



## Maui County Council on Aging

CAMERON CENTER • 95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

### COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)

June 9, 2020

12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference

Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/114186004/0169?src=calendarLink>

**Call to Order: 12:36 p.m.**

#### Introductions

**Members Present:** Mei Lani Aki, Debbie Cabebe, Doreen Forsberg, Arleen Gerbig, Brian Hauser, Susan Lussier, Judy Mikami, Miguel Morales, Lois Prey, Ed Romson, Leonardo Sequeira, Katherine Smith, Yuki Lei Sugimura

**Members Excused:** Agnes Groff

**Members Absent:** Vivian Lindsey

**Guests Present:** None

**County Staff Present:** Vicki Belluomini (Office on Aging), Shelly Chernicki (Office on Aging), Kevin Dusenbury (Office on Aging), Sanya Lucas (Office on Aging), James Mariano (Office on Aging), Deborah Stone-Walls (Office on Aging), Kristina Toshikiyo (Deputy Corporation Counsel) and Stephanie Chen (Deputy Corporation Counsel)

<b>Topic/Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Call to Order	1. Deputy Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.	
Oral Roll Call	2. Introduction of Council on Aging Members and County Staff Present and Welcome of New Council on Aging Members, Arleen Gerbig and Agnes Groff	
Election of Officers	3. Council Member Lois Prey nominated Debbie Cabebe as Council Chair and Yuki Lei Sugimura as Council Vice-Chair. Council Member Mei Lani Aki seconded the motion. No other nominations were given.	Motion was carried unanimously.
Review/Approve Minutes	4. Members reviewed the February 11, 2020 meeting minutes.	Councilmember Prey moved to approve the minutes; Councilmember



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Public Testimony on Agenda Items	5. None	Forsberg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.  Motion to close Public Testimony by Councilmember Prey and Seconded by Councilmember Morales
COVID-19 Update	<p>6. Deborah Stone-Walls, Executive Director, Maui County Office on Aging - Impacts on services to seniors and innovations implemented by Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) to address increased needs.</p> <p>MCOA is not unique in what we have experienced since COVID-19 began in March.</p> <p>Food Security – MCOA is serving over 1000 more seniors than this time last year. This does not count the coordination of volunteer food delivery initiatives. Additionally, starting the end of March, MCOA staff took on the task of delivering 220 meals every day to seniors through the Show Aloha Challenge. MCOA’s James Mariano has been the lead for this. All staff has pitched in to help. The food has been provided by Tin Roof and Zippy’s Restaurants. This has been a very collaborative effort on many levels.</p> <p>COVID19 Meals Data – Kevin Dusenbury has been working with GIS County staff for a year to provide data visually and geographically. For COVID-19, we wanted to look at the response we have provided via food security. We pooled and collected this information from our data systems. We want to be able to show you geographic information for our participants. This information can be provided to the COA and County Council. Eventually this will be a web application that all will be able to use and see. But we aren’t there yet. The information being provided is for COVID-19 meal data. “COVID-19 Meals” equates to congregate meals. Pre-pandemic, these were meals where seniors would gather together to eat and socialize. “COVID-19 Meals (Authorized)” are home delivered meals. All home delivered meals have to be authorized and are delivered by Kaunoha Senior Services and Mom’s Meals. The “COVID-19 Meals (previously congregate) are provided by MCOA through Kaunoha Senior Services.</p>	



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Data was presented representing various geographic areas of Maui County and will be included as part of the minutes. (See Attachment A)

Councilmember Romson asked where this information will be posted, if it's currently available and if the Council can share the info. Mr. Dusenbury indicated it would be great if the Council could share the information once it is ready. The info will eventually reside on the Maui County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) website and on the County of Maui's website. It will probably be a "plug-in" and will be interactive. But it is still in development.

Councilmember Forsberg asked if the data being presented represents Monday through Friday feeding or seven days/week feeding. Mr. Dusenbury indicated the information is for both. "COVID-19 Meals" are delivered by Kaunoha Senior Services Monday through Friday. Mom's Meals provide meals seven days/week.

