



1920 Mariposa St., Suite 330
Fresno, CA 93721

**FRESNO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP) COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
Friday, September 29, 2023
1805 E. California Ave. Fresno CA 93706
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. CALL TO ORDER	Betty Brown		
II. ROLL CALL	Raquel Padia		
III. CAG 2023 MEMBER ROSTER UPDATE Introduction and approval of new member	Betty Brown	Approve	2
IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES April 28, 2023	Betty Brown	Approve	3
V. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY	Betty Brown	Approve	
VI. FGP UPDATES: May – September 2023	FGP Team	Discussion and Power Point	6
VII. UPCOMING EVENTS Participation opportunities	FGP Team	Discussion	9
VIII. FUNDRAISING Fundraising ideas and volunteers	Betty Brown	Discussion	
IX. OTHER BUSINESS Impact Report Graphic The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, April 26, 2024.			
X. PUBLIC COMMENTS (This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Advisory Group on items within jurisdiction but not on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes).			
XI. ADJOURNMENT			



Leah Struck, FGP Program Coordinator III
Elisa Sgambellone, LCC Assistant Director
Jack Lazzarini, Fresno EOC Chief Programs Officer
Michelle L. Tutunjian, Fresno EOC Chief Operating Officer
Emilia Reyes, Fresno EOC Chief Executive Officer

FGP COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) 2023 ROSTER

Last Name	First Name	Organization/Occupation	Contact Information
Brown	Betty	FGP Chair	betty.brownfgp@gmail.com
Saldivar	Richard	Boys & Girls Club	richards@BGClubfc.org
Cortez	Margarita	FGP Volunteer	Margarita.cortezfgp@gmail.com
Fowler	Julia	FGP Volunteer	Julia.fowlerfgp@gmail.com
Hernandez	Yvonne	City of Fowler Senior Center Director	yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us
* McAlister	Bruce	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	bruce.mcalister@fresnoeoc.org
Neil	Sherry	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	sherry.neil@fresnoeoc.org
Pacheco	Alena	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	alena.pacheco@fresnoeoc.org
Ramirez	Olga	Fresno EOC Head Start Family /Community Services Manager	Olga.ramirez@fresnoeoc.org
Smallwood	Tashon	Fresno EOC Head Start Volunteer Services Coordinator	Tashon.smallwood@fresnoeoc.org

*Person who will be reporting to the Fresno EOC Board.

**FRESNO EOC FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
APRIL 28, 2023 10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Leah Struck called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Raquel Padia.

Committee Members

(Present):

Margarita Cortez
Betty Brown
Julia Fowler
Yvonne Hernandez
Tashon Smallwood
Alaina Pacheco

Staff (Present):

Leah Struck
Raquel Padia
Blanca Alvarado
Elaine Jalomo
Michelle Tutunjian

Absent:

Amaris Castillo
Olga Ramirez
Sheri Neal
Bruce McAlister

III. APPOINTMENT OF CAG CHAIR

Michelle Tutunjian nominated Betty Brown. Brown accepted the nomination and was appointed the chairperson,

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Quorum approved minutes from April 29, 2022 and September 30, 2022.

V. APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

Quorum approved bylaws with revisions to Article III, Section 3 on CAG member requirement for finger printing removed, Article VII, Section 2 removing after a period of one-year lapse. Add member in good standing, and Article VII, Section 3 removing timing of “at the next meeting” for the majority voting on nominations of CAG member.

VI. FGP UPDATES

- A. FGP currently has 55 volunteers after added 12 new volunteers this quarter
- B. With the Senior Demonstration Project grant, we have 1 applicant in Madera in the application process and Kerman has 3 volunteers ready for orientation in May. Selma currently has 1 volunteer and another in the

application process. Fowler has a volunteer ready for placement. The area of Auberry has 1 applicant ready for orientation.

