



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)

April 13, 2021

12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference

Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/787545381?src=calendarLink>

Call to Order: 12:46 p.m.

Members Present: Debbie Cabebe, Doreen Forsberg, Arleen Gerbig, Judy Mikami, Miguel Morales, Leonardo Sequeira, Katherine Smith, Laura Vo, Jim Diegel

Members Excused: Yuki-Lei Sugimura

Members Absent: Vivian Lindsey, Agnes Groff

Guests Present: Ed Romson

County Staff Present: Deborah Stone-Walls (Maui County Office on Aging—MCOA), Sanya Lucas (MCOA), Sharon Nobriga (MCOA), James Mariano (MCOA), Vicki Belluomini (MCOA), Claudette Medeiros (MCOA), Daniel Kunkel (Deputy Corporation Counsel), Ipo Mossman (Mayor's Office)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Kunkel called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.	
2. Roll Call of Council on Aging Members	Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Kunkel conducted Roll Call by having all present introduce themselves.	
3. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for the next 12-month period	Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Kunkel called for nominations for Chair. Councilmember Cabebe nominated Doreen Forsberg; Councilmember Sequeira seconded. Chair Forsberg called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Councilmember Cabebe nominated Arleen Gerbig who declined. Councilmember Cabebe nominated Katherine Smith who declined. Councilmember Smith nominated Debbie Cabebe. Councilmember Sequeira seconded.	Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Kunkel called for a vote and nomination carried unanimously. Chair Forsberg called for a vote and nomination carried unanimously.
4. Introduction of new Council on Aging members	Laura Vo introduced herself. Laura works for Bayada Home Health Care in the Medicare Branch and refers patients to MCOA regularly. Laura stated that she feels excited to be a part of the Council. Jim Diegel introduced himself. Jim is the Chief Strategy Officer of Maui Health and has been there 2 years. Jim also gave the Council a brief personal and work history.	



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5. Introduction of County staff and members of the public in attendance	County staff introduced themselves. Ed Romson introduced himself as a guest.	
6. Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2021	Members reviewed the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes.	Councilmember Smith moved to approve the minutes; Vice-Chair Cabebe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Public Testimony on Agenda Items	None. Chair Forsberg closed public testimony as no testifiers were present.	
8. County of Maui Charter Commission Memo, "Request for Submittal of Proposed Charter Amendments and/or Recommendations	Deputy Corporation Counsel Daniel Kunkel read the memo to the Council. Vice-Chair Cabebe informed the group she has downloaded the Charter and offered to share it with the entire Council. The deadline for suggestions to the Commission is May 28, 2021. Chair Forsberg asked MCOA to send a reminder email one week before deadline.	Reminder email to be sent to council one week before suggestion deadline.
9. Regional/Area Reports	<p>a. Hana: Vaccine Update - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccinations started at Hana Health with the Hawaii State Department of Health and Hawaii Air National Guard on December 31, 2020 and continues regularly through the month of April.</p> <p>b. Lanai: Deferred</p> <p>c. Molokai: Current activities of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association; Technology through partnerships with Molokai High School Health Careers Club. Report by Councilmember Judy Mikami, who stood by her written report and is as follows: The rural health group has been meeting to support an opioid grant through the Hawaii State Rural Health Association. One of the activities has been to meet with different groups, such as the judiciary and faith-based groups, to get their perspective on substance abuse on Molokai. One of the goals is to increase the awareness of drug use--not only opioids, but also meth, alcohol, and pakalolo--and continue educating the community, especially our kupuna. Kupuna are often living in multi-generational households where there is drug use and abuse, so it's important for them to learn about the effects of drug use, etc. The rural health group also supports the use of technology through partnerships with the high school's health careers club, the VA, Hawaiian Homesteaders, and others to teach interested users how to do telehealth with their health care provider and how to communicate and "visit" with their loved</p>	



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	<p>ones through Skype, Facetime, Facebook Live, and other web-based platforms (Zoom). There is also an effort to update the resource list of health care entities on Molokai that serve kupuna. Although the intent is to have the resources accessible virtually, they will be printed as well for kupuna who do not have technology access.</p> <p>d. Veterans: Report deferred as the individual that previously volunteered to report on veterans' issues cycled off of the Council on Aging due to term limits. Chair Forsberg asked Executive Deborah Stone-Walls about the plan for three VA facilities being combined into one by Maui High School. The plan keeps getting delayed, so Chair Forsberg wondered if Deborah had heard any updates on this matter. Deborah reported that she was unaware of any updates. Starting in June Ed Romson will resume reporting on the Veterans.</p>	
10. Maui County Office on Aging Report	<p>a. Staffing update by Executive Deborah Stone-Walls: MCOA will have a new secretary, Rae-Ann Pagatpatan, starting on May 1, 2021. There are currently 4 open positions in the Aging & Disability Services Specialist Class in the Access & Assistance (A&A) Branch of MCOA. Deborah reported the A&A branch has had over a 300% increase in daily calls than before the onset of the pandemic. The Molokai staff member retired on 3/31/21 and a Maui staff member will be retiring on 4/30/21.</p> <p>b. Deborah Stone-Walls informed the Council that the MCOA's RFP for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 closed on 4/5/21 and she anticipates all service needs will be fulfilled. The Notice of Award letters will go out 5/28 and the contracts will start on 10/1/2021.</p> <p>c. Outstanding Older Americans Month – May; Deborah Stone-Walls stated MCOA has received nominations and there will be a virtual event on May 6 from 11-12pm. The State event will also be virtual this year and will simultaneously broadcast on all islands via public television. Deborah asked for one more volunteer to score the nominations and Vice-Chair Cabebe volunteered and will join Councilmember Smith and Chair Forsberg in the scoring.</p> <p>d. Brief updates regarding program initiatives: Vaccination Activities, Feeding Maui Nui, Furry Friends, PERS, and Enhance®Fitness:</p>	