Council Member Smith asked if the meals currently being provided include "Meals on Wheels" or are in addition to the "Meals on Wheels" program. Mr. Dusenbury indicated they are included in the data. Total counts include participants prior to COVID-19 and those added as a result of COVID-19. But the data can be segregated between pre-COVID-19 and during COVID-19.

Mr. Dusenbury continued demonstrating the geographic data available. The data information can be shown geographically, utilizing mapping as well as with data tables. Another feature of the data are Widgets, which can produce charts.

Councilmember Sugimura asked if MCOA is receiving feeding requests as part of our regular process or as a result of COVID-19. Mr. Dusenbury answered that MCOA is getting both. But recipients who receive Mom's Meals are solely as a result of the pandemic.

Councilmember Sugimura asked if we estimate that participants who are receiving meals as a result of the pandemic still receive meals through Kaunoha after COVID-19 is behind us. She also asked if Mom's Meals services are in addition to Kaunoha? Mr. Dusenbury indicated that if someone calls with food needs and they meet the eligibility criteria, they are authorized that service for the duration of their care plan. If someone calls with



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food needs as a direct result of COVID-19 but were a congregate meal participant, they would be encouraged to participate in the congregate feeding once it starts up again, post COVID-19. Because of the nature of this virus and the vulnerability of our Kupuna, we don't see the demand for food security going down anytime soon.

Councilmember Forsberg commented that she anticipates the food security needs will continue to increase.

Councilmember Lussier asked about data from the map presented. She wanted to know if a dark area in Central Maui was representative of Hale Makua (care home agencies). Mr. Dusenbury responded that the area would be representative of Hale Mahaolu, not Hale Makua.

Councilmember Lussier mentioned that there is a senior housing project moving forward in Kahului, near Foodland, which might have an impact on future numbers. No one was sure of how many units are being built.

Deborah Stone-Walls commented that the senior housing project and data indicates there is a high concentration of seniors that reside in central Maui.

Councilmember Forsberg commented there are a lot of seniors in Kihei but the data doesn't reflect their participation in the feeding. Could that be because of St. Theresa's Catholic Church taking a bulk of that feeding? Ms. Stone-Walls indicated that we don't know. It could be because of Hale Kau Kau. There are other food initiatives out there.

Deborah Stone-Walls shared a spreadsheet with information for all the services MCOA is providing. She pointed out the many different categories of home delivered meals. There were a little over 700 home delivered meals in April that were a result of normal casework. Home delivered meals requested as a result of COVID-19 totaled 1002. We need to categorize these categories separately. MCOA is trying to meet the needs in a variety of ways.

Deborah Stone-Walls introduced the Food Truck Initiative in conjunction with Maui Food Technology Center, who coordinate food trucks to events in Maui County. A soft launch of this initiative started June 1<sup>st</sup> for grandparents raising grandchildren, both of whom are eligible to benefit from this initiative. We are



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waiting for non-reproducible vouchers to fully launch the program for our kupuna. The program will service our kupuna and grandparents raising grandchildren. We anticipate the full launch by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The vendors will offer smaller sized meals for the participants of this program since they require smaller portions.

Deborah Stone-Walls indicated that MCOA's case management has more than doubled compared to the same time last year. More people are calling for help. Personal care calls and services have reduced by a third due to COVID-19 since these services typically require close and personal contact. Adult daycare services have dropped dramatically. (See Attachment B) We are seeing impacts to our kupuna as a result of social isolation. They are feeling lonelier; their physical abilities are declining; they are more depressed.

We are looking to implement two new programs to help negate these negative impacts of social isolation. One program is like a personal emergency response system. It is a cellular device with over 100 languages that is available 24 hours/day. The company is putting together groups to "talk story" so that our seniors can turn on the device and converse with others. They can also request help if they need it. This is especially helpful for those who live alone. It gives them a way to reach out.

Another program MCOA is working on are robotic pets. The company who makes these robotic animals is "Joy for All". They make robotic puppies, cats and kittens. The animals look and sound real. They respond to your voice and touch and are very life-like, except you don't have to feed them, bathe them or take them out to go potty. We will be purchasing 200 of those animals for seniors who are alone and feeling lonely.

