

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 13, 2020
Tsakopoulos Library Galleria | Sacramento
Conference line: (800) 867-2581 | Code: 7500508#

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Lisa Bartlett | President
James Gore | 1st Vice President
Ed Valenzuela | 2nd Vice President
Virginia Bass | Immediate Past President

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | Executive Director
Manuel Rivas, Jr. | Deputy Executive Director,
Operations & Member Services
Darby Kernan | Deputy Executive Director,
Legislative Services

ADVISORS

Bruce Goldstein, County Counsels Association,
Sonoma County
Carmel Angelo, California Association of County
Executives President, Mendocino County

Alameda	– Keith Carson	Orange	– Doug Chaffee
Alpine	– Terry Woodrow	Placer	– <i>Absent</i>
Amador	– Richard Forster	Plumas	– Lori Simpson
Butte	– Debra Lucero	Riverside	– Chuck Washington
Calaveras	– Merita Callaway	Sacramento	– Susan Peters
Colusa	– Denise Carter	San Benito	– <i>Absent</i>
Contra Costa	– <i>Absent</i>	San Bernardino	– Janice Rutherford
Del Norte	– Chris Howard	San Diego	– Greg Cox
El Dorado	– John Hidahl	San Francisco	– N/A
Fresno	– <i>Absent</i>	San Joaquin	– Bob Elliott
Glenn	– Keith Corum	San Luis Obispo	– Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	– <i>Absent</i>	San Mateo	– <i>Absent</i>
Imperial	– <i>Absent</i>	Santa Barbara	– <i>Absent</i>
Inyo	– Jeff Griffiths	Santa Clara	– Susan Ellenberg
Kern	– Leticia Perez	Santa Cruz	– Bruce McPherson
Kings	– Craig Pedersen	Shasta	– Leonard Moty
Lake	– <i>Absent</i>	Sierra	– <i>Absent</i>
Lassen	– Chris Gallagher	Siskiyou	– Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	– <i>Absent</i>	Solano	– <i>Absent</i>
Madera	– <i>Absent</i>	Sonoma	– James Gore
Marin	– Damon Connolly	Stanislaus	– Vito Chiesa
Mariposa	– Miles Menetrey	Sutter	– Dan Flores
Mendocino	– Carre Brown	Tehama	– Robert Williams
Merced	– Lee Lor	Trinity	– Judy Morris
Modoc	– Patricia Cullins	Tulare	– <i>Absent</i>
Mono	– John Peters	Tuolumne	– Karl Rodefer
Monterey	– Luis Alejo	Ventura	– Kelly Long
Napa	– Diane Dillon	Yolo	– <i>Absent</i>
Nevada	– Ed Scofield	Yuba	– Gary Bradford

2. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes from December 5, 2019 was made by Supervisor Moty; second by Supervisor Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Governor's January Budget

Keely Bosler, Director of the California Department of Finance, presented key details of the Governor's January Budget. Ms. Bosler explained that the Governor focused on having an operating surplus in each fiscal year through 2023-24, but cautioned that this surplus is slim. While they do not project a recession, they do predict slowing economic growth over the next several years. Our revenue base is very volatile as we rely heavily on personal income tax. In the state of California, 47% of personal income tax revenues come from 1% of tax payers. This shows how concentrated and progressive our tax structure is, but also shows its volatility as much of our revenue depends on how well tax payers are doing in the stock market. She emphasized that our State's budget balance is fragile despite the reserves that we are fortunate to have.

Ms. Bosler also noted that the federal government did not approve the Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax that was passed by the legislature last year. While the MCO tax revenues were not assumed in the current budget year, they were assumed in the forecast period starting in 2021-22, so the aforementioned surpluses will be upside down in future budget years. Ms. Bosler is currently working with the Governor on how to address this. The Administration is also wading through the federal government's proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulations. These regulations would upend many financial arrangements that bring federal money into the state to support Medicaid and our hospital system. They represent a fundamental shift in the responsibility from federal to state and local governments.

One of the major themes of the Governor's budget this year is affordability. The Administration wants to help build more housing, address homelessness and keep health care costs down.