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- **Vaccination Activities:** Deborah Stone-Walls explained that MCOA has been supporting all vaccine clinics put on by the Department of Health (DOH) at Hale Mahaolu housing sites. MCOA has already supported DOH at 6-8 vaccine clinics. This Thursday 4/15 there will be clinics held at Hale Mahaolu sites in Kihei and Lahaina. MCOA is also working with Dr. Pang at DOH to coordinate vaccinations for homebound kupuna. MCOA implemented EverBridge robo calls with Kevin's voice saying this is a call from Maui County Office on Aging asking about vaccination status and need that provides call recipients the opportunity to respond by pressing the corresponding number key to indicate the response. Using EverBridge will help the MCOA staff gather status information quickly and efficiently and ensure all those wanting to be vaccinated are assisted. There is also a statewide vaccination outreach plan being developed to air on TV and radio to reach those who are vaccine resistant. Chair Forsberg mentioned utilizing pastors to do outreach since they are trusted by most and Deborah stated the outreach committee will be reaching out to faith communities.
- **Feeding Maui Nui:** Deborah Stone-Walls reported the food truck voucher program has evened out and is now serving about 400 people a month. MCOA has heard from some of the food truck operators who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate and indicated that it was likely they would have gone out of business if not for this program that feeds kupuna. MCOA implemented barcode scanning of the food truck vouchers to reduce time staff spend inputting service deliveries into the MCOA database. A barcode is placed on each voucher and staff use scanning guns to expediate service delivery entry. This is saving staff about 40 collective hours a week in work time.
- **PERS:** Deborah Stone-Walls reported that MCOA has been working on this project for nine months with Best Buy Health. As this is a new program for Best Buy Health, necessary contractual steps have taken a prolonged period of time. Last week MCOA received the draft contract and forwarded it to County Corporation Counsel for review. The lively mobile device will connect kupuna to a call center that accommodates approximately 175 languages and gives the kupuna the ability to simply talk story with someone or to call for help 24/7. MCOA will program tablets with helpful and friendly apps.



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	<p>Tablets also allow for connection with the 24/7 call center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance®Fitness: Deborah Stone-Walls informed the Council that MCOA has acquired additional office space at the Cameron Center that will be used to broadcast virtual exercise classes. • Furry Friends: Vice-Chair Cabebe shared that her mom enjoyed having one of the dogs and indicated that she knows another kupuna who is also very pleased with a companion cat received. Deborah Stone-Walls encouraged the Council to refer folks who live alone and/or are providing care for an elder as MCOA still has furry friends to distribute. Preliminary 45-day follow-up calls indicate that these robotic companion animals have a very positive impact on reducing loneliness and improving overall mood as indicated by a standardized mood screening tool. 	
<p>11. Upcoming Events: Members are encouraged to share any upcoming events known to be happening across Maui County over the next few months</p>	<p>Deborah Stone-Walls announced the National Policy and Advocacy Summit happening April 27-29, 2021 that is sponsored by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The summit will be from 7am-11am on the 27th & 28th and from 7am-10am on the 29th. MCOA will sponsor Council members interested in attending. This conference will offer several high-quality budget and policy workshops and help attendees better understand the entire federal budget process as well as how the Area Agencies on Aging fit into the overall national picture. Council members wishing to attend were asked to email Deborah to so indicate.</p>	
<p>12. Agenda Items for Future Meetings</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vaccination update b. Deborah’s vision for MCOA during this unchartered time. c. Where can council members be most helpful? How can new members best contribute? d. Invite Kaunoha to speak about what their plans are for the services they provide moving forward during the pandemic. 	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>June 8, 2021 at 12:30pm. The meeting will be done virtually, using video/teleconference technology, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Chair Forsberg called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.</p>	<p>Councilmember Sequeira moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Diegel seconded.</p>

Submitted by Vicki R. Belluomini, 4/15/2021