Summary of MCOA unduplicated phone calls in April was almost 900 calls regarding COVID-19. Total number of unduplicated calls was over 1600, with almost 1,100 people calling. Last April, we fielded 942 calls. This April, we fielded 1,642 calls.

We are trying to coordinate with other "pop-up" feeding activities in other communities throughout the county. As a Council, are there things you are noticing in your communities that you think we can do to fulfill unmet needs? Do you have any input for us regarding some of the information and programs we just shared?



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Councilmember Sugimura asked if there is a summary chart comparing all services pre-COVID-19 to what has changed as a result of COVID-19? She would like to be educated as to who does what between MCOA, Kaunoa, Hale Mahaolu, etc. She suggested maybe meeting separately.

Deborah Stone-Walls indicated she can meet with the Councilmember as well as prepare this type of information for the next COA meeting. She also indicated MCOA is the umbrella to the other organizations. Most everything is funneled through MCOA. The Mayor's office has delegated MCOA to be one of the leads for the Maui County Feeding Plan. We are trying to cover all food security parts without duplicating.

Councilmember Lussier commented that food needs are important. But she has concerns about the emotional needs of seniors as well. She would like to have this topic possibly added to the agenda of the next meeting. She would like to see how seniors can congregate together more to reduce isolation and loneliness and establish more community.

Councilmember Aki said she would like to see a "hotline" established so that seniors can call and "talk story". She indicated she is aware that certain agencies make daily calls to their clients to check in. She would like to see this post COVID19 as well.

Councilmember Mikami commented that senior loneliness on Molokai is very real. She specifically mentioned the toll the pandemic has had on seniors who care for the grandchildren and the difficulties they currently face with school being cancelled as a result of COVID-19. She stated that resources on Molokai are very limited to deal with the psychological, social, emotional, financial and medical issues these seniors face. Kupuna care services are fragmented.

Councilmember Mikami also mentioned that during COVID-19, most people try to be self-sufficient. Molokai has received several shipments of local produce, eggs, etc. But the issue has been how to distribute the items, especially to those who live rurally. And quantities of the items distributed need to be tailored to the recipient's needs. She also said that Molokai has been very blessed by the generosity of Oahu and Maui.

Chair Cabebe asked that the discussion items be carried to the next meeting and that the meeting move forward to the next agenda items.



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<p>Purpose of the Council on Aging and discussion regarding COA Orientation</p>	<p>7. Deborah Stone-Walls - We have new members and sometime between now and the next meeting, we will put together an orientation. If you do not have the orientation binder materials, let Shelly Chernicki know and she will send them to you.</p> <p>The purpose of the council is to help MCOA see what we can do to meet more and more needs. The Council members are MCOA's eyes and ears. Let us know if you see any gaps so that MCOA can address them. The discussions at today's meeting have been very helpful.</p>	
<p>Regional/Area Reports</p>	<p>8. Reports</p> <p>Molokai: COVID-19 Community Feeding Program -Judith Mikami – I covered it in my previous comments. We don't want to be left out. Travel restrictions have made it difficult. But we have been trying to resolve things by using Zoom to deal with Social Security and elder health issues.</p> <p>Chair Cabebe mentioned that there are a few MEO staff on Molokai and to let her know if there is anything they can do to assist in cooperation with MCOA. She suggested that she and Councilmember Mikami have a conversation post meeting.</p> <p>Councilmember Mikami indicated that she does keep in touch with the MCOA staff member that works on Molokai.</p> <p>Lanai: Mei Lani Aki – Lanai is taking care of its own. Lanai's O'Kina Ole office has been calling all of their clients serviced on Lanai. Other entities have been collaborating and have established a food pantry. There have been "drive-by" produce distributions from local gardens since they have not been able to supply the hotels or restaurants on the island due to their closures. Home meal deliveries are also happening. Blue Ginger Restaurant has been helping to supply some of the home-delivered meals. The quantities of the individual food items delivered are being reduced to match the needs of the recipients. There are some people that are not being serviced. Because of a lack of housing, many families live together in the same residence and are able to meet their needs by pooling resources. The residents of Lanai that work for Pulama and Four Seasons are getting full-time pay. Neighbors help each other because it is such a small community.</p> <p>c. Hana: (Requesting a volunteer to provide a report on Hana at each Council meeting)</p>	



