

1920 Mariposa St., Suite 330  
Fresno, CA 93721

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP) COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
1805 E. California Ave. Fresno CA 93706  
Friday, September 27, 2024  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**AGENDA**

	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Motion</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>	Betty Brown		
<b>2. <u>ROLL CALL</u></b>	Elaine Jalomo		
<b>3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> April 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes</b>	Betty Brown	Approve	2
<b>4. <u>CURRENT CAG ROSTER</u></b>	Leah Struck	Information	5
<b>5. <u>FGP GRANDPARENT CAG MEMBER</u> Nominee Linda Jaurique</b>	Betty Brown	Approve	
<b>6. <u>PROGRAM UPDATES</u></b>	FGP Team	Information	6
<b>7. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u> The next Community Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2025</b>	Betty Brown	Information	
<b>8. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> (This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within jurisdiction but not on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes).</b>			
<b>9. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>			

**FRESNO EOC FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
April 26, 2024 10:00 a.m.  
MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Betty Brown called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by Elaine Jalomo.

**Committee Members**

**Present):**

Betty Brown  
Margarita Cortez  
Richard Saldivar  
Zina Jenkins-Brown  
Luis Martinez

**Staff (Present):**

Leah Struck  
Raquel Padia  
Blanca Alvarado  
Elaine Jalomo

**Absent:**

Julia Fowler  
Yvonne Hernandez  
Alena Pacheco  
Floro Trujillo

**I. CAG 2024 INTRODUCTION OF NEW APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Luis Martinez and Zina Brown-Jenkins, Fresno EOC Board Commissioners and Floro Trujillo, Head Start Volunteer Services Coordinator were introduced.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Quorum approved minutes from September 29, 2023.


**III. Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) UPDATES**

- A. FGP currently has 67 volunteers. 50 are currently in classrooms, 10 are in the process of being placed, 4 are out on medical leave, 3 are on hold, and 10 are in the enrollment process.
- B. The Senior Demonstration program has 5 volunteers enrolled, 2 are currently placed in classrooms; 3 are out on medical leave and 1 volunteer is in the process of enrollment.
- C. In December 2023, Project Linus had gifted FGP blankets once again, to distribute blankets to the volunteers' sites. FGP volunteers gave blankets to children at Roosevelt, Wilson, and Washington Head Starts in Selma, Caruthers Head Start, and blankets to the parents of LCC and WIC.
- D. FGP had another successful December recognition event at Pardini's celebrating and recognizing volunteers' years of service and anniversaries.
- E. FGP received a generous donation of \$2,500 from the SCAN Health Plan to focus on improving the lives of older adults and encourage healthy eating. With the money donated, FGP was able to purchase grocery gift cards for every volunteer and was given alongside their gift at the December recognition event.

- F. Generations Serving Together continues with 9 senior volunteers and 14 interns. The sites currently served at is Pinedale, Clovis, Zimmerman and West Fresno Boys and Girls Clubs, Fresno YouthBuild Charter School of California at Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Thrive after school program and Fresno EOC Soul School. There has been a total of 166 youth and young adults served.
- G. Mindful Me after school program was a partnership between Neighbors Helping Neighbors Thrive and Generations Serving Together. The two programs created lesson plans based on mental health and gardening. Foster Grandparents and interns worked alongside children from the local neighborhood and 4-H club members.
- H. GST collaborated up with Pinedale Boys and Girls Club to refurbish a storage room into a “Calming Room” for club members. The Calming Room was created for kids to have a safe place and soothing environment to decompress as the room consists a variety of sensory tools and techniques.
- I. The Boys and Girls Club Torch Summit was an event GST provided 3 mindful activities and mental wellness bags for kids to take home. It served 70 club members.
- J. Access to Technology Program kicked off in January 2024 with 6 staff members. Focusing on outreach to clients with In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) that live alone and do not have a computer. The program will offer tech training classes, 1:1 assistance, and offering 2 years of paid internet coverage and services.
- K. There are currently over 50 clients that have participated and received ATP services. 28 clients have received paid internet plans. Goal to enroll 200 participants by September 2024. Outreach has been successful at several senior living apartments and 1:1 home classes have been conducted to clients that have travel restrictions.
- L. ATP staff includes Jonathan Lopez, Program Coordinator; Luciana Lopez, Training Facilitator; Kienan Clewis, Training Facilitator; Tyus Bloom, Technology Liaison; Eden Steer, Technology Liaison; and Adian Perez, Program Assistant.
- M. ATP’s first graduation was hosted at Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps and consisted of 9 students. Students were awarded with their very own iPads.
- N. With the remaining donated books from East Kiwanis Club, the books were given to the children of Estelle Dailey Head Start in honor of Reading Across America Day. Volunteers spent time reading and passing out books to their class.
- O. FGP applied for the Replacement and Expansion Grant and was awarded on April 22, 2024 for \$390,000 for three years. The additional funding will add to FGP’s current base funding to keep current staff, volunteers, and sites and provide additional volunteer opportunities.

