused on the increased demand for meals. More meals are being produced than any time in recent history. Funding and resources has been redirected for the duration.

Leonard Stitelman offered if an interim meeting of the council would be helpful as reopening progresses.

Hazel Mella requested clarification regarding behavioral health effects of isolation on seniors and how services are helping. Michelle Briscoe mentioned new online services are available, and traditional Case Management and Adult Day services continuing to contact more vulnerable seniors. More broadly, the AAA engages with partner divisions within Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Senior Affairs Information & Assistance program to make connections to resources such as the Crisis Help Line. Also increasing outreach efforts to identify people.

Michelle Briscoe shared updates regarding the AAA's work with New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and the City Emergency Operations Center to support distribution of vaccines.

Meggin Lorino shared home health and hospice have been coordinating with New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and Department of Health regarding required testing of workers. All workers are included in 1A for the vaccine and are encouraged to register.

Leonard Stitelman requested clarification on how seniors without technology could register for the vaccine as it is all online. Michelle Briscoe shared the AAA is in discussions with the Emergency Operations Center and the Department of Senior Affairs regarding how best to assist. Nothing has been formalized, but anticipate the Department of Senior Affairs will be available to assist. The Department of Health and the Aging and Disability Resource Center are already available to assist. The AAA is supporting outreach and coordinating with partners to connect folks. Guillermina Osoria offered to help make connections with pathways navigators and other providers to assist with outreach. Michelle Briscoe answered questions regarding registration and availability to clarify the best advice is to register as soon as possible and if a vaccine is made available to take it if interested. Challenges such as transportation are being discussed, and logistics are being coordinated with the Emergency Operations Center.

7. Recruitment to fill vacancies

One City and one County vacancy need to be filled. Michelle Briscoe will reach out. Melissa Padilla will follow up regarding Lydia Riley’s term.

8. Advisory Member Community Feedback

Danny Lay shared possible miscommunications at the Tijeras meal site regarding Thanksgiving holiday meals.

9. Next Meeting: April 12, 2021, unless an interim meeting is needed.

10. Adjournment: Danny Lay made the motion to adjourn.

With there being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson’s Signature: _____

Prepared by: _____