- C. Starting April 1st, the volunteers will receive an increase in their stipends; going from \$3.15 to \$4.00 an hour. There was also an increase in their mileage too. It went from 45 cents to 55 cents per mile.
- D. Generations Serving Together has three senior volunteers and five younger volunteers made up of college interns and community volunteers. The sites they are currently serving include Pinedale Boys and Girls Club, Clovis Boys and Girls Club, and YouthBuild Charter School at Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps. Lessons plans are based off the Brene Brown, *Atlas of the Heart's* curriculum. Students and participants explore 87 emotions and experiences.
- E. Next 50 Senior Planet technology class had a total of 18 students graduates within its last quarter. It includes 6 students in Kerman; 6 students in Selma; and 6 students at Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps.
- F. In October 2022, FGP hosted its first Grandma's Goodies Bake Sale at Fresno EOC's ArtHop to fundraise money towards the program's trip in May. \$600 was raised and two local businesses donate baked goods for the cause; Frosted Cakery and Clovis' Nothing Bundt Cakes. There was a drawing at the booth and one participant won the free 8" cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes.
- G. The volunteer's field trip will be on May 16th going to Monterey Bay and the Monterey Bay Aquarium (FGP raised enough money from fundraising events and recycling contributions to rent the charter bus.). The aquarium offers a Free to Learn program for non-profit organizations to apply for free entry in trade of learning experience. FGP qualified and was granted tickets for its attendees.
- H. Generations Serving Together and Raquel Padia have been featured in article by CoGenerate and alongside Eunice Lin Nichols.
- I. FGP has also participated in Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps (LCC) annual Halloween Safe Night Out event. The program held a Kid Zone consisting a coloring station, Halloween movies, and book station with grandparents volunteering to read to children.
- J. In November 2022, FGP had a turkey luncheon and the volunteer favorite Bingo time. A distribution of one frozen turkey and bag of hygiene products for each volunteer.
- K. In December 2022, the program had its annual volunteer recognition banquet at Pardini's Banquet. Volunteers received awards and recognition gifts in honor of their dedication and years of service. The event contained a photo booth, an M.C. from Binational, games, drawings, and plated lunch with dessert.
- L. FGP has attended several outreach events such as health and resource fairs in the rural cities and Fresno. Next outreach event is presentation at Parlier Senior Center.

VII. UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly in-service meetings with training and educational presentations

December's recognition event

Fundraising events

Networking and outreach events

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)
PROGRAM UPDATES
May 1, 2023 – September 29, 2023

1. **Current Volunteer Status:** As of Sept 18, 2023, FGP currently has 62 volunteers enrolled for FGP. Four are out for medical issues; eight are being scheduled for placement, leaving 50 currently in classrooms. Senior Demonstration Plan (SDP) has six enrolled; one currently in a classroom and five being scheduled for placement. Interest continues, applications are being submitted and more are in the qualification process. We have been able to have an orientation almost every month. Placements are much easier at the beginning of this school year. Head Starts and the schools we have agreements with are coordinating with the program to make things much smoother.
2. **Foster Grandparent Program** Funding is ongoing with renewal application every three years. This current year is the third year of this cycle ending June 30, 2024. We will be putting together the Application for 2024-2027 beginning in January 2024, deadline March.
3. **Senior Demonstration Program (SDP)** was funded through American Rescue Plan funds. It is modeled after Foster Grandparent Program. It is scheduled to end June 30, 2024. SDP is conducted for expansion areas of East and West Fresno County, Madera County, and outreach to cultural communities that are not currently represented in the programs.

Progress:

- Kerman Unified has completed the MOU agreement and three foster grandparents will begin volunteering in October.
 - A grandma volunteer is serving at Pine Ridge Elementary.
 - There will be a grandma beginning soon at Madera County Superintendent of Schools Early Childhood Education Center.
 - One person just completed in office orientation and the plan is to have her serve at Foothill Elementary.
 - Contact has been made for Fowler Elementary but was declined so the program is reaching out to the new Early Childhood Education Center.
 - An MOU was completed with the nonprofit, Stone Soup preschool, that works primarily with immigrant families from many cultures.
4. **Generations Serving Together, Fresno:** Previous funding through CoGenerate ended June 30, 2023. Mentors within CoGenerate encouraged Project Leader, Raquel Padia, to put in an application with the Eisner Foundation Fellowship Prize. Fresno EOC's project was chosen to be one of the five out of two hundred applications to be supported and Raquel was awarded the fellowship. \$50,000 was awarded with

\$40,000 designated for the program and \$10,000 for the fellow. The project will continue coordinating multigenerational teams of Foster Grandparents and younger college interns and community volunteers. The program will use the curriculum based on Brene' Brown's *Atlas of the Heart* exploring 87 emotions during workshops for children and youth covering recognition of emotions and coping skills. An added feature this year is the collaboration with Neighbors Helping Neighbors Thrive after school project mixing generations of Foster Grandparents and High school students to conduct workshops for younger children using the 4-H curriculum, Mindful Me.