#### **IV. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Monthly in-service meetings with training and educational presentations
- Fundraising events
- Networking and outreach events



May Picnic Potluck  
AmeriCorps Convening in Baltimore, MD

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.



Leah Struck, FGP Program Manager  
 Elisa Sgambellone, LCC Assistant Director  
 Sherry Neil Fresno EOC Programs Officer  
 Michelle L. Tutunjian, Fresno EOC Chief Operating Officer  
 Emilia Reyes, Fresno EOC Chief Executive Officer

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
 2024 ROSTER**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization/Occupation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Brown	Betty	FGP CAG Chair FGP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:betty.brownfgp@gmail.com">betty.brownfgp@gmail.com</a>
Saldivar	Richard	Boys & Girls Club	<a href="mailto:richards@BGClubfc.org">richards@BGClubfc.org</a>
Cortez	Margarita	FGP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:Margarita.cortezfgp@gmail.com">Margarita.cortezfgp@gmail.com</a>
Fowler	Julia	FGP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:Julia.fowlerfgp@gmail.com">Julia.fowlerfgp@gmail.com</a>
Hernandez	Yvonne	City of Fowler Senior Center Director CAG Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us">yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us</a>
Jenkins- Brown	Zina	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	<a href="mailto:zina.brown-jenkins@fresnoeoc.org">zina.brown-jenkins@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Martinez	Luis	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	<a href="mailto:luis.martinez@fresnoeoc.org">luis.martinez@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Pacheco	Alena	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	<a href="mailto:alena.pacheco@fresnoeoc.org">alena.pacheco@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Trujillo	Floro	Fresno EOC Head Start Volunteer Services Coordinator	<a href="mailto:floro.trujillo@fresnoeoc.org">floro.trujillo@fresnoeoc.org</a>

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)**  
**PROGRAM UPDATES**  
**April 27, 2024 – September 27, 2024**

1. FGP Current Status: We were awarded the ongoing AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent three-year grant. The first-year awards \$401,468. The remaining two will provide approximately \$390,000 each year. This allows us to maintain approximately 40-48 volunteers depending on how many hours they serve. There are currently 45 active volunteers. This also maintains two staff. For the last two years we had been running this grant and a second grant, the Senior Demonstration Program, SDP proposed to expand the FGP model into new areas. This was a two-year grant that ended June 30, 2024. We found this type of expansion was more difficult than we anticipated. We gained some volunteer sites in Madera, Pine Ridge, and Kerman but finding new volunteers was not as successful. This grant maintained an added two staff positions which we were worried about losing with the end of this grant. Fortunately, AmeriCorps Seniors opened a new grant opportunity, the Foster Grandparent Replacement and Expansion Opportunity.
  
2. FGP Expansion Grant: We applied for and were awarded this grant for \$396,000 a year for three years. This allows for another 40-48 volunteers and two staff. In this case the expansion that was proposed still includes adding new areas that we had been hoping to recruit but is not limited to this kind of expansion. The expansion proposal also explained that our ongoing grant provided for only up to 44 volunteers which would limit our potential since we already attained that level and would not be able to enroll any new volunteers. Now we can add 40-48 more. There are currently six potential volunteers completing the enrollment process and ten on the interest list that are beginning the application process. There continues to be interest entries coming from the EOC website, referrals from other grandparent volunteers and EOC staff and now, with the Access to Technology Program, we are meeting seniors in several areas that are showing interest in the FGP program.
  