2019 CSAC Distinguished Service Award Presentation

Keely Bosler was presented with the 2019 CSAC Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to individuals who have made the greatest contribution to the improvement of government in California, particularly as it relates to county government. As the Director of Finance, Keely was an instrumental force in the enactment of a new County IHSS MOE that provides a more sustainable fiscal structure for counties to manage IHSS costs. Under her leadership, the Department of Finance convened a series of meetings with CSAC and counties last year to ensure that county priorities and concerns were heard and reflected in a required Department of Finance report on IHSS. Keely's work helped to educate the new Administration on the significance of this issue and the need to invest more State General Fund for IHSS to ensure a successful state-county partnership in the delivery of critical local services.

4. Ann O'Leary, Chief of Staff to Governor Gavin Newsom

Ann O'Leary, Chief of Staff to Governor Newsom, provided an update on several key issues the Administration is focusing on this year: 1) wildfires & energy and 2) housing & homelessness. She noted that the December point and time count showed dramatic increases homelessness.

The Governor's January Executive Order shows that he wants to do everything he can to make state resources available to address this important issue. This includes identifying state lands and providing trailers as temporary housing until more permanent housing can be procured. The Administration recognizes that many people living on our streets suffer from physical and behavioral health issues. To address this, the state has developed a mobile clinic that has already provided services to Alameda County, Los Angeles County and the City of Oakland. Ms. O'Leary reiterated that the Administration wants to be our partner in addressing this issue. She also thanked counties for their leadership and partnership during last year's Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Ms. O'Leary touched on the Administration's concern about the economic impact of Coronavirus and the political uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act.

5. California's Master Plan for Aging

Kim McCoy Wade, Director of the California Department of Aging (CDA), addressed the board on California's Master Plan for Aging. Last June, the Governor issued an Executive Order calling for 10 year master plan for the state. The plan is intended to be a local blueprint for communities that don't have existing aging plans.

Ms. McCoy Wade explained that more people are living alone as they age, and for the first time ever, the fastest growing group of homeless is over the age of 50. They see similar poverty rates among the aging population in the counties of Humboldt and Los Angeles but for very different reasons. In Los Angeles, it's due to lack of affordable housing and in Humboldt, it's due to lack of affordable health care. In creating this master plan, their goal is to get state and local government structures right so that they can ask for the resources they need and deliver more services. Ms. McCoy Wade was interested to hear how our supervisors are getting their communities ready, how the state can help them and where they see opportunity for growth.

6. Redistricting

Matt Rexroad of Redistricting Insights addressed the board with an update on the census and redistricting. The State of California is overwhelmed by trying to get an accurate count on the U.S. Census. The census is currently underfunded but the California Counts effort is bringing millions in state funding to assist with the effort. Additionally, they are receiving some non-profit dollars to encourage and track census participation. Unfortunately, current projections show California losing a congressional district for the first time ever.

Mr. Rexroad also presented on redistricting for 2021. California's Redistricting Commission is intended to be a lay board without political ties and he outlined the qualifications necessary for someone to sit on the commission board. State law sets forth criteria for the redistricting process, much of which is a reinforcement of existing federal case law. The California Voting Rights Act includes some new rules for local districted systems. These new rules state that districts cannot be drawn for partisan gain and they make it more difficult to draw districts specifically to preserve incumbents. However, not all changes to local redistricting stem from legislative and legal actions, many come from changing norms and public opinion.

7. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

CSAC FC President, Supervisor Leonard Moty, and CSAC FC CEO, Alan Fernandes, updated the Board on the Finance Corporation. The FC Board will adopt their FY 2020-21 Budget at their annual meeting in April. This year CSAC is conducting a regional meeting in Shasta County on April 8th and 9th that will focus on infrastructure, financing and public private partnerships.

Jim Manker, CSAC Director of Business Development, introduced the following partners:

Marshall Goff and Rob Bilo - Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Marshall Goff and Rob Bilo of Nationwide Retirement Solutions presented an overview of their services to the board. Many counties have several different providers for their payroll, benefits and retirement services. However, counties are consolidating for 1) better pricing 2) ease of administration and 3) better participant experience. Butte County recently consolidated their benefit services with Nationwide and Nevada County is currently working to do the same.