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Deborah Stone-Walls asked if there is someone who would volunteer to be the Hana representative and provide a standing report for that area at each meeting. Yuki Lei Sugimura offered to be the standing representative.

d. Veterans: Katherine Smith – COVID-19 is an issue for veterans over 60 and those with underlying chronic diseases; heart disease, blood pressure, liver disease, kidney disease, diabetes, lung disease and weak immune systems. The Maui Office of Veterans Services (OVS) is not able to see veterans face-to-face under the COVID-19 emergency rules for the State of Hawaii. Veterans must contact their local Veterans Affairs (VA) office before going to any VA location. Karen Mahoy, OVS Office Assistant reports that the OVS office is fully operational and will assist veterans via phone call and/or set up a phone appointment for the veterans to speak with a counselor.

The latest Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for veterans on the Corona Virus pandemic are available at the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Information for 2020 disability compensation rates are now available. Additional veteran information and services are available from the OVS in Honolulu where Colonel Ronald Hahn Jr. is in charge.

The Makawao Veteran Cemetery was able to post all the necessary flags on the graves for Memorial Day. Images of this were posted on YouTube.

Now that cemetery renovations have been completed, extra urns (removed from single gravesites) are now available for family pick up. Veteran's families can go online or call to schedule a pick up.

There's a proposal before the legislature for a new veteran home on Oahu. It needs funding approved by the State Senate. Veterans are being asked to contact their State Representatives and urge them to support this project.

Councilmember Romson offered to provide Councilmember Smith with any support that she needs as it relates to Veterans since he is a Vietnam veteran.



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	<p>Councilmember Sugimura commented that there is \$10 million that late Senators Inouye and Akaka had appropriated for a “one-stop-shop” veteran facility on Maui. She believes the funding is still available. She would like to discuss this after the meeting with Councilmember Smith.</p>	
<p>Maui County Office On Aging</p>	<p>9. General Program Updates</p> <p>a. Home Modification Initiative – Deborah Stone-Walls - MCOA is working with Habitat for Humanity. We have been able to secure funding in the County budget. It has passed final reading in the budget process and we are waiting for the Mayor to sign the budget. We are looking to support low-income individuals in making their homes safe and livable so they can remain in their homes.</p> <p>b. Waitlist Report – Deborah Stone-Walls - We used to have a waitlist of about 200. Because of COVID-19, we actually have cleared our waitlist because so many of our clients have caregivers at home now due to unemployment. Many of our clients are not currently needing in-home assistance. We anticipate that those clients will continue to need services once their caregivers are able to go back to their employment. Additionally, due to the current COVID-19 environment, some seniors are afraid to let other people into their homes. They are being very careful about exposure. But we are happy we currently don’t have a waitlist report.</p> <p>c. MCOA Summary of Current and Proposed Initiatives – Deborah Stone-Walls – I think with my prior discussion, I have covered this agenda item. One thing to mention is we did not have the Outstanding Older American event in May this year. We placed a half-page ad in <u>The Maui News</u> honoring our entire community of Kupuna who have made a difference. So many are volunteers helping their neighbors. For World Elder Abuse Day, we will be placing another ad reminding folks to cherish our Kupuna. A word-art heart will be advertised reminding folks to take care of our Kupuna. During the pandemic, we understand there may be stressful times caring for each other, all cooped up, not able to go places. We have been providing as much support as possible by listening, counseling, virtual caregiver support meetings, etc. We have been trying to adapt as a result of the pandemic and still be supportive.</p> <p>Councilmember Romson asked if other social media outreach has been used to advertise. Deborah Stone-Walls indicated the County will be posting the ads as well. And Council members were asked to distribute the information as well.</p>	



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Vice-Chair Sugimura asked if other modes of media will be used, as well as a press release. Deborah Stone-Walls stated that because of the success and feedback from the Outstanding Older American ad, MCOA decided to repeat using The Maui News for the World Elder Abuse Day ad. A press release will be used for the Food Truck Initiative.

d. Legislative Updates – Non to report since State legislature is not in session. Will defer to August meeting.

e. COVID-19 Funding – Deborah Stone-Walls indicated MCOA has received through the Older American’s Act, the Family First Act, and CARES Act, almost \$800,000 for this fiscal year. Much of that is for food. \$200,000 is earmarked to work on areas of social isolation. We feel that we have sufficient funding for food security. We did purchase 14,000 Meals-Ready-to-Eat. Those are there for COVID-19 and/or a natural disaster.