3. New staff positions: The added funding secured all four FGP positions for three years and allowed for advancement. Leah Struck moved from Program Coordinator III to Program Manager, Raquel Padia and Blanca Alvarado moved from Volunteer Specialists to Program Coordinators and Elaine Jalomo moved from Program Assistant to Volunteer Specialist. The staff are now taking on more responsibilities

related to grant planning, budgeting, and grant management which allows for Program Manager to continue to search for and manage Senior Tech Training programs along with the two FGP funded programs.

4. **Generations Serving Together:** GST has been recognized as an innovative and valuable program by the Eisner Foundation and AmeriCorps. The program used the intergenerational approach to create workshops on emotional literacy and emotional management. Multigenerational teams conducted these workshops with children and youth in Boys and Girls Clubs, YouthBuild Charter School and afterschool program Neighbors Helping Neighbors Thrive. Recognition included a mention on the AmeriCorps Newsletter article covering the Anti Gun Violence Summit and being invited to be one of a team of presenters for a breakout session at the annual AmeriCorps Seniors Convening in Baltimore. The funding for this program ended June 30<sup>th</sup> but one of the accomplishments that will exist beyond this time is the Calming Room at Pinedale B&G club created and funded by GST. This is a place for club members to spend time to relax, deal with emotions and have a quiet space. The interns, FGP volunteers, and sites that were part of the program went above and beyond putting their hearts into the mission. Raquel put together a beautiful thank you luncheon to appreciate their efforts.
  
5. **Access To Technology:** ATP has completed classes with over 300 seniors since March. Classes were ten sessions long covering training on iPad basics. Unfortunately, this also was short term funding ending September 30. The funding was from California Department of Aging through Fresno County Department of Social Services which contracted with Fresno EOC to conduct the program. The original requirements were that DSS would refer In Home Supportive Service and Adult Protective Service clients to ATP for the classes. The referrals from the social workers did not come in as anticipated so the first months of the program were very slow. DSS reconsidered the requirements and removed the DSS or APS category and opened the program to persons 60 and over, lives alone or has a disability, and does not have current experience or access to technology. ATP still has been able to serve a large number of IHSS clients due to providing the classes at senior living apartment complexes. Students received an iPad, digital literacy classes and two years of their internet account paid. A portion of the clients did not have internet in their home prior to the program and now are able to have internet and a device to use in their home. The purpose of the grant was broadband adoption, digital equity

and decreasing isolation and loneliness for seniors. This was definitely accomplished. We have applied for another grant with the California Department of Public Utilities and are waiting to hear if we are awarded or not in November. The Digital Equity Act is now coming into action with \$2.75 billion nationwide available. This is a hot topic, and we are hoping to be part of that programing.

6. May In Service Spring Fling: We were able to have our monthly In-Service as the May Spring Fling Potluck at Holland Park West. This is a beautiful venue, and we were fortunate to have beautiful weather. Great food, great friends, great photo ops. We will be booking this venue again for our recognition in May 2025.
  
7. AmeriCorps Seniors Annual Convening: With funding through both FGP grants all four staff planned to go to the convening in Baltimore at the end of July, but due to a last-minute emergency, Leah was not able to go. Blanca, Raquel and Elaine were able to attend. The convening includes all the AmeriCorps Senior Programs across the country. Speeches from the AmeriCorps CEO Micheal Smith and the AmeriCorps Senior Director Atalya Sergie were included throughout the three days. Breakout workshops on topics of leadership, recruitment, AmeriCorps audit practices, AmeriCorps portal demo, and rural recruitment were some of the trainings attended. On the final day the breakout workshop panel presentation, Unleashing the Power of Generations Serving Together included Raquel, Eunice Nichols from CoGenerate, and Chris Noble with Seniors in Service sharing the value of intergenerational programs. Attending the convening gives a valuable overall view of the programs and the common goals and challenges that all AmeriCorps Seniors programs share and is an opportunity for networking and connections.
  
8. Upcoming Events:
  - Fresno Fair Outreach October 7 and 14, 2024
  - November In-service Thank You Luncheon for the volunteers November 13, 2024
  - May Recognition Event (moved from December). TBD
  - Monthly “Dine & Support” fundraising Monthly fast food fundraising. Each month a different restaurant. TBD