Claudio Andretta - Performance Based Building Coalition

Claudio Andretta addressed the board and outlined the services his organization provides. The Performance Based Building Coalition is a non-profit organization made up of 75 companies that are involved in the architecture, design and construction of public building space. It is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where the public and private parties enter into a long term contract. In this contract, the public partner retains ownership of the building, but the responsibility and risk for designing, building, financing, maintaining & operating are transferred to the private partner: the coalition. The coalition offers free workshops and will come to your county to educate staff on how these agreements work. Please reach out to Jim Manker to schedule.

8. Consideration of State & Federal Legislative Priorities for 2020

Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director, outlined the draft state and federal priorities to the board and explained how the priorities are developed. The process begins with the policy committees; then moves to the Officers and Executive Committee; and finally the Board of Directors. There are 3 core principles that guide our approach to our priorities: 1) resources 2) authority 3) flexibility. The priorities reflect both what we expect to come our way and what we want to proactively pursue. The core categories for our 2020 priorities include: 1) homelessness, behavioral health and housing 2) climate and resiliency 3) criminal justice and 4) local governance. Mr. Knaus explained that priorities can shift and encouraged board engagement in our policy committees so they can be involved as core priorities change.

A motion to approve the State & Federal Legislative Priorities for 2020 was made by Supervisor Moty, Second by Supervisor Cox; motion carried unanimously.

9. Consideration of Support for HR 5038 - Farm Workforce Modernization Act

Graham Knaus presented HR 5038 to the Board of Directors. It was originally brought to the board in December 2019 as a discussion item by Supervisor Howard. The Executive Committee took unanimous action to support this bill in January. Supervisor Howard addressed the Board and urged them to support this important issue.

A motion to approve the Support for HR 5038 – Farm Workforce Modernization Act was made by Supervisor Carter; second by Supervisor Pederson. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CSAC MHSA Working Group

Farrah McDaid-Ting addressed the board and provided an update on the MHSA Working Group. The working group includes: county supervisors, behavioral health directors and CAO's. They've had three meetings already this year with robust discussion about MHSA priorities. The group's primary guiding principles are to: 1) protect and preserve current MHSA funding 2) increase flexibility by eliminating funding silos and 3) improve transparency and accountability.

President Bartlett, chair of the MHSA Working Group, expressed the important of flexibility, especially with regards to innovation projects. After a certain period of time, counties risk losing funding for projects that are no longer considered innovative. She would like to see counties have the ability to refresh programs with new ideas to maintain this innovation funding.

Graham echoed that we've been working closely with the Governor's office to make sure our voice is heard. While the Administration is very open to our ideas around modernizing the MHSA, the challenge is timing as they want to move forward very quickly. The MHSA Working group is moving to expedite their proposal and hopes to have a final product by their next meeting.

No action was taken.

11. Board of Directors Roundtable – What's going on in your County?

Bruce McPherson / Santa Cruz County: Santa Cruz County is focusing on housing, homelessness and resiliency. Recycling is a pressing issue with collapse of recycling market. Monterey Bay Community Power, soon to become the Central Coast Community Energy (CCE), has expanded into five more counties.

Ed Scofield / Nevada County: Nevada County approved their annual goals and agendas at their recent board meeting. As expected, wildfire, homelessness, broadband and cannabis are priorities, and for the first time, PSPS. The Governor recently visited their county to learn more about their homelessness program.

Richard Forster / Amador County: Amador County is actively working with the fire council to obtain additional grants. PSPS events are still a big concern. Supervisor Forster does not want PG&E to turn over to private ownership and would like to find an alternative solution.

Greg Cox / San Diego County: San Diego County was fortunate to have Governor Newsom participate in their annual point and time count. This year their big focus on foster youth.

Marita Callaway / Calaveras County: Calaveras County now has a program for commercial cannabis grows and they are updating their dispensary ordinance. It's a challenge getting FEMA funding for fire related issues.

Terry Woodrow / Alpine County: Alpine County is opening a new behavioral health facility in April. They are exploring possibility of an excise tax to fund public safety and emergency response shortfalls. The county continues to struggle recruiting for high level positions. They are currently looking for a Director of Finance and Community Development Director.