5. **Upcoming: Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS).** The Access to Technology project from State of California Department of Aging was granted to Fresno County DSS. Fresno EOC will be a vendor of DSS to conduct the program. \$786,543 will be used to conduct the program through September 30, 2024. The final approval will go to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors late October. This program will distribute 200 iPads, previously purchased by DSS, to seniors that receive In Home Supportive Services. Groups classes on iPad basics will be conducted along with 1 -2 hour workshops on several topics including apps, internet navigation, YouTube, selling on-line and internet safety. Six people will be hired; one lead staff Facilitator/Client Representative, two Facilitators to conduct 10 week classes and 2 hour workshops, two Outreach / Client Representatives that will conduct outreach and work individually with clients to assist with device and internet set up and trouble shooting, and one Program Assistant.
6. **Grant applications pending:** Next 50 Initiative Innovations in Aging. Application for Senior Tech Training. Results will be notified in October 2023.
Next 50 Initiative Equity in Aging. Application for added funding to support Generations Serving Together project. Results notified in November 2023.
7. **Donations:** East Fresno Kiwanis Club had previously donated \$500 to use for books to distribute to children in Head Start. A reading event as arranged at Kings Canyon Head Start and books were given to all students at this site. This year the Kiwanis club may be able to donate for the costs of two laptops for YouthBuild students who are young parents to check out from the school. Foster Grandparents volunteer with these students and it came to the attention of the school that one barrier to success is that some of these young parents do not have access computers for school work at home at times when child care may be an issue. Kiwanis club focuses on children and youth serve by Foster Grandparent volunteers.
8. **Luau:** Every spring in May or June we wind up the funding year with a potluck picnic. This year we chose to plan a potluck Luau. Marivillosa Apartments generously offered the use of the very nice event room. Everyone brought their food contribution and enjoyed our mocktails. A presentation from Cal Fresh staff from Catholic Charities

shared information on the importance of hydration and reading food labels and shared great healthy recipes.

9. **Halloween Safe Night Out:** Last year was the first year since before COVID that Local Conservation Corps held the Safe night out. Over 3,000 adults and children attended. This provided a local close to home safe space for trick or treating for families in the 93706 area. Foster Grandparent Program assisted with grandparent Volunteers and staff supervising the Kid Zone. This year's planning has begun. LCC is always looking for candy or money for candy to provide to the children and create a fun night for them.
10. **Fundraisers:** We need one! With the fundraising money from last year, we were able to organize a charter bus to take all those who could join us to Monterey Bay Aquarium. With the Free to Learn program through the aquarium, we were all able to enter the Aquarium free of charge. Staff are not able to spend AmeriCorps time on fundraising. We appreciate any assistance in this area.
11. **November Turkey Luncheon:** We will be having a Turkey luncheon again at the Nielson Center as well as a turkey to give to each volunteer to take home with them.
12. **The Annual Recognition Luncheon:** will be held December 13th at Pardini's. We will be recognizing years of service of all our volunteers. We have booked Binational of Central California, a nonprofit focused on connecting farmworkers to resources by conducting outreach events. They create a fun atmosphere with DJ music and prize giveaways. They were a great success last year. They ask for a small donation to support the prize giveaways. This is one of the things that fundraising helps with.

Upcoming Events

Ways to Participate

Monthly In-Service Meetings: The first Monday of each month, FGP volunteers attend a monthly In-Service meeting, which includes presenters on senior resources or skill building trainings for the volunteers. Recognition for the anniversary month of volunteer start dates are highlighted. Lunch is served which gives an opportunity to visit as a group. CAG members are always welcome to join us any month to come for a visit. We are making plans to email CAG members monthly communications with upcoming dates and events.

Annual Recognition: December FGP recognition luncheon event is our biggest activity. CAG members are always invited to come and join. Members would also be a welcome source of assistance with resources, in-kind, or contacts for donations to cover activities not covered by funding. A calendar invite will be sent to all CAG members.

Fundraising: Any kind! All help is appreciated. AmeriCorps Seniors staff cannot spend work hours fundraising. Information and referrals for in-kind match also assists with the grant requirements.

Networking: Introduction of new potential CAG members, information on available grants, introduction to community members, business, and agencies that could further the group of FGP programing missions is helpful.