**SHASTA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**

**Minutes for September 16, 2022**

Dignity Health Connected Living

100 Mercy Oaks Drive, Redding

10:00 AM

**Call to order**- 10:02 am

**Commissioners Present:** Betty Harrison Smith, Kristie Mathews, James Berg, Cindy Dodds

**Commissioners Absent:** Barbara Ghidinelli, Bonnie Giles

**Approve the minutes**: June 2022-Kristie motions, James seconded-Approved

**Introduction of Cindy Dodds, District 3**: Cindy is retired and lives in Burney. She founded and worked for 30 years at a nonprofit in Burney, Tri County Community Network.

**Self-Introductions of Commission members:**

**Election of Vice Chair:** Postponed to October meeting so all commission members are present.

**Reports from Commissioners:**

Kristie Mathews-Very disappointed with the way a senior has been treated at one of our regional hospitals. He was seen 7 times in the past 3 months. The attention he was given was appalling. The hospital was rushing to get this person out of the hospital. He continued to be released to home without proper care. He was in bad shape and should not have been sent home and he is now known as a frequent flyer with the paramedics. He ended up back in hospital but still did not receive adequate care even after admitted.

**Guest Speaker:** Joe Ayer, Executive Director-Dignity Health Connected Living: About 5 years ago, Golden Umbrella and Shasta Senior Nutrition came together under Dignity Health. Connected Living is a subsidiary of Dignity Health. We are built around 4 main departments and we implement 12-15 programs. We have an Adult Day Health Care (the only one in this area), Community Services Department, Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program, and some Safety Net Programs. We have about 60-70 employees and about 200 volunteers. We are funded through contracts with the state and federal government, insurance billing, hospital contribution, private pay, and fund raising through Mercy Foundation North.

* Adult Day Healthcare is a supervised daytime program that has medical and non-medical components to it. We have all types of therapists, nursing, social workers, program aides and other staff available to us as required to have this program. It is funded by VA and Partnership Health or private pay.
* In Community Services Department we have grants and contracts with the federal government to do Americor Seniors. Our foster grandparent program puts older Americans in our schools as kind of a classroom aide. They get training, support and a small stipend. Senior Companions reaches out to other seniors to check in with a call or take them out of the house for a bit. RSVP, for people 55 and over, is one of America’s largest volunteer networks of senior volunteers. We have an advocate and we manage the Power to Seniors program and Representative Payee program.
* Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program is all about keeping seniors in their home and not be put in an institution. They have a caregiver that checks in with them monthly, interacts with them, a nurse who checks on them quarterly. We have in home personal care, light home repairs, shopping, etc. We will do whatever we can to keep them at home.
* Safety Net is funded by the federal government for senior transportation services. Seniors can call and schedule rides to med appts or church services and its door to door. Senior Dining offers congregate meals and meals on wheels and the food bank for Shasta County.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the Dignity Health Connected Living facility.

**Adjournment**: 10:58 am  **Next meeting date:** October 21, 2022