Brandon Criss (alternate) / Siskiyou County: Siskiyou County is pursuing state funding for their new jail program. They are working to put a DOT tax on the ballot and water continues to be a big issue. The county is excited about their program called Siskiyou Works that partners local businesses with high school graduates.

Bruce Gibson / San Luis Obispo County: San Luis Obispo County is focusing on improving access to and quality of child care. They are working on feasibility study to offer this as a benefit to employees.

Craig Pederson / Kings County: Kings County has one of the largest naval air stations in the US. They have developed an air support unit with an all-volunteer pilot group.

Damon Connolly / Marin County: Marin County is working hard to address homelessness and was recently joined by CSAC at the Marin Civic Center for robust discussion surrounding this issue. They are focusing on the Housing First and Coordinated Entry models towards homelessness and the county is the only one of the 9 bay area counties that's had a reduction in chronic homelessness.

Chris Howard / Del Norte County: Del Norte County had a boat from Takata High in Japan wash up on one of their Crescent City beaches. The boat was swept to sea in the March 2011 tsunami. A group of kids from Del Norte High School delivered the boat back to Japan and the story was picked up by NBC sports to tell story during Olympic Games.

Diane Dillon / Napa County: Napa County is focusing on resiliency and PSPS issues. Yesterday their board of supervisors voted 5-0 to turn down a winery application because of its location. PG&E has proposed a gas line replacement that they'll be working on over the next three years.

Denise Carter / Colusa County: Colusa County recently relocated their senior nutrition program to their library. Sites Reservoir project is trying to come up with a more affordable water cost project.

Miles Menetrey / Mariposa County: Mariposa County has transitioned to all mail-in ballots for this election cycle. They are excited to host the WIR Conference in May. CalTrans is doing a 140 corridor improvement project which will include repaving highway 140 and installation of street lights. The county was successful in obtaining a Federal Department of Commerce Economic Development Grant.

Karl Rodefer / Tuolumne County: Tuolumne County is focusing on resiliency, fire-wise communities and public involvement. They are opening a new jail in May and just hired a homeless coordinator.

Chris Gallagher / Lassen County: Lassen County has been working with farmers and fish and game to figure out how to deal with wolves. They just got their first use permit for a cannabis dispensary. Their cannabis tax is included on legal and illegal commercial cannabis and the county has taken in \$140k this year already.

Patricia Cullins / Modoc County: Modoc County is working on MHSA Funding. For homelessness, they are looking at rehabilitating existing buildings in lieu of new construction. Behavioral health has a new walk-in clinic once a week that has been very successful. First 5 is creating a hub in their county. They just passed hemp ordinance and are investigating a public safety sales tax.

Gary Bradford / Yuba County: Yuba County is facing public safety challenges with camping along waterways. The camping causes damage to flood protection structures as well as water quality issues. Yuba County, along with Sutter County and two cities within Sutter County, just passed an ordinance prohibiting camping on certain public property. They have yet to start enforcement.

Lee Lor / Merced County: Merced County launched an interactive children's museum that's set to open this year. They have also had a problem with retaining local talent.

John Hidahl / El Dorado County: El Dorado County is facing a serious decline in property tax revenue. In light of recent PSPS events, they are exploring forming a new utility district. The county is considering a ½ cent sales tax measure for road maintenance. They are also looking at implementing a homelessness triage in their county.

Leticia Perez / Kern County: Kern County has been in a productive public dialogue with Sacramento surrounding their oil industry.

Vito Chiesa / Stanislaus County: Stanislaus County has been working hard on homelessness. They recently opened up another 200 beds, rented a hotel for families and opened a hotel for migrant workers.

Leonard Moty / Shasta County: Supervisor Moty thanked CSAC for their Challenge Awards program and encouraged other board members to look at programs that they can implement in their counties.

Keith Corum / Glenn County: Glenn County went to Santa Clara County Step Up Court, just had their first graduate and will have another one shortly. The County is excited about the completion of CalPlant 1, which is just about to start production. The plant will take the waste product of rice straw and turn it into MDF.

Susan Ellenberg / Santa Clara County: Santa Clara County is integrating three hospitals and continuing to build permanent supportive housing. Supervisor Ellenberg highlighted a bill they are working on which increases age of people eligible for juvenile justice system to include 18 & 19 year olds. The county has also introduced a children's budget and they are creating an office of children's policy.

Debra Lucero / Butte County: Butte County just formed the Butte Choice energy program. They have dedicated four staff members to address housing and homelessness issues. The county has 24 new hemp grows. They are still in emergency response mode from the fires and are working on tree removal: 70% of their trees need to be removed and they don't have enough saw mills to process them. The county also just went to mail-in only ballots.

Chuck Washington / Riverside County: Riverside County highlighted their collaboration between their sheriff, probation and behavioral health systems, which were recently modeled by the CDC for effectiveness. Their behavioral health department continues to make significant gains in addressing homelessness. Supervisor Washington attended their point and time count last week and recently participated in a ground-breaking for three new libraries.

Bob Elliott / San Joaquin County: San Joaquin County has a goal to end veteran homelessness by 2025. They are working to provide 49 units of veterans housing, which should be completed next year, and establishing a multi-department encampment response team. The county also has concerns about state contracts. They often don't receive the contracts until six months after start of contract, which can create fiscal problems surrounding reimbursements.

James Gore / Sonoma County: Supervisor Gore urged the board to pay attention to the Martin v. Boise case as it will force counties to increase services. They will need to be extremely careful about how they move people.

Lisa Bartlett / Orange County: Orange County has a high per capita rate of overdose deaths and they are working hard to push education out to their communities.

12. Communications and Member Services Report

Graham Knaus addressed the board to acknowledge the departure of Cara Martinson. Cara has been CSAC's Federal Affairs Manager and a Senior Legislative Representative for 13 years. Additionally, she held the role of Executive Director of the California Cannabis Authority. Cara has accepted a position with Nextera Energy as Director of State and Local Government Affairs. CSAC wishes Cara the best of luck with her new career.

Manuel Rivas, Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Member Services, addressed the board to acknowledge the retirement of Lisa Currie. Lisa has worked for CSAC for 21 as an Office Assistant and Database Specialist. Lisa will be greatly missed.

Mr. Rivas presented that staff is starting to work on 2021 budget, along with CSAC Treasurer, Supervisor Ed Scofield. CSAC does not anticipate any increase in membership dues. We plan to hold three regional meetings: the first in the Spring on April 9th, the second in Southern CA focusing on homelessness and mental health, and the third in the Fall in Northern CA. The NACo WIR Conference is scheduled for May 13-15th in Mariposa County. The NACo Legislative Conference will be in Washington DC in a few weeks. The California County Caucus meeting will take place on March 1st at 5pm followed by a delegation reception at 6pm. Mr. Rivas encouraged the board to set up meetings with their legislative representatives while in DC.

David Liebler, CSAC Director of Public Affairs and Member Services, presented that his team's two main priorities this year are to support the legislative agenda, particularly surrounding homelessness, and continuing telling the county story. Last year, CSAC had over 100 media inquiries and expects to have more this year. Social media continues to be big for CSAC, with the annual meeting Tweets getting over 60,000 views. CSAC just started sending letters to the editors highlighting the special work supervisors have done for their counties. Additionally, they just started a new media program called Spotlight on Leadership. With this program, they will highlight someone who has gone above and beyond for CSAC.

13. California Counties Foundation Report

Chastity Benson, Program Manager for the California Counties Foundation, addressed the board and gave a brief overview of the CSAC institute course schedule. The next pop-up campus will be in Mariposa County on June 4th and 5th. The Foundation held a faculty development seminar in Sacramento last week, which had 21 participants from 18 counties.

Diana Medina, Project Manager for the CSAC Support Hub, reiterated that 2020 has been a busy year. The hub has been able to expand with the help of several grants. In January, Los Angeles, Stanislaus, Tulare and Contra Costa counties had kick-off meetings to discuss potential projects with the hub and the hub is continuing to support the 10 counties they are already working with.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be May 28th in Sacramento.