Councilmember Aki commented that she doesn’t think using only The Maui News is sufficient. Their subscription numbers are down. She would like to see a website dedicated to inform the public about these programs.

Deborah Stone-Walls indicated there will also be an ad in the Lanai newspaper. That newspaper requires more lead-time to place an ad. It will also be in the Molokai newspaper. Hana does not have a publication. Again, the County will be posting this information on their Facebook page.

Councilmember Lussier commented that the ads could be posted on community TV, Akaku since most seniors have access to TV.

Councilmember Smith suggested doing a press release. The website, Maui News Now, would pick that up and distribute it to their subscribers. She also recommended a Public Service Announcement. Hawaii PBS would pick that up.

Deborah Stone-Walls commented that we are taping three 1-hour EnhanceFitness video segments that will be broadcast on Akaku so that seniors can do fitness at home using certified EnhanceFitness instructors. We are trying to use various media venues. The suggestions provided are very helpful and will be incorporated.



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10. f. Deborah Stone-Walls commented that it is anticipated the Senior Fair this year will be virtual. Chair Cabebe had previously contacted Deborah Stone-Walls about this possibility. PBS would be a good tool to use to conduct it. We are hoping to work with all the agencies (that would normally have booths) do a 5-minute segment introducing themselves and what they do. We would work with Akaku to tape these segments with the agencies. Once compiled, it could loop over and over using various media resources.

Chair Cabebe commented that she would like to see musicians/entertainers perform in-between some of the segments. We could also offer/allow vendors air time as well.

Councilmember Smith suggested that the segments be as interactive as possible. You could have Q&A, ask the Kupuna to do something, could have a virtual scavenger hunt, etc. Giveaways would be good. A contest with prizes would be welcomed. All these things will make it fun instead of just informational.

Deborah Stone-Walls said the date for the virtual Senior Fair is October 24, 2020.

Councilmember Romson commented that Amy Hanaiali'i has been doing virtual concerts every Friday. Being a local gal, she might be willing to participate and support this event. She would be a good "draw" to this event.

Councilmember Forsberg commented that the kupuna loved attending this fair in the past. They love the interaction, free stuff, food and booths. And she loves the concept of the virtual Senior Fair, but she has concerns how we are going to get the kupuna to participate virtually.

Councilmember Lussier recommended using BlueJeans technology.

Councilmember Sugimura commented that she assumes a planning committee will be formed to work out the details. She also suggested asking the various politicians for door prizes. She is not sure how the details will be worked out for the give-a-ways but she is willing to donate something.

Chair Cabebe asked to table this discussion and suggested the details be worked out with a sub-committee.



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	<p>Councilmember Aki suggested using Facebook. She also recommended using YouTube.</p> <p>Councilmember Lussier asked if the give-a-ways could be distributed with home-delivered meals.</p> <p>g. Staff Updates – Deborah Stone-Walls indicated there is a vacancy for a position on Lanai and she has received authorization to recruit and fill that position. Will be moving quickly to fill that position. Additionally, the Secretary 1 position was filled by Shelly Chernicki.</p>	
Upcoming Events and other information	1. Events and Information – No Report	
Agenda Items for Future Meetings	2. Virtual Senior Fair; More pictorial data of what services are happening and where; Senior Depression and Senior Suicide	
Next Meeting Date	3. August 11, 2020 at 12:30pm. The meeting will most likely be done virtually, using video/teleconference technology, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.	
Adjournment	4. 2:23 p.m.	<p>Chair Cabebe adjourned the meeting.</p> <p>Councilmember Sequeira seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

Submitted by Shelly Chernicki, 07